



## TRANSATLANTIC SECURITY SYMPOSIUM 2012

### *Potential and Challenges of EU-US Relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council*

Rome, 16 November 2012

International Conference Hall  
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
P.le della Farnesina, 1

### AGENDA

*With the support of: Compagnia di San Paolo, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (Rome Office),  
NATO Public Diplomacy Division, Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the US Embassy in Rome*



Robert Bosch **Stiftung**



## FRIDAY, 16 November

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9:00-9:15

WELCOME ADDRESS AND SEMINAR INTRODUCTION

**Welcome address:** **Amb. Sandro De Bernardin**, Political Director, and Head, Directorate-General Political and Security Affairs, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome  
**Ettore Greco**, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

**Introduction:** **Riccardo Alcaro**, Senior Fellow, Transatlantic Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

9:15-11:15

### FIRST SESSION

*The Arab Spring: Challenges and Opportunities for West-GCC Cooperation*

**Chair:** **Nathalie Tocci**, Deputy Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

**Paper-givers:** **Christian Koch**, Director, Gulf Research Centre Foundation, Geneva  
**Claire Spencer**, Head, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House, London

**Discussants:** **Michael Eisenstadt**, Senior Fellow and Director, Military and Security Studies Programme, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Washington DC  
**Steven Heydemann**, Senior Advisor for Middle East Initiatives, United States Institute of Peace, Washington DC  
**Abdullah Saleh Baabood**, Director and Assistant Professor, Gulf Studies Programme, Qatar University, Doha

### OPEN DEBATE

11:15-11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:30-13:30

### SECOND SESSION

*Iran: The Uncertain Basis of a West-GCC Strategic Re-alignment*

**Chair:** **Riccardo Alcaro**, Senior Fellow, Transatlantic Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

**Paper-givers:** **Simon Henderson**, Senior Fellow and Director, Gulf and Energy Policy Programme, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Washington DC  
**Rouzbeh Parsi**, Research Fellow, EU Institute for Security Studies, Paris

**Discussants:** **Kayhan Barzegar**, Director, Institute for Middle East Studies, and Faculty Member, Department of International Relations, Science and Research University, Tehran  
**Trita Parsi**, President, National Iranian-American Council, Washington DC  
**Asaad Al Shamlan**, Director of European Studies Center, The Institute of Diplomatic Studies, Riyadh

### OPEN DEBATE

13:30-14:45

LUNCH

14:45-15:15

**KEYNOTE SPEECH: NATO'S RELATIONS WITH THE GCC**

**Speaker:**

**Rolf Schwarz**, Political Officer, Middle East and North Africa Section, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO HQ, Brussels

15:15-17:15

**THIRD SESSION**

*An Evolving West-GCC Security Partnership: The Shared Threats of Regional Instability, Terrorism and Piracy*

**Chair:**

**Michael Bauer**, Head, Middle East Programme, Centre for Applied Policy Research, Munich

**Paper-givers:**

**Frederic Wehrey**, Senior Associate, Middle East Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington DC

**Florence Gaub**, Researcher and Lecturer, Middle East Faculty, NATO Defence College, Rome

**Discussants:**

**Matteo Legrenzi**, Associate Professor and Chair in International Relations and Gulf Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

**Eman Ragab**, Research Unit of Security and Strategic Studies, *Al-Abram*, Cairo

**Michael Elleman**, Senior Fellow for Regional Security Cooperation, International Institute for Strategic Studies-Middle East, Manama

**OPEN DEBATE**

**Final remarks**

**Riccardo Alcaro**, Senior Fellow, Transatlantic Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

17:15-17:30

REFRESHMENTS

*Working Language will be English.*

*A special thanks to Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
for kindly making the conference room available.*