
THE GCC IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IN LIGHT OF THE ARAB SPRING

28 June 2012

Palazzo Rondinini
Via del Corso, 518 - Rome

*A conference organized by the Istituto Affari Internazionali
with the support of the German Marshall Fund of the United States*

The so called 'Arab Spring' has been a crucial test for the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Confronted with external as well as internal turmoil, they have responded in a mixed way by combining patronage, outright repression or outreach to the protesters. In the aftermath of the popular protests in North Africa, the GCC countries are well-positioned to pursue economic and political cooperation with the new regimes. Europe and the United States are closely following the GCC's renewed dynamism in the Mediterranean region. Understanding the GCC's stances and devising forms of cooperation with it will be of utmost importance in this phase of transition. These themes will be explored in a conference organized in Rome by IAI with the support of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF).

9:30 – 9:45 AM WELCOME COFFEE

9:45 – 10:00 AM **OPENING REMARKS**
Ettore Greco, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

10:00 – 1:00 PM **SESSION 1**
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GCC AND NORTH AFRICA AFTER THE ARAB SPRING

CHAIR **Silvia Colombo**, Researcher, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

SPEAKERS **Mustafa Akyol**, Columnist and Author, Ankara

Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, Research Fellow and Deputy Director of the Kuwait Programme, London School of Economics and Political Science, London

Shafeeq Ghabra, Professor, Kuwait University, Kuwait City

Jane Kinninmont, Senior Research Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House, London

Elena Maestri, Professor, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan

Eman Ragab, Researcher, Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, Cairo

Souad Sherif, Assistant Professor in Economics, College of Business Administration, University of Sharjah, UAE

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1:00 – 2:00 PM LUNCH

2:00 – 4:30 PM **SESSION 2**
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TRANSATLANTIC COMMUNITY AND ROOM FOR COOPERATION

CHAIR **Ettore Greco**, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

SPEAKERS **Assia Ben Salah Alaoui**, Ambassador at large, Rabat

Cengiz Çandar, Senior Political Columnist, Radikal, Istanbul

Shadi Hamid, Director of Research, Brookings Doha Center, Doha

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

Hassan Mneimneh, Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Washington

Luigi Narbone, Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Riyadh

Gerd Nonneman, Dean, School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University's Campus, Doha

GENERAL DISCUSSION

4:30 – 5:00 PM **CLOSING REMARKS**

Ian Lesser, Director, Transatlantic Center, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Brussels

Nathalie Tocci, Deputy Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

The working language will be English and no simultaneous translation will be provided

*Special thanks to **Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena**
for kindly making the conference room available*