

WEB SEMINAR ON ZOOM PLATFORM

REGIONAL SECURITY AND DE-ESCALATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST: WHAT ROLE FOR EUROPE?

WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2020

16.30 – 18.00 CEST (BRUSSELS / ROME)

Working language: English (no translation)

The Middle East is experiencing profound transformations as a result of competing geopolitical agendas, foreign interventionism and reciprocal meddling in the internal affairs of states. These dynamics are being reinforced by international trends, creating a vicious cycle that risks descending into a full-fledged military conflict with implications extending well beyond the Middle East itself.

The webinar will explore recent developments in three regional 'hotspots' – the Persian Gulf, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Levant – from the perspective of key international actors; the US, Russia, Turkey and the EU.

Organised in the framework of an ongoing research project "Fostering a New Security Architecture in the Middle East", the event will present the results of an online expert survey, followed by a panel debate and an open Q&A session.

The event is organised by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) in cooperation with the Italian International Affairs Institute (IAI), and with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI). Research findings from the project will be published in an edited volume in mid-October 2020.

AGENDA

16.30-16.40

OPENING REMARKS

NATHALIE TOCCI, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

LÁSZLÓ ANDOR, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)

16.40-16.50

KEYNOTE SPEECH

MARINA SERENI, Deputy Foreign Minister, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

16.50-17.00

PROJECT OBJECTIVES & EXPERT SURVEY

ANDREA DESSI, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

17.00-17.30

INPUT PANEL

Chair

SILVIA COLOMBO, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

DANIEL C. KURTZER, Princeton University

MELIHA BENLI ALTUNISIK, Middle East Technical University (METU)

ANDREY KORTUNOV, Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC)

KRISTINA KAUSCH, German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) Brussels office

17.30-17.55

PANEL DISCUSSION

17.55-18.00

WRAP-UP AND CLOSING REMARKS

ANDREA DESSI, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)