



EXPLORING THE TURKISH MODEL IN THE LIGHT OF THE ARAB SPRING

21 June 2011

*Palazzo Rondinini
Via del Corso, 518 - Rome*

*A conference organised by the Istituto Affari Internazionali
with the support of
the German Marshall Fund of the United States and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Turkey is an EU candidate, with whom the EU seeks to develop a strategic foreign policy dialogue. It has also been heralded as a model for the transition of the Arab world. In view of the complementarities between Turkey's and the EU's neighbourhood policies,¹ exploring what the Turkish model might mean for the southern Mediterranean may be an important exercise for the EU, Turkey and the southern Mediterranean to conduct together. In view of this, IAI and the German Marshall Fund and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs are organizing a one day conference to explore the policy implications of the "Turkish model" in North Africa and the Middle East.

9:45 – 10:00 AM WELCOME COFFEE

10:00 – 10:30 AM
OPENING REMARKS

- **Ettore Greco**, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome
- **Pasquale Ferrara**, Head of Policy Planning Unit, Secretariat General, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome

10:30 – 1:00 PM

SESSION 1 - UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF THE MODEL

What precisely do southern Mediterranean countries find interesting in Turkey's experience. Is it the changing meaning of Turkish secularism and of civil-military relations? Is it Turkey's understanding of the rule of law? Is it its relationship with the West and/or Turkey's drive for a more independent foreign policy? Or is it Turkey's economic experience which appeals to the southern Mediterranean countries?

- **Ahmed Driss**, Director, Centre d'Etudes Méditerranéennes et Internationales, Tunis
- **Hassan Nafaa**, Professor of Political Science, Cairo University

- **Ömer Taspınar**, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, Washington DC
- **Meliha Altunisik**, Director, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Middle East Technical University, Ankara
- **Sami Moubayed**, Editor-in-chief - Forward Magazine, Damascus

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1:00 – 2:00 PM LUNCH

2:00 – 4:30 PM

SESSION 2 - OPERATIONALISING THE TURKISH MODEL IN TURKISH, EU AND US FOREIGN POLICIES

Assuming there is interest in the southern Mediterranean in Turkey's experience, how can Turkey, the EU and the US, separately and/or together, act to translate this in operational policy practice?

- **Joshua Walker**, Transatlantic Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Washington DC
- **Henri Barkey**, Professor at the Department of International Relations, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- **Claire Spencer**, Head of the Middle East Programme, Royal Institute of International Affairs, London
- **Sinan Ulgen**, Chairman, Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies, Istanbul
- **Eduard Soler**, Research Fellow, Centre d'Informació i Documentació Internacionals a Barcelona

GENERAL DISCUSSION

4:30 – 5:00 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

- **Nathalie Tocci**, Deputy Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

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