

**International Roundtable Conference  
Europe and the Middle East:  
A new era in institutional management of peace, security, and  
economic development  
Tel Aviv, November 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Lineup and content**

**Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

*Location: Carlton Hotel*

*Eliezer Peri St 10, Tel Aviv-Yafo*

*The opening dinner is aimed to introduce the main themes that will be touched upon during the conference to the distinguished participants of the event. Please note that greeting remarks should be approximately 5 minutes, whereas keynote speeches should not exceed 10 minutes and are expected to focus on the wider perspective regarding a number of international and regional developments.*

20:00 Kick-off Dinner

Greetings:

- **Dr. Oded Eran**, Former Ambassador of Israel to the EU and Jordan, Senior Research Fellow, INSS

Keynote Speech:

- **Massimo D'Alema**, Former Prime Minister of Italy
- **Lt. Gen (Ret.) Moshe (Bogie) Ya'alon**, Former Defence Minister of Israel

Moderator:

- **Dr. Roby Nathanson**, General Director, Macro Center for Political Economics

**Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

*Location: The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)*

*40 Haim Levanon St., Tel Aviv 6997556 Israel*

08:30-09:00 Gathering and registration

09:00-09:30 Greeting remarks

*During this introductory session, greeting remarks should inter alia address the rationale behind this event. Institutions such as the European Union (EU), the Quartet or the United Nations, as well as a number of institutional processes are multiply challenged. The creation of new agendas and the need to coordinate common steps to face these new international challenges should inform these interventions. Greeting remarks should not exceed 7 minutes.*

- **Amos Yadlin**, Executive Director, INSS
- **Dr. Ernst Stetter**, Secretary General, FEPS
- **Ambassador Dr. Emanuele Giaufret**, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Israel

Moderator and discussant

- **Dr. Oded Eran**, Former Ambassador of Israel to the EU and Jordan, Senior Research Fellow, INSS

**09:30-10:45 First Session**

**A changing European Union: steering through the new political and economic landscape**

*This first session is aimed at providing a tour d' horizon of what the role of the European Union (EU) as an institution could be in the emergent international landscape amidst the plethora of its own problems. Dealing with lingering economic problems, the migration issue, Brexit and the rise of independence movements in some member states, high levels of disenchantment to the European project, the right-wing populist and anti-establishment surge, and the ascendant nationalist sentiment in many member states, as well as the vagaries of domestic politics in several national contexts, forms only part of this very complicated picture. What is the EU required to do in order to better tackle all these challenges? What can be its international role in the political and economic domain against this backdrop, especially vis-à-vis the new US administration, Russia and the Middle East? The Chair's remarks should not exceed 4 minutes, the keynote speech should not exceed 10 minutes, and the other discussants are expected to deliver remarks of not more than 7 minutes each. A discussion session will follow.*

Chair: **Dr. Roby Nathanson**, General Director, Macro Center for Political Economics

Keynote speeches

- **Alfred Gusenbauer**, Former Chancellor of Austria

Input by ME discussant:

- **Dr. Tal Sadeh**, Ex-President of the Israeli Association for the Study of European Integration, Senior lecturer at the Department of Political science of Tel Aviv University

Input by EU discussant:

- **André Gerrits**, Professor of International Politics, University of Leiden

Discussion

**10:45-11:00 Coffee break**

**11:00-12:15 Second Session**

**A more prosperous Middle East: fostering regional economic collaboration and development**

*The second session will focus on the pathways through which regional economic collaboration and development can be fostered across the Middle East. What are the main opportunities in the region when it comes to the job market, job creation and the mobility of employees? How would the discovery of natural resources in the area, as well as the low prices of gas and oil, impact the region's economic development? In which areas is the increase of investment in human and physical capital and infrastructure mostly required? What are the opportunities when it comes to the environment and the reduction of gas emissions in the Middle East, and how can tourism be boosted in the current international context? How can a number of regional geopolitical processes, such as the Syrian war and the attempts at Palestinian national re-unification, affect the economic collaboration and development in the region? The Chair's remarks should not exceed 4 minutes, the keynote speech should not exceed 10 minutes, and the other discussants are expected to deliver remarks of not more than 7 minutes each. A discussion session will follow.*

Chair: **Vassilis Ntousas**, International Relations Policy Advisor, FEPS

Keynote speech:

- **Senior Israeli representative tbc**
- **Adv. Hiba Hussein**, Managing Partner of Hussein and Hussein Law Firm

Input by EU discussant:

- **Dr. Claire Spencer**, Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House

Input by ME discussant:

- **Dan Catarivas**, Director, Division of Foreign Trade & International Relations, Manufacturers' Association of Israel

Discussion

**12:15-13:30 Third Session**

**A more confident European Union: managing security cooperation in a new geopolitical environment**

*Building on the discussions of the first two sessions that focus more on the political and economic sectors, the third session will shift the spotlight to the security domain. Amid a landscape of changing international and regional political dynamics, how can Europe act in a united way and with a common voice in promoting its foreign and security policies? In what ways can the EU address the increasing influence of Russia, not least in the Middle East, also in light of the lessons learnt after the Russian military intervention in Ukraine? What are the dynamics in the transatlantic relationship in the face of the unpredictable and precedent-breaking new US President, notably vis-à-vis the role of Iran and Russia in the region? Can the combined effect of terrorist threats and regional patterns of instability lead Europe to more enhanced security cooperation? The Chair's remarks should not exceed 4 minutes, the keynote speech should not exceed 10 minutes, and the other discussants are expected to deliver remarks of not more than 7 minutes each. A discussion session will follow.*

Chair: **Dr. Ernst Stetter**, Secretary General of FEPS

Keynote speech:

- **Jean-Marc Ayrault**, Former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of France
- **Isaac Herzog**, Knesset Opposition Leader

Input by EU discussants:

- **Sven-Eric Söder**, Director General of the Folke Bernadotte Academy
- **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, Former Deputy Secretary General of NATO

Discussion

**13:30-14:30 Light Lunch Buffet**

**14:30-15:45 Fourth Session**

**A more stable Middle East: forming new regional security arrangements**

*The fourth session will aim to provide a security-centred discussion of the current status quo and of the future dynamics in the Middle East. In what ways could the cooperation between the moderate Sunni world and Israel foster the creation of new regional security arrangements? How can moves towards this direction affect the stalling Middle East peace process? Is it conceivable that the new US President succeed where his predecessors failed? Will the reconciliation agreement between Fatah and Hamas influence the Israeli-Palestinians negotiations? How are the various scenarios concerning the next phase in Palestinian leadership expected to impact the regional security arrangements? How is the current role of Russia and Turkey in the Syrian crisis influence the geopolitical and security dynamics in the Middle East, and how does it impact the current security arrangements? The Chair's remarks should not exceed 10 minutes, the keynote speech should also not exceed 10 minutes, and the other discussants are expected to deliver remarks of not more than 7 minutes each. A discussion session will follow.*

Moderation and Introductory remarks: **MK Ksenia Svetlova**, Zionist Camp

Keynote speech:

- **Amb. Per Örnéus**, Special Envoy for the Middle East Peace Process, Sweden

Input by EU discussant:

- **Rosemary Hollis**, Professor of International Politics, City University London

Input from ME discussant:

- **Elias Zananiri**, Vice Chairman of the PLO Committee for Interaction with the Israeli Society

Discussion

**15:45-16:00 Concluding Session: Closing Remarks**

Chair: **Ricard Torrell**, Former President of the European Youth Forum (EYF)

Discussants: **Dr. Ernst Stetter**, **Dr. Oded Eran** and **Dr. Roby Nathanson**