

Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, AMMAN, JORDAN

**CSS-CMES Conference, 31 May - 1 June 2014**

**EU Policies towards the MENA Region  
Differentiation, Conditionality and Partnership  
in a Changing Southern Mediterranean**



DJUCO



# EU Policies towards the MENA Region Differentiation, Conditionality and Partnership in a Changing Southern Mediterranean

**Venue: Centre for Strategic Studies, University of  
Jordan**

**Organized by Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark  
and the Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan.**

## **Introduction**

With the “Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity” of March 2011, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy initiated the launching of a policy taking its point of departure in changing realities in the Middle East, which, as it said in the document, reflected a “profound transformation process and will have lasting consequences not only for the people and countries of the region but also for the rest of the world and the EU in particular.” The document has since then been followed by several other policy documents on behalf of the EU, together presenting (as one of the documents was called) “A New Response to a Changing Neighbourhood”.

The new EU policies emphasize that the transition processes in the MENA region have affected the Arab states in very different ways. The more complex and heterogeneous southern Mediterranean challenges the EU in new ways, calling for a rethinking of the European policies, which show greater flexibility dealing with the specific and differentiated needs of the southern partners. The EU has declared that the new approach, based on a review of the European Neighbourhood Policy, should be built on conditionality as the overarching principle. Thus the built-in notion of “more for more” underlines that “the more and the faster a country progresses in its internal reforms, the more support it will get from the EU.” The EU policies have emphasized “deep democracy”, a partnership based on a thriving civil society, media freedom and human rights dialogue, but also insists on continued political and security cooperation. Furthermore the EU policies focus on a wide range of areas, which include support for economic and social development, trade and sector cooperation, migration and the building of partnerships, as it recently could be seen in a EU-Commission Press Release of 21 November, 2013: “EU boosts support to democratic reforms and development in the Southern Neighbourhood”, where an assistance package of €476 was adopted to foster development and cooperation with the southern partner countries.

Taking its starting point of departure in ongoing EU activities in Mediterranean countries in a comparative perspective this conference will discuss the regional cooperation and the engagements between the EU and states, institutions and organizations in the southern Mediterranean. The conference will analyze and discuss agreements, programmes and projects based in countries. Furthermore the conference will discuss the wider theoretical perspectives in the EU policies in the light of the developments in the MENA-region over the last years.

The workshop will bring together researchers from Middle Eastern and European universities and think tanks for the purpose of discussing the significant new development in the five Middle Eastern

## EU Policies towards the MENA Region Differentiation, Conditionality and Partnership in a Changing Southern Mediterranean

states and the ways in which they affect EU-Middle Eastern cooperation (or lack of cooperation). It is the ambition to discuss the issues related to the above mentioned developments aiming at publishing the results of the conference in international academic journals.

Furthermore it is the intention to establish a research cooperation programme between the Center for Strategic Studies at University of Jordan and the Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies at University of Southern Denmark with a focus on EU-Middle Eastern relations.

The conference is arranged by Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark and Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan. The conference is funded by the DJUCO-initiative (see [www.djuco.org](http://www.djuco.org)) based on a grant from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will be hosted by the Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan.

### Organizers:

Peter Seeberg, Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark (Director of DJUCO).

Musa Shteivi, Director, Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan, Amman

Kristian Holm, Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark, (Project Manager, DJUCO).

Rania Mashal, Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan

### Programme

**Saturday 31 May 2014**

12.30-13.45	<b>Lunch</b>
14.00-14.30	<b>Registration, Coffee and Tea</b>
14.30-14.45	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>
	Musa Shteivi, Director of Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan
	Peter Seeberg, Director of Studies, Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark
14.45-17.15	<b>Panel 1. EU Policies towards the MENA Region</b> Chair: Peter Seeberg
<b>Panel:</b>	Patrick Holden: Still relevant? The European Union's Mediterranean development policy in the context of changing global development politics
	Gamal Soltan: Euro Mediterranean Relations after the Arab spring Towards a Multidimensional System of Positive Conditionality
	Mudar Kassis: Can Europe be the Puppet and the Puppet Master at the Same Time?
	Musa Shteivi & Sara Ababneh: Tba
20:00	<b>Conference Dinner</b>

**EU Policies towards the MENA Region Differentiation, Conditionality and Partnership in a Changing Southern Mediterranean**

**Sunday 1 June 2014**

<b>10.00-12.00</b>	<b>Panel 2 EU Policies towards the MENA Region – case studies, I</b> <b>Chair:</b> Musa Shteivi
<b>Panel:</b>	Dimitris Bouris: The European Union’s role in the Palestinian state-building: between the Scylla of Fayyadism and the Charybdis of the occupation
	Omar Shaban The EU –Pal cooperation ... high expectations.... modest outputs
	Marco Pinfari: ‘Egypt and EU’s Conditionality: A Toothless Approach to a Halted Transition?’
<b>12.00-13.00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13.00-15.00</b>	<b>Panel 3 EU Policies towards the MENA Region – case studies, II</b> <b>Chair:</b> Dimitris Bouris
<b>Panel:</b>	Rosa Balfour: EU Differentiation, conditionality and partnership towards the changing South Mediterranean: what place for human rights and democracy?
	Peter Seeberg: Mobility Partnerships and European Security. New Tendencies in Mediterranean Migration and the EU’s Foreign and Security Policy towards the MENA-region
	Silvia Colombo: Business as Usual’ in EU democracy promotion towards Morocco? Assessing the limits of the EU’s approach Towards the Mediterranean after the Arab Uprisings
<b>15.00-15.15</b>	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>
	Musa Shteivi, Director of Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan.
	Peter Seeberg, Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark