Roundtable Conference

Democracy promotion East and South after the Arab Spring: Re-evaluating the EU's Engagement with Authoritarian Regimes

Brussels
1/2 December 2011

PROGRAMME

TEPSA

35th anniversary Maastricht University Leading in Learning!

Institut für Europäische Politik

VENUE

Maastricht University, Brussels Campus
Avenue de L'Armée / Legerlaan 10, 1040 Brussels

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Programme

Thursday, 1 December 2011

13.00 h – 14.30 h **Registration and Welcome Lunch**
Introduction to the workshop by the organisers

14.30 h – 16.30 h **Panel 1: 'EU relations with authoritarian regimes: One voice or several?'**

During the first session the presentations and discussion will focus on the past track-record of EU democracy promotion activities in authoritarian countries in its Eastern and Southern neighbourhood. How consistent and effective has EU policy towards authoritarian regimes been, in particular in view of diverging EU member state preferences? How dominant is the 'traditional' contradiction in EU policy between 'values' and 'interests' or are there perhaps other ways to summarise EU policy towards authoritarian regimes? Have the popular uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa merely exposed the weaknesses in EU policy towards authoritarian regimes or are we looking at a more fundamental limitation at the heart of the EU as a foreign policy actor: namely the general inability or even the demise of the EU as a successful democracy promoter vis-à-vis the most reluctant of the 'reluctant democratisers'?

Opening Speech: Zaki Laïdi, Professor, Sciences Po, Paris

Chair: Giselle Bosse, Assistant Professor, Maastricht University

Key note speakers: Ian Manners, Professor of Globalization and Europeanization, University of Roskilde

Michael Emerson, Associate Senior Research Fellow, Head of Unit EU Neighbourhood, Foreign and Security Policy, CEPS, Brussels

Michele Comelli, Senior Fellow, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

- - - Coffee Break - - -

17.00 h – 18.30 h **Panel 2: 'EU relations with authoritarian regimes in the MENA region'**

This session will focus on the EU's relations with authoritarian regimes in the MENA region, and the future prospects for democracy (and successful democracy promotion) in the region. Has the EU learnt any lessons from the 'Arab spring'? Has it significantly revised its policy towards the 'persistent' authoritarian regimes in the region, and if so, how, or if not, what factors explain the resistance of the EU to revise its policies towards authoritarian regimes in the region? Finally, how meaningful is the response of the EU to the emerging democracies in the MENA, and what challenges does the EU face as a democracy promoter?

Chair: Stelios Stavridis, Senior Researcher ARAID, Universidad de Zaragoza

Key note speaker: Hugues Mingarelli, Managing Director Middle East and North Africa, European External Action Service, Brussels

Further speakers: Francesco Cavatorta, Senior Lecturer, Dublin City University

Roberto Di Quirico, Senior Lecturer, University of Cagliari

Taoufik Ben Amara, Member of the Advisory Board, Euro-Mediterranean Association for Cooperation and Development, UN-Ambassador (retd.), Hamburg

Dinner Debate (only for invited guests)

20.00 h **Dinner Debate: 'Democracy promotion East and South after the Arab Spring: Re-evaluating the EU's Engagement with Authoritarian Regimes'**

Speeches: His Excellency Roland Schäfer, Minister, Deputy Head of political affairs, Permanent Representation of Federal Republic of Germany to the EU, Brussels

Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Member of the European Parliament, Brussels

Friday, 2 December 2011

09.00 h – 10.30 h **Panel 3: 'EU relations with Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation'**

In this third session, the focus will shift towards the EU's relations with countries in Eastern Europe and with the Russian Federation. Whereas the EU has long struggled to influence Belarus which is often described as the 'last dictatorship' in Europe, the latest political developments in Ukraine (such as the ambiguities surrounding the current trial of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko) suggest a significant decline of EU influence over the Eastern neighbourhood and the possible return of authoritarian rule to the region. How should the EU react to these developments? Most crucially, what is the role of the Russian Federation in turning the political fate of the region, and what role does and should the EU's (and member states') policy towards Russia play to influence the political and economic developments in the 'shared neighbourhood'?

Chair: Balázs Jarábik, Country Representative for Belarus and Ukraine, PACT; Associate Fellow, FRIDE, Kyiv

Speakers: Kateryna Shynkaruk, Senior Research Fellow, The Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, Kiev

Olga Kapustina, Journalist, Deutsche Welle, Bonn & Giselle Bosse, Assistant Professor, Maastricht University

Anke Schmidt-Felzmann, Postdoctoral Fellow Vetenskapsrådet, Stockholm University

Ernest Wyciszkiewicz, Deputy Director, Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding, Warsaw

Commentary: Dana Depo, Marie Curie EXACT Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels

- - - Coffee Break - - -

Friday, 2 December 2011 (continued)

11.00 h – 12.30 h **Panel 4: 'EU relations with the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia'**

The final session will focus on EU relations with the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. Whereas EU relations with authoritarian regimes in the Arab world are currently in the limelight of political attention, it is vital to remember that the EU maintains strong economic links not only to semi-authoritarian governments in the South Caucasus (notably Azerbaijan) but also to outright authoritarian regimes in Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. How much emphasis has the EU placed on democracy promotion vis-à-vis these countries in the past and how effective have its policies been? Has the EU changed its policies following the political upheavals in the MENA? Should or can the EU adjust its policies towards authoritarian regimes in the South Caucasus and Central Asia and if so, how? Finally, what is the role of other international players in the region (i.e. Russia, China or Turkey), and how do they impact on the ability and future of the EU as a democracy promoter in the regions?

Chair:	Katrin Böttger, Deputy Director, Institut für Europäische Politik, Berlin
Speakers:	Mariella Falkenhain, Research Associate, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
	Syuzanna Vasilyan, Assistant Professor, School of Political Science and International Affairs, American University of Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia
	Fabienne Bossuyt, Assistant Professor, Ghent University
Commentary:	Marco Siddi, Marie Curie EXACT Fellow, Institute for World Economics, Budapest

12.30 h – 13.30 h **Closing Speeches**

Speakers:	Lisbeth Aggestam, Lecturer in International Relations, University of Bath
	Rosa Balfour, Senior Policy Analyst, Head of Programme Europe in the World European Policy Centre, Brussels
	Andrei Fedarau, Analyst & Advisor to Belarusian Opposition Leader Oleksandr Milinkevich

- - - Light Farewell Lunch - - -