

4th WORKSHOP ON  
**Security & Stability  
in the Mediterranean  
and the Middle East**

MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2024  
ATHENS, GREECE

INDICATIVE TOPICS

- Security in the Mediterranean and the Broader Middle East
- Migration, Refugee Crisis and Human Security in the Mediterranean and the Middle East
- The present and future of Euro-Mediterranean relations

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS



INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC RELATIONS



University of Catania

**4<sup>th</sup> WORKSHOP**  
**on**  
***Security & Stability in the Mediterranean and  
the Middle East***

***to be held on***  
**30-31 May and 1 June 2024**  
***in***  
**Athens, GREECE**

This Workshop is organized by the **Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER/IDOS)** of Athens in collaboration with:

- ARAID/Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain
- Center for Mediterranean Studies, Yasar University, Turkey
- Institute for European Studies, University of Malta, Malta
- Neapolis University Pafos, Cyprus
- Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) Cyprus Centre, Cyprus
- University of Catania, Italy

**Event coordinators (academic)**

- Prof. Charalampos Tsardanidis, Director, Institute of International Economic Relations
- Dr. Stelios Stavridis, ARAID Senior Research Fellow, University of Zaragoza

**International Advisory Committee**

- Fulvio Attina, Emeritus Professor of Political Science and International Relations, University of Catania
- Emre İşeri, Director of the Center for Mediterranean Studies, Professor Yasar University, Turkey
- Roderick Pace, Professor, University of Malta
- Stefania Panebianco, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Catania, and Holder of the Jean Monnet Chair EUMedEA
- Pantelis Sklias, Rector, Neapolis University Pafos, Cyprus
- Harry Tzimitras, Director, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) Nicosia, Cyprus

## Draft PROGRAMME (16.4.2024)

### Thursday, 30 May 2024

**10:30 – 11:00** Arrival & Registration (welcome coffee)

**11:00 – 12:00** Keynote Speech

- Prof. **Dimitris Kairidis**, Minister of Migration and Asylum of Greece, “*Greece’s Migration/Refugee Policies in the Eastern Mediterranean*”

**12:00 – 12:30** Coffee Break

**12:30 – 14:30**

#### **PANEL 1: Impact of Gaza & Ukrainian War on the Middle East & Mediterranean**

Chair: Prof. **Vivi Kefala**, Head of Middle East Programme, Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER), Athens

- Prof. **Charalampos Tsardanidis**, Honorary Professor, University of the Peloponnese, Director, Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER), Greece: *Misperceptions and war: Israel, the causes and consequences of the Gaza War.*
- Mrs **Laura Gil-Besada**, Chair of Legislative Studies, University of Luxembourg & **Dr. Stelios Stavridis, ARAID**, University of Zaragoza, Spain: *Unidas Podemos’ Reaction to the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine.*
- Dr. **Vasilios Th. Zoumbos**, Post Doc Fellow, Department of International and European Economic Studies, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece: *Bringing the New Era of NATO Security Reforms: The Case of Ukrainian War and its Impact on the Middle East and Mediterranean Region.*

**14:30 – 16:00** Lunch

**16:00 – 18:00**

#### **PANEL 2: Greater Maghreb, Western Security and the decline of MENA concept, Geopolitics, Great Powers and Hybrid Threats**

Chair: Prof. **David Garcia Cantalapiedra**, PhD, Co-Director, Complutense Group of International and Strategic Studies, Madrid

- Prof. **Raquel Barras**, PhD, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain: *The Decline of MENA and the rise of the Greater Maghreb Regional Security Complex.*
- Prof. **Gustavo Díaz Matey**, PhD, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain: *Peace Operations: Between Deterrence and Peace Enforcement. Lessons for the Greater Maghreb.*

- Prof. **Natividad Fernández-Sola**, PhD, Chair on International Law and International Relations, University of Madrid, Spain: *Russian Role in the Greater Maghreb*
- Prof. **David Garcia Cantalapiedra**, PhD, University of Madrid, Spain: *Hybridization”vs. Hybrid Threats: Western Debate and Impact in the Greater Maghreb*

## Friday, 31 May 2024

**10:00 – 12:00**

### **PANEL 3: Refugee, Displacement, Migration**

Chair: Prof. **Roderick Pace**, Institute for European Studies, University of Malta, Valletta

- Prof. **Parvati Nair**, School of Languages, Linguistics and Firm, Queen Mary, University of London, UK: *Displacement, Domicide and Encampment in the Mediterranean.*
- Prof. **Belachew Gebrewold**, MCI, Innsbruck, University of Applied Sciences, Austria: *Postcolonial African Migration to the West: A Mimetic Desire for Being.*
- Dr. **Ayman Zohry**, Independent Expert, Egypt: *Re-examining Replacement Migration as a tool for Demographic Resilience.*
- Mr. **Markos Psimitis**, Researcher, Lesvos Island, Greece: *Security Unveiled: An In-Depth Analysis of the 2015 Refugee Crisis’s Impact on Human Security in the EU.*

**12:00 – 12:30** Coffee Break

**12:00 – 14:30**

### **PANEL 4: Politics and Migration**

Chair: Mrs Effie Charalampaki, Head of the Research Programme on the Theory and Practice of International Relations, Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER), Athens

- Prof. **Tina Mavrikos Adamou**, Adjunct Professor of Political Science, American College of Thessaloniki: *Reconciling state security and human security: Irregular migration in the Mediterranean.*
- Asst. Prof. **Esra Dilek**, Kadir Has University, Istanbul Turkey, & Asst. Prof. **Fulya Hisarlioglu**, Kadir Has University, Istanbul Turkey: *Ethnopolitist Politics of Contention: The Ascendancy of Anti-Immigrant Parties in Greece and Turkey.*
- Ms **Habiba Diaaeldin**, Political Researcher, Al Habtoor Research Centre, Cairo, Egypt: *Unraveling the Far-Right Surge in Europe and its Ripple Effects on Migration, Geopolitics, and Humanitarian Crises in the MENA Region.*

**14:30 – 15:30** Lunch

**15:30 – 17:30**

**PANEL 5: WESTERN SAHARA**

Chair: Dr. **Meriem Nali**, Université of Grenoble Alpes, Grenoble

- Prof. **Yahia Zoubir**, Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Qatar: *Morocco and the Abraham Accords: Reshuffling the Cards in Mediterranean Geopolitics*.
- Dr. **Jacob Mundy**, Associate Professor and Director, Peace and Conflict Studies, Colgate University, USA: *Infrastructures of Global Insecurity: Western Sahara Reconsidered*.
- Dr. **Sidi Omar**, Jaume I University, Spain: *Western Sahara: a critical analysis of UN management of a Protracted Conflict*.
- Dr. **Meriem Nali**, Université of Grenoble Alpes, France: *Soft Power through Litigation: The Aftermath of the CJEU Rulings on EU-Morocco Trade and Beyond*.

**17:30 – 18:00** Coffee Break

**18:00 – 20:00**

**PANEL 6: PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY**

Chair: Prof. **Charalampos Tsardanidis**, Honorary Professor, University of the Peloponnese, Director, Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER), Athens

- Dr. **Meriem Nali**, University of Grenoble Alpes, France: *Reimagining Parliamentary Diplomacy: The European Parliament's Role in Addressing the Western Sahara Conflict in the Mediterranean*.
- Asst. Prof. **Paula Lamoso González**, Loyola University Andalusia, Spain & Dr. **Stelios Stavridis**, ARAID Senior Research Fellow, University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain: *The European Parliament and the 2023 Israel-Hamas War*.
- Adj. Prof. **Jordi Xuclà Costa**, Department of Communications and International Relations, University Ramon Llull, Spain: *The New Foreign Policy of the European Union in the South Caucasus: Energy Security and Parliamentary Diplomacy*.
- Prof. **Roderick Pace**, Institute for European Studies, University of Malta, Malta: *The End of Tunisia's Flirt with Democracy: EU Democracy Promotion, the European Parliament and Parliamentary Diplomacy*.
- Adj. Prof. **Marta Pascal**, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain & Adj. Prof. **Jordi Xuclà Costa**, Department of Communications and International Relations, University Ramon

LIUJ, Spain: *The Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean: Evaluation of its Work and Challenges (2014-2024)*

## Saturday, 1 June 2024

**10:00 – 12:00**

### **PANEL 6: COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**Chair: Prof. Panayotis Tsakonas**, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Athens, Athens

- Dr. **Andreas Kotelis**, University of Malta, Malta: *Epistemic Communities and Innovation Cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean.*
- Prof. **Emre Iseri**, Director, Research Center for Mediterranean, Yasar University, Turkey: *Navigating the Anthropocene: Geopolitics, Green Economic Transition, and Renewable Energy Cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean.*
- Dr. **Hoda Shaltout**, Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, School of Economics and Politics, New Giza University, Egypt: *The 2015 Mediterranean Crisis and European Human Rights Values: Security Comes Before R2P?*
- Dr. **Marie Kortam**, Research Associate, French Institute for the Near East, France: *Pushback and Pullback in Lebanon as an EU-Lebanon Security Strategy.*

**12:00 – 12:30** Coffee Break

**12:30 – 14:30**

### **PANEL 6: TURKEY AND IRAN**

**Chair: Prof. Emre Iseri**, Director, Research Center for Mediterranean, Yasar University, Izmir

- Mrs. **Reka Szolga**, Phd Student, University of Public Service, Hungary: *Geopolitics of Water in the Middle East – A Source of Potential Conflict or Cooperation?*
- Mr. **Madi Ibrahim**, Researcher, Centre Detudes Diplomatique et Strategiques, France: *Iran's Regional Dynamics: Navigating Tensions and Opportunities in a Shifting Middle East*
- Mr. **Alexis Lekakis Kerkyraios**, Phd Candidate, Panteion University, Greece: *The Gaza War's Impact on Iranian -Turkish relations: Still Frenemies?*