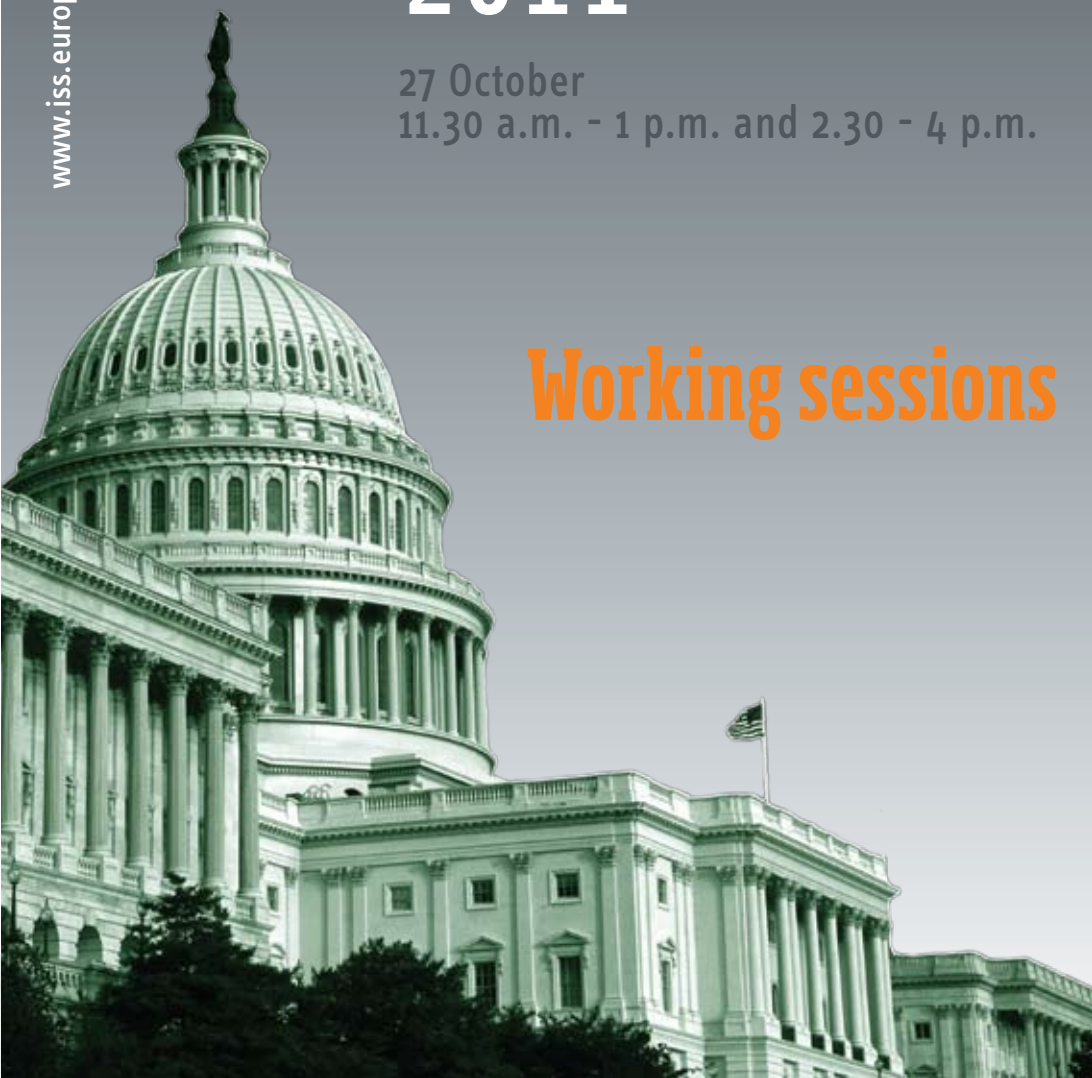


EU Washington Forum 2011

27 October
11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 2.30 - 4 p.m.

Working sessions

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Working Session 1 *(Concorde Room)***The revolutions in the Arab World: a chance for the Middle East Peace Process?**

Álvaro de Vasconcelos (EUISS) in cooperation with **Daniel Levy** (New America Foundation) and **Mansouria Mokhefi** (IFRI)

The democratic uprisings and political transition processes unfolding across a number of Middle East countries raise many questions regarding regional peace and conflict. Many hope the recent uprisings will produce a precious window of opportunity for moving successfully towards a peaceful, two-state centred resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Is such a window of opportunity apparent or emerging? At the same time, there is considerable concern that regional developments could further complicate efforts to resolve the conflict. Speculations abound over the trajectories of key actors in the conflict, including Egyptians, Syrians, Israelis and Palestinians. Sources of confusion include uncertainty over an elite and popular reformulation of interests, tactics and objectives concerning the conflict, and doubts about the impact of domestic developments on regional power distribution. How can Europeans and Americans who are keen to help resolve the conflict make sense of this complex and evolving situation? Should the EU and US revise their basic approaches to the conflict? Is there now, more than ever, the need for strong European and American leadership and bold initiatives for Middle East peace? Or do regional changes suggest the decisiveness of bottom-up dynamics and the need for transatlantic humility?

Working Session 2 *(Bastille Room)***Consolidating the change: rule of law, social progress and security**

Patryk Pawlak (EUISS) in cooperation with **Claire Spencer** (Chatham House) and **Jon B. Alterman** (Center for Strategic and International Studies)

When major social upheaval occurs and social and political transformation unfolds, the real challenge is to rebuild societal ties and to ensure that the ideals that were fought for are at the centre of a new political system. The governance of transition, rebuilding and transforming the economy, reforming the political system and ensuring stability are only a few challenges in the cycle of transformation. It is clear that despite similarities in the way the protests unfolded, each country will struggle with its own combination of those challenges. Understanding this complexity will be a major challenge for the European Union and the United States. At the same time, the optimism to which those uprisings gave birth cannot overshadow some obvious truths about the nature of transformation, including political struggles and conflicts about objectives and tools of domestic and foreign policies. The sensitive questions that will need to be addressed include, among others, the role of the military, division of powers between branches of government, the place of religion and political Islam. Given their limited credibility and legitimacy as democracy promoters in the region, how should the EU and US approach these questions? How to balance their efforts to protect their interests in the region with a genuine call for change and support for democracy in the Arab countries?

SESSIONS

Working Session 3 *(Madeleine Room)*

The EU, NATO and Libya

Daniel Keohane (EUISS) in cooperation with **Daniel Korski** (ECFR), **Kori Schake** (Hoover Institution/Stanford University) and **Bogusław Winid** (Ambassador of Poland to NATO)

At the start of 2011 not many people would have predicted that NATO would fight a war in North Africa. Fewer would have imagined that France and Britain would lead that effort, based on a UN Security Council mandate and the support of the Arab League. But most would have expected divisions over the use of force, shown by the fact that only eight out of 28 NATO members have been willing to fully implement the military operation. There is clearly much to be learned from NATO's experience in Libya. For example, do Europeans and Americans share the same security priorities? Can the Europeans run a robust military operation without American help? What does NATO's military operation in Libya tell us about the future of EU defence policy?

Working Session 4 *(Montmartre Room)*

Protecting citizens: international cooperation in times of crisis

Eva Gross (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) in cooperation with **Henning Riecke** (DGAP) and **Daniel Hamilton** (Center for Transatlantic Relations/Johns Hopkins University)

In times of crisis, the protection of citizens and aiding those who suffer should be the primary objective of international action. The Responsibility to Protect is obviously one of the key concepts in this regard but its effective implementation poses several political and logistical problems. Many challenges related to crisis management, evacuation or possibly a military intervention cannot be implemented single-handedly and require coordinated action between numerous actors, including international organisations (e.g. the UN, the OSCE) or regional alliances (e.g. NATO, the EU, the Arab League). But there are many challenges in cooperation and coordination between actors. What lessons can we draw from past missions and from how the situation in the Arab countries has unfolded? What opportunities are there for strengthening EU-US cooperation? How can synergies be created between the EU's approach and that of other actors?



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