

Building resilience in the EU's neighbouring and surrounding regions

A seminar organised by the EUISS and DG NEAR

Wednesday, 8 March 2017
Auditorium, DG AGRI, 102 Rue de la Loi, Brussels

Programme

9:00-9:30 Registration and welcome coffee

9:30-9:45 Opening remarks

Christian Danielsson, *Director General, European Commission - DG NEAR*

Antonio Missiroli, *Director, EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)*

9:45-11:15 **Session 1 | Institutional and energy resilience in the Eastern neighbourhood**

In the Eastern neighbourhood, the fragile geopolitical context, together with weak institutional settings and economies, and widespread corruption, are the main causes of instability. This context is aggravated by the dependence of these countries' economies on the energy sector, which makes them more vulnerable to political and socio-economic shocks. Understanding how energy independence could be increased through energy security and efficiency and how institutional reforms could contain risks is key to building durable and sustainable resilience in the East.

Chair Lawrence Meredith, *Director, Neighbourhood East, DG NEAR*

Panellists Valbona Zeneli, *Director of Black Sea and Eurasia Program, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Germany/Albania*

Alan Riley, *Senior Fellow, Institute for Statecraft, United Kingdom and Senior Non-Resident Fellow, Atlantic Council, United States*

Jana Kobzova, *Head of Policy, Rasmussen Global and Associate Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations*

Respondent Nicu Popescu, *Senior Analyst on Russia and Eastern Neighbours, EUISS*

11:15-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 Session 2 | State and societal resilience in the Southern neighbourhood

In the Southern neighbourhood, inefficient and corrupt public institutions are often unable to respond to the political, socio-economic, and environmental challenges faced by the region. Democratic functioning of government institutions and high public participation are essential elements of healthy state-society relations. Building accountable and resilient institutions can also provide a platform for resolution of conflicts and de-escalation of tensions arising from high unemployment and broader socio-economic fragility.

Chair Michael Miller, *Head of Unit, Middle East, DG NEAR*

Panellists Marc Maouad, *Operations Manager and Senior Adviser on public sector reform and development projects, Siren Associates, Lebanon*

Karim Belhaj Aissa, *President of the Tunisian Association of Public Auditors, Tunisia*

Halim Feddal, *Secretary General of the National Association for the Fight against Corruption, Algeria*

Respondent Florence Gaub, *Senior Analyst on the Middle East and North Africa, EUISS*

13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch

14:00-15:30 Session 3 | Role of security sector in building resilience in the European neighbourhood

This panel will address the challenges faced by the security sector both in the South and Eastern neighbourhood, discussing the role of state security providers that contribute to resilience such as police forces and specialised law enforcement agencies, judiciary, border and custom control. In the Eastern neighbourhood, domestic vulnerabilities and external pressures create a particularly complex context for security sector reform, with disinformation further contributing to internal destabilisation. In the South, security shortages are the result of political and socio-economic vulnerabilities: the way security services in the region manage riots and demonstrations often contributes to worsening, rather than appeasing, the situation. Similarly, new security threats – e.g. terrorism, hybrid threats and cybercrime, etc. – are putting an additional strain on the state security bodies.

Chair Maciej Popowski, *Deputy Director General, DG NEAR*

Panellists Dorin Recean, *Technical University of Moldova, former Minister of Interior, Moldova*

Kálmán Mizsei, *former Head of the EU Advisory Mission to Ukraine*

Taghreed Jaber, *Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Penal Reform International, Jordan*

Yezid Sayigh, *Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Center, Lebanon*

Respondents Florence Gaub and Nicu Popescu, *Senior Analysts, EUISS*

15:30-16:00 Closing remarks

Florence Gaub and Nicu Popescu, *Senior Analysts, EUISS*

Maciej Popowski, *Deputy Director General, DG NEAR*