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UNIVERSITY | DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS
of NICOSIA | AND GOVERNANCE

Call
to
Europe

*A progressive strategy for peace
and cooperation in the Mediterranean*

Saturday, 30 May 2026, from 08:45 to 14:30

Venue: University of Nicosia
(46 Makedonitissas Avenue, CY-2417, Nicosia, Cyprus)

Agenda

Saturday, 30 May 2026 (morning and afternoon)

Venue: University of Nicosia, UNESCO Amphitheatre

Public conference (Register [here](#))

Interpretation available (EN-GR and GR-EN)

08:45 - 09:15	Registration and welcome coffee
09:15 - 10:05	Opening session and welcome remarks (09:15 - 09:30) László Andor , Secretary-General, FEPS Constantinos Adamides , Head of Department of Politics and Governance, University of Nicosia Sophia Christodoulou Makri , President, EDEK Youth & Bureau Member of European Affairs, EDEK Socialist Party Marcus Schneider , Project Director, FES Regional Project on Peace and Security in the MENA Region (Lebanon)

	<p>Scene setter (09:30 - 09:45)</p> <p>Federica Mogherini, former Vice-President, European Commission & former High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EEAS (2014–2019); former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy (2014)</p> <p>Keynote speech (09:45 - 10:05)</p> <p>Ambassador Theodora Constantinidou, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus</p> <p>Master of ceremony: Anna Diamantopoulou, former European Commissioner for Employment and Social Rights; President, DIKTIO & Bureau Member, FEPS</p>
<p>10:05 - 11:35</p>	<p>Session 1: Democratic resilience in North Africa</p> <p>Democracy in North Africa is characterised by a complex and uneven landscape, shaped by fragile and often reversed transitions following the Arab Spring. The region today spans a spectrum ranging from hybrid democracies to authoritarianism. Despite a challenging context, demands for democracy persist, driven by human rights defenders and civil society organisations. This panel will examine the current state of democracy across Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco, focusing on the key challenges and opportunities facing democratic actors. It will also explore how the EU's current approaches towards North Africa, focused on energy, investment, and security partnerships, including border control management and the New Pact for the Mediterranean, impact democratisation efforts in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hella Ben Youssef, Vice-President, Ettakatol; Vice-President, Socialist International Women • Amina Zakhnouf, Development Policy and Africa Youth Expert • Amel Boubekour, Professor, Aix-Marseille University; LEST and scholar, Arab Reform Initiative (online) • Rim Filali Meknassi, Head, Euro-Mediterranean Policies Department, IE MED <p>Q&A</p> <p>Moderated by: Hubert Faustmann, Director, FES Cyprus</p>
<p>11:35 - 11:45</p>	<p>Keynote speech on the Pact for the Mediterranean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicola Zingaretti, MEP, S&D Group (online)

<p>11:45 - 11:55</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>11:55 - 13:25</p>	<p>Session 2: Implications of the geopolitical crisis in the Middle East for the Mediterranean region</p> <p>Over recent months, the Middle East has been engulfed in a full-fledged regional crisis, triggered by the illegal US and Israeli military intervention against Iran and the military confrontations that have followed, drawing Gulf countries into the crisis. Israel and the US's ambition to reconfigure regional power dynamics, alongside evolving political dynamics in countries such as Syria, are contributing to a rapidly shifting and increasingly fragile regional landscape. These violent dynamics are having devastating human consequences, including civilian deaths, the bombing of civilian infrastructures, worsening living conditions of the people in the region, and global impacts on energy markets and food supply chains.</p> <p>This panel will seek to move beyond event-driven commentary and examine whether we are witnessing a deeper transformation of the political and normative order in the Mediterranean and Middle East. We will explore not only geopolitical and security implications, but also the consequences for international law, regional cooperation, democratic legitimacy, and possibilities for peace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kostas Maronitis, Professor, Leeds Trinity University • Trita Parsi, Co-founder and Executive Vice-President, Quincy Institute; Writer & Political Analyst (online) • Costas Mavrides, MEP, S&D Group • Ino Afentouli, Senior Policy Advisor and Head of the Observatory of Geopolitics and Diplomacy, Hellenic Foundation for Foreign and European Policy (ELIAMEP) <p>Q&A</p> <p>Moderated by: Michelle Pace, Professor in Global Studies, based in Roskilde, Denmark; Visiting Academic Fellow, Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford</p>
<p>13:25 - 13:35</p>	<p>Closing session</p> <p>László Andor, Secretary-General, FEPS</p>
<p>13:35 - 14:35</p>	<p>Lunch reception</p> <p>Venue: University of Nicosia, The Gallery Restaurant</p>