



**MENA Forum**  
Middle East | North Africa

25 – 27 February 2019

Grand Hyatt Istanbul, İstanbul, Turkey

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## Agenda

*All sessions will be off the record.*

*Plenary session will be held in the hotel Dining Room. Break-out sessions will be indicated as appropriate.*

### Monday, 25 February

19:00-19:30 **Drinks reception** – Grand Hyatt Istanbul, Troy Foyer

19:30-21:30 **Working dinner: Turkish Foreign Policy in the Middle East**

Speaker: Ibrahim Kalin, Special Advisor to President Erdogan

### Tuesday, 26 February

08.45 Welcome – Grand Hyatt Istanbul, Dining Room

09:00-11:00 **Plenary I: Battle Lines in a Contested MENA Region**

The unfolding regional order – short-term prospects for 2019 and longer-term implications. How (un)sustainable is the regional trajectory?

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30-13:15 **Plenary II: Europe's response to the new regional order**

How can European governments more effectively address new political and security dilemmas and partner with regional actors to promote stabilisation from North Africa across to the Gulf?

13:15-14:30 *Lunch*

14:30-16:30 **Breakout sessions I**

- How to build European policy cohesion on Libya? - *Mansion Study Room*
- Iran: Crisis averted or re-ignited? – *Dining Room*

19:30 Meet in hotel lobby for dinner transfer

20:00-22:30 **Working dinner: Navigating Gulf regional ambitions?**

*Hosted by the Italian ambassador to Turkey, Palazzo di Venezia, Istanbul*

Speaker: AbdelAziz Aluwaisheg, Assistant Secretary General for Political & Negotiation Affairs, Gulf Cooperation Council

## Wednesday, 27 February

09:00-10:30 **Breakout sessions II** - *Grand Hyatt Istanbul, The Mansion Study Room*

- Migration in context: A new relationship with North Africa?
- No Peace, No Process: Can Europeans still play a role in Conflict Resolution in Israel/Palestine?

10:30-10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45-12:15 **Plenary III: Syria after the US withdrawal?** –*Grand Hyatt Istanbul, Dining Room*

Implications of the US pull out from Syria. Can Europeans play a more effective role supporting a sustainable order, while also addressing Turkish concerns over the Kurds? What does this mean for the wider political process?

12:30-14:00 *Lunch*

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## List of Participants

1. **Ali Alansari**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar
2. **Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg**, Assistant Secretary General for Political & Negotiation Affairs, Gulf Cooperation Council
3. **Vincenzo Amendola**, former Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Italian MFA
4. **Will Arnall-Culliford**, Deputy Head of Iran-Iraq Department and Counter-Daesh Task Force, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office
5. **Aslı Aydıntaşbaş**, Senior Policy Fellow, ECFR
6. **Julien Barnes-Dacey**, Director of the Middle East and North Africa programme, ECFR
7. **Armando Barucco**, Head of Policy Planning, Italian MFA
8. **Ilan Baruch**, Ambassador (Ret.), Chairperson of the Policy Working Group, Israel
9. **Kayhan Barzegar**, Director, Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies, Iran
10. **Christian Berger**, Head of delegation of the EU to Turkey; former MENA Director, European External Action Service (EEAS)
11. **Sarah Boukri**, Political scientist, Morocco
12. **Christian Buck**, Middle East and North Africa Director, Federal Foreign Office, Germany
13. **Luca Carpintieri**, Head of Political Office, Embassy of Italy in Turkey
14. **Galip Dalay**, Research Director, Al Sharq Forum, Turkey
15. **Ann Dismorr**, Deputy Director-General, Middle East and North Africa, Swedish MFA
16. **Anthony Dworkin**, Senior Policy Fellow, ECFR
17. **Jean-Baptiste Faivre**, Deputy Director, Middle East and North Africa, French MFA
18. **Massimo Gaiani**, Ambassador of Italy to Turkey
19. **Ellie Geranmayeh**, Senior Policy Fellow and Deputy MENA Director, ECFR
20. **Anders Gulbrandsen**, Advisor, Section for Peace and Reconciliation, Norwegian MFA
21. **Jonathan Hackenbroich**, Research Assistant to the Director, ECFR
22. **Therese Hydén**, Swedish Consulate General in Istanbul
23. **Ibrahim Kalin**, Special Advisor to President Erdogan, Turkey (Monday dinner only)

24. **Lolwah Rashid Al Khater**, Spokesperson of the Qatari MFA
25. **Alba Lamberti**, Deputy Director, ECFR
26. **Daniel Levy**, President, U.S./Middle East Project
27. **Camille Lons**, Programme Coordinator, ECFR
28. **Hugh Lovatt**, Policy Fellow, ECFR
29. **Mohammed Masbah**, Director, Moroccan Institute for Policy Analysis (MIPA)
30. **Tarek Megerisi**, Policy Fellow, ECFR
31. **Yoichi Mikami**, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Turkey
32. **Enrique Mora**, Political Director, Spanish MFA; ECFR Council Member
33. **H.E Sedat Önal**, Deputy Foreign Minister, Turkey
34. **Lapo Pistelli**, Executive Vice President - Head of Eni International Affairs; ECFR Council Member
35. **Nicolò Russo Perez**, Coordinator, International Affairs Program, Compagnia di San Paolo, Italy; ECFR Council Member
36. **Mohammed Anwar Al Sadat**, Member of the Egyptian Parliament, President of the Reform & Development Party
37. **Seyed Mohammed Sajjadpour**, Deputy Foreign Minister; Director, Institute for Political and International Studies, Iran
38. **Omar Shaban**, Director, PalThink for Strategic Studies, Gaza
39. **Jeremy Shapiro**, Research Director, ECFR; former Policy Planning Staff, US State Department
40. **Alexander Shumilin**, Head of the Center for Europe-Middle East Studies, Moscow
41. **Maciej Stadejek**, Director at the Political Director's Office, Polish MFA
42. **Anders Tang Friberg**, Middle East and North Africa Director, Danish MFA
43. **Chloe Teevan**, Programme Coordinator, ECFR
44. **Nawaf Wasfi Tell**, Jordanian Ambassador to the Netherlands
45. **Sinan Ülgen**, Chairman, Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM)
46. **Isabelle Werenfels**, Head of Research Division Middle East and Africa, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)
47. **Tamara Cofman Wittes**, Senior Fellow, Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings Institution; former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs
48. **Joseph Yackley**, Political officer, U.S. Consulate in Istanbul
49. **Maha Yahya**, Director, Carnegie Middle East Center, Lebanon
50. **Nuh Yilmaz**, Office of the Presidency of the Turkish Republic
51. **Martin Yttervik**, Policy Director, Middle East and North Africa, Norwegian MFA
52. **Tarik Yousef**, Senior Fellow and Director of the Brookings Doha Center