

## International Conference

### The fourth FORUM

# *“The New Geopolitical Environment in the Middle East: Between Fighting Terrorism and the Future of the Region”*

*Thursday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2018*

#### AGENDA

**“The New Geopolitical Environment in the Middle East: between Fighting Terrorism and the Future of the Region”** is an event organized by the Bucharest-based think-tank **the Middle East Political and Economic Institute (MEPEI)**, the **Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Romania**, and the **EURISC Foundation**.

We organize this event with a view to address salient international affairs. The Middle East has never been a simple place, holding its special standing in international geopolitics, being characterized by the complexity of the security milieu and strategic energy resources. The region has been confronted with significant challenges over the last years, subsequent to the strengthening of terrorist groups’ operational methods, posing more challenges than ever in an already volatile environment.

Threats nowadays are not isolated, given the current transnational context, thus the purpose of this Conference is to promote an approach that highlights commitment to the fight against all forms of violence, including its extreme version, namely *terrorism*. In addressing this complex issue, we should focus on four main pillars: prevent, protect, pursue, and respond. In addition, a complete strategy recognises the importance of cooperation with third countries and international institutions. The in-depth analysis offered by the experts attending the Conference enables us to study a vicious phenomenon and deliver perspective solutions for the future of the region. Moreover, the Forum is envisaged as an occasion to benefit from the expertise of government representatives, renowned analysts and scholars from different countries, who are all directly engaged with the matter.

The event is supported by the Tubman Company and Victor Bălăsoiu Law House, Romania, in partnership with the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS/MFA, Iran), the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (Tehran, Iran), and the Chamber of Commercial Diplomacy with Iran (Bucharest).

The Conference brings together diplomats, Romanian officials, academics, business leaders, politicians, as well as independent researchers, think-tank representatives, journalists, and other civil society representatives.

Venue: Ronda Conference Hall (1<sup>st</sup> Floor), InterContinental Bucharest Hotel (University Square)

**08:30 – 09:30 Registration of the Participants. Welcome Coffee**

**09:30 – 09:50 Official Opening Session**

**HE Dr. Virgil POPESCU**, Deputy, Chairman of the Romania - Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group, the Parliament of Romania

**Representative of the Authorities - TBC**

**HE Mr. Hamid MOAYYER**, Ambassador of the IR of Iran to Romania

**Mr. Flavius CABA-MARIA**, President of MEPEI, Romania

**Prof. Liviu MUREȘAN**, Executive President of the EURISC Foundation, Romania

**09:50 – 10:45 Plenary Session**

**Moderators:**

**Prof. Liviu MUREȘAN**, Executive President of the EURISC Foundation, Romania

**HE Dr. Mohammad Reza Raouf SHEIBANI**, former Iranian ambassador to Syria (2011 - 2016) and Lebanon, IPIS, Iran

**Keynote Speakers:**

**HE Dr. Mostafa ZAHRANI**, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Director General of IPIS, MFA, Iran

**Dr. Alexander SHUMILIN**, the Institute of Europe, Chief Research Fellow, the Head of the Center for the Middle East conflicts, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Federation

**Prof. Sandro BOLOGNA**, President of the Italian Association of Critical Protection Infrastructure, Chair of the TIEMS International Program Committee, Rome, Italy

**10:45 – 12:15 Session I: Great Powers, Regional Powers, and International Organization**

**Moderators:**

**Mr. Flavius CABA-MARIA**, President of MEPEI, Bucharest

**Prof. Kayhan BARZEGAR**, Director of the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies, Tehran; Professor at the Islamic Azad University / Tehran, and Fellow Kennedy School of Government, the Harvard University, Iran

**Keynote Speaker:**

**HE Dr. Mohammad Hasan SHEIKHOLESAMI**, Dean, School of International Relations, IPIS / MFA; former Advisor to the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Iran

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Hassan ABOUTALEB**, Strategic Advisor at Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies and Lecturer at Misr International University, Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt – (Visa Issue)

**Prof. Davood KIANI**, the Islamic Azad University, Vice President at the Institute of Iran and Eurasia Studies (IRAS), Iran

**Mr. Florin LUCA**, Secretary General, the Titulescu European Foundation, Romania

**Prof. Philipp O. AMOUR**, the Middle East Institute / Sakarya, Turkey & visiting Professor at the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University/ Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey

**Prof. Adrian POP**, the National University of Political Science and Public Administration, Romania

12:15 – 12:45 **Coffee Break**

12:45 – 14:15 **Session II: Evolutions in Fighting Terrorism and the Future of the Region**

**Moderators:**

**HE Dr. Mostafa ZAHRANI**, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Director General of IPIS, MFA, Iran

**Dr. Alexander SHUMILIN**, the Institute of Europe, Chief Research Fellow, the Head of the Center for the Middle East conflicts, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Federation

**Keynote Speaker:**

**HE Dr. Mohammad Reza Raouf SHEIBANI**, former Iranian ambassador to Syria (2011 - 2016) and Lebanon, IPIS, Iran

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Basam ABOABDOLAH**, the Head of the Center for Strategic Studies and Adviser to the Syrian Information Minister, the Syrian Arab Republic

**Prof. Kayhan BARZEGAR**, Director of the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies, Tehran; Professor at the Islamic Azad University / Tehran, and Fellow Kennedy School of Government, the Harvard University

**Prof. Radu MUȘETESCU**, Director of International Economic Relations at MEPEI, and Director of the Department for International Economic Relations, University of Economic Studies (ASE), Romania

**Prof. Gholamali CHEGNIZADEH**, the Allameh Tanatabai University, the International and Regional Security Expert, IPIS, Iran

**Dr. Naeem JEENAH**, President of the Middle East - Africa Centre, Johannesburg, the Republic of South Africa

14:15 – 15:15 **Lunch at the Conference Venue**

15:15 – 16:35

**Session III: Middle East and European Union / the Romania  
Presidency of the European Council**

**Moderators:**

**HE Dr. Mohammad Hasan SHEIKHOLESLAMI**, Dean, School of International Relations, IPIS / MFA; former Advisor to the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Iran

**Prof. Sandro BOLOGNA**, President of the Italian Association of Critical Protection Infrastructure, Chair of the TIEMS International Program Committee, Rome, Italy

**Speakers:**

**Prof. Mohamad TAY**, Vice President, the Consultative Center for Studies and Documentation, Beirut, the Lebanese Republic

**Prof. Ahmadi BEHZAD**, Vice President of the International Studies and Research Institute, Secretary of the Tehran Security Forum, Tehran

**Prof. Nesrin KENAR**, Head of Department of International Relations, Faculty of Political Sciences, the Sakarya University, the Republic of Turkey

**Prof. Ecaterina MAȚOI**, the Basel University, Switzerland and the National Defense University of Romania

**Prof. Slah DAWDI**, the ISAMM Manouba-Tunis University, the Republic of Tunisia

**Dr. Alexandru GEORGESCU**, Strategic Analyst, the EURISC Foundation, Romania

16:35 – 17:05

**Coffee Break & Networking**

17:05 – 17:30

**Conclusions and Final Remarks**

**HE Dr. Mostafa ZAHRANI**, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Director General of IPIS, MFA, Iran

**Prof. Kayhan BARZEGAR**, Director of the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies, Tehran; Professor at the Islamic Azad University / Tehran, and Fellow Kennedy School of Government, the Harvard University

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**Prof. Liviu MUREȘAN**, Executive President of the EURISC Foundation, Romania

**Mr. Flavius CABA-MARIA**, President of MEPEI, Romania