



Programme

(as of October 29, 2008)

Are we moving forward? The Middle East – One Year after Annapolis

Israeli-Palestinian-European Middle East Workshop

**05 - 07 November, 2008
Brussels**

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Programme

Wednesday, 5 November, 2008

Arrival of participants

18:00	Opening Ceremony: The Role of the Arab League and the European Union in the Middle East Peace Process
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Keynote Speech by

H.E. Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States

Panel discussion with

Pasqualina Napolitano MEP, Vice-President of the PSE Group in the European Parliament

MK Avshalom Vilan, Co-Founder of "Peace Now"

Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Director of PASSIA

Chair: **Andrä Gärber**, Director of the FES EU-Office Brussels

Thursday, 6 November, 2008

9:00 Meeting in Hotel Lobby, Transfer to the FES EU-Office Brussels

9:30 Registration and coffee

10:00 Opening and welcome by
Andrä Gärber, Director of the FES EU-Office Brussels

10:15	Panel I: The Current Political and the Socio-Economic Situation in Israel and the Westbank/Gaza
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Statements (10-15 Min) by

MK Ophir Pines-Paz, Chairman, Internal Affairs and Environment Committee, Former Minister of Interior

Luay Shabaneh, President, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

John Ging, Head of Operations, UNRWA Gaza

Discussants

Haitham Arrar, Head of Unit, Ministry of the Interior

Akiva Eldar, Columnist "Haaretz" (daily Newspaper)

Andrea Fontana, Desk Officer "Occupied Palestinian Territory", European Commission

Nina Obermaier, Desk Officer "Israel", European Commission

Chair: **Ralf Hexel**, Director of the FES Office Israel

- Do the changes in Israeli politics have an impact on the peace process? What can be expected from the new Israeli government?
- In how far does the current financial crisis affect Israel and has it any influence on Israel's policy concerning the peace process?
- What are Israel's goals concerning the Gaza Strip and in how far have they been achieved?
- How does the socio-economic situation in the Westbank and Gaza influence the political decision making?
- What are the prospects for a national Palestinian unity?
- Is the Palestinian side facing a major crisis of legitimacy after the end of the mandate of president Mahmoud Abbas in January 2009? How will this affect the enforceability of the possible agreements?
- Which role is Hamas in the upcoming peace negotiations about to play? What have been the outcomes of the five months ceasefire between Hamas and Israel?

Open discussion with all participants of the workshop

13:00 Lunch

15:00 Panel II: One Year after Annapolis – An Agreement in Reach?

Statements (10-15 Min) by

Ghassan Khatib, Vice-President Birzeit University, former Minister of Labor

MK Avshalom Vilan, Co-Founder of "Peace Now"

Belen Martinez-Carbonell, Cabinet of Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner

Discussants

Oded Granot, Middle East Commentator Channel 1 TV

Petr Hladik, Task Force Middle East, European Council

Chair: **N.N.**

- The Israeli-Palestinian negotiations – what has been achieved since Annapolis?
- Are there viable concepts for the refugee question, the settlements and the East Jerusalem question?
- Are there Israeli initiatives on how to deal with the socio-economic situation of settlers after a peace agreement is reached?

- Is there a reliable mutual trust between the negotiation partners? Do both sides have the ability to conclude an agreement?
- The Two-States-Solution – still relevant for both sides?
- What role are Egypt and other Arab states playing in fostering Israeli-Palestinian relations and what has changed?
- What is the role of the USA in the Annapolis process and what can be expected from the new administration?
- Is it realistic to hope for any agreement in the absence of Palestinian unity?

16:30 Coffee Break

<p>17:00 Panel III: The Regional Environment – Recent Developments in Iran, Syria and Lebanon</p>
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Statements (10-15 Min) by

Oded Eran, Director of Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), Former Head of the Mission of Israel to the European Union

Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Director of PASSIA

Bernd Kubbig, Project Director “Ballistic Missile Defense Research International”, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt

Discussants

Hani Al-Masri, Journalist

Alon Liel, Former Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

N.N., Representative EU

Chair: N.N.

- The Israeli-Syrian track - what are the implications on regional peace?
- How does a potential agreement between Israel and Syria affect the position of Hamas and Hezbollah?
- Two years after the Second Lebanon War – what has changed in Israeli-Lebanese Relations?
- What would be the impact of an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement on the Israeli-Lebanese Relations?
- Israel's concept of deterrence and the new missile threat from its neighbours – what are the political implications?
- What is the perception of Iran's policy on the Israeli and on the Palestinian side?
- Iran's striving for regional hegemony – consequences for new regional alliances?

Open discussion with all participants of the workshop

19:00 Transfer to the Hotel

Evening free for personal disposal

Friday, 7 November, 2008

Check-out

9:00 Meeting in Hotel Lobby, Transfer to FES EU-Office Brussels

9:30 Panel IV: The Role of the European Union in the Peace Process

Statements (10-15 Min) by

Sabri Saidam, Adviser to the Palestinian President

Zvi Tal, Deputy Head of the Israeli Mission to the European Union

Tomas Dupla del Moral, Director "Middle east, South Mediterranean", European Commission

Discussants

Miri Eisin, Former Spokeswoman of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

Abdullah Abdullah, PLC Member, Chairman – Political Committee

N.N., Representative EU

Chair: N.N.

- What are Israeli and Palestinian expectations towards an EU engagement in the peace process?
- The Union for the Mediterranean – a promising approach to regional cooperation and conflict solution?
- Is it time for the Europeans to play a more active role in the Middle East Conflict ("Payer and Player)?
- What interests does the EU pursue in the Middle East?
- A new US administration as partner in the Middle East Quartet – A more prominent role for the EU?

Open discussion with all participants of the workshop

11:30 Conclusions

Chair: **Annette Lohmann**, Policy Officer, Department for the Middle East and Northern Africa, FES
Berlin

12:30 Lunch in the premises of the FES EU-Office Brussels

 Departure of Participants