

## Round Table - Mediterranean stability (Security, Migration and Cooperation factors)

*Co-Chair:*

**Mariya GABRIEL MEP**, *Vice-Chairwoman of the EPP Group in the EP responsible for the Working Group on Mediterranean Union, Euromed, Head of the Bulgarian EPP Delegation*

**Antonio TAJANI MEP**, *Vice-President of the EP, former Vice-President of the EC*

*Guest Speakers:*

**Per Stig MØLLER**, *Former Danish minister of Foreign Affairs from 2001-2010*

*Panellists:*

**Alojz PETERLE MEP**, *Former Prime Minister of Slovenia*

**Eric B. BROWN**, *Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute*

**Sergio PICCOLO**, *Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Geographical Coordination Neighbourhood South – NEAR B.1*

**Walid PHARES**, *Co-Secretary General, Trans-Atlantic Legislative Group on Counter Terrorism*

- there is a need for increased resources in the refugee camps to ensure that people do not leave and to help certain countries ( Egypt, Jordan, Libya) to get an economic growth, so as to avoid economic refugees in the future
- we need to continue reflecting on how to create islands of stability e.g. Tunisia expects a lot from us.
- long term - partnerships to make sure societies don't have to leave like Egyptian and Tunisian societies who have hope, from Egypt we don't get any migrants, because they have a hope in their country.
- an increase of EU visibility would help, there are two trust funds being set up for Syria. 2 billion EUR and for Sub Sahara. 1.8 billion EUR.
- 2 valves for migrants to the EU - Syria and Libya
- migrants travel to Germany and Sweden also because there are militant networks connected to the EU telling them so
- networks migrate together with migrants and can cause problems if not handled well
- there is a new concert of outside powers on Syria - EU, US, Russia, Iran, and Saudi Arabia
- Saudi Arabia may fall down and needs to be rebuilt, possibly Algeria, borders of Arab states may change
- Russia with its involvement in Syria has interest in destabilizing EU - refugee flows mean extreme right advancing in the EU
- there are 3 types of conflicts in the Middle East: Shiites-Sunni, Saudi-Iran, Salafists-Modernists
- Russia involved in Syria because EU was sleeping and it fears risks in Caucasus (where Russia has its own Muslim population) should ISIS prevail
- Europe is Russia's only friend, so Russia wants to grab as much as it can and come back to Europe - e.g. as part of this grabbing - if Latvia and Estonia were not in NATO then they would experience Donetsk scenario
- grabbing further - Russia may intend to go via Mariupol, Odessa to reach Transnistria and destabilize Moldova
- both Russia and EU will have problems if Afganistan is lost
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- because of Syria, Israel and Palestinian conflict forgotten and Israel may have Arab majority and solution may be either One State or no more Jewish State
- there are lots of unemployed and young people right now which could be a recipe for revolution
- not only political but also social, economic investments should be made as well as partnerships with Turkey and Russia
- Turkey is a large country that we must keep close to us, Turkey is also part of the valve to the EU
- Turkey was not ready for Syrians, Arab spring, Kurds' successes, Russia involvement in Syria
- Erdogan is involved in the war of choice with Kurds which is costly for economy, he is playing on strong anti-Kurdish feelings in Turkey but the internal Turkish situation is different today because of demographics as birth rate of Turks is much lower than of Kurds.
- Turkey is also in transition, and for the European Union it is important to talk also to the opposition
- we should construct alliances based on shared interests and we must become better at anticipating crisis.
- short term aspect is humanitarian perspective and security
- we need strategy of conflict prevention, mediation, reinforcing foreign and development policy and working with root causes
- concerning Islam there are different types e.g. European Islam in Balkans which could help in integration
- we are coming to the limits of soft power, it is becoming more and more obvious that hard power is needed as well as EU defence system
- we need to protect and defend our values and identity
- first duty of EU MS is to their own citizens as there are other issues to consider after crisis
- more EU competences are needed for Frontex, EASO and Europol to guard our external border.