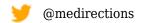




Annual Conference

Conflicts and Natural Resources in the MENA Region and its Immediate Neighbourhood



21 - 22 October 2019

Theatre - Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole (Fiesole, Florence)

Luigi Narbone | School of Transnational Governance & Middle East Directions Programme, European University Institute

Virginie Collombier | Middle East Directions Programme, European University Institute Christopher Frattina | Middle East Directions Programme, European University Institute

Introduction

Several important trends point to the increasing risk of conflicts over or related to natural resources in the MENA region, and its immediate neighbourhood in the coming years. These indicators include protracted civil wars, in which competition over the control and management of natural resources has increasingly become a key element, both as a driver of conflict and as an instrument for its perpetuation; friction between local populations, state authorities and international actors over their conflicting interests in issues such as investment, transparency and local development; the growing scarcity of water and land resources and the impact this is having on local and regional security; and broader challenges and transformations linked to geopolitical changes, energy transition and climate change.

This conference will bring together a select group of international experts from the worlds of academia and practice to analyse how natural resources are affecting the stability of the MENA region and their potential to do so in the future, taking into account issues related to geopolitics and governance, as well as changes taking place in the natural resources sector itself. The final policy roundtable will conclude the conference with a focus on identifying connections, drawing comparisons and discussing innovative new directions for policy-making.



Draft Programme

21 October	
14.00 - 14.15	Registration with welcome coffee
14.15 - 14.30	Institutional Welcome Brigid Laffan Director, Robert Schuman Centre Luigi Narbone Director, MEDirections Programme
14.30 - 15.30	$\label{lem:part:equation} \textbf{Panel One} \mid \textbf{Governance of natural resources: the impact of national-level decision} \\ \textbf{making}$
	Chair: Virginie Collombier MEDirections Programme
	The role of civil society in resolving the natural resources crisis in Tunisia Speaker: Manel Ben Achour I WATCH organization
	Phosphate mining in Jordan: impact on local communities Speaker: Rami Alrawashdeh Al-Hussein Bin Talal University
	Water crisis in Iran - What implications for regional security? Speaker: Susanne Schmeier IHE Delft
15.30 - 16.00	Panel one discussion
16.00 - 16.15	Coffee break
16.15 - 17.30	Documentary Screening and Discussion
20.00	Dinner (invitation only) Ristorante Benedicta
22 October	
09.00 - 10.30	Panel Two Institutional infrastructure and the management of insecurity
	Chair: Christopher Frattina MEDirections Programme
	Understanding geopolitical links between climate, water, and conflict Speaker: Karen Meijer Deltares
	Assessing the dual impact of sanctions and climate change Speaker: Tamer Badawi School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute
	The geopolitics of the new EU phosphate regulation and its implications in North Africa Speaker: Amine Ghoulidi King's College London
	Critical infrastructure vulnerabilities in the Gulf: Threats and opportunities Speaker: Robert Mogielnicki Arab Gulf States Institute
10.30 - 11.00	Panel two discussion
11.00 - 11.15	Coffee break

11.15 - 12.45 **Panel Three | The Geopolitics of Natural Resources**

Chair: Francesco Strazzari | Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

National Oil Companies and Central Banks in Arab civil wars

Speaker: **Ariel I. Ahram** | Virginia Tech

Ramifications of the oil industry in the Iraq Kurdistan

Speaker: Alessandro Tinti | Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

Lebanon's hydrocarbons sector: Geopolitical challenges and opportunities

Speaker: Laury Haytayan | National Resource Governance Institute

The geopolitics of renewable energy transitions in the region

Speaker: **Eckart Woertz** | Director of the Institute of Middle East Studies (IMES) at the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA)

12.45 - 13.15 **Panel three discussion**

13.15 - 14.30 Lunch

Sala Buonsanti

14.30 - 16.00 Keynote lecture | Geopolitics and the future of energy and natural resources

Speaker: **Andris Piebalgs** | Adviser to the President of Latvia and former Commissioner for Energy (Barroso I) and for Development (Barroso II); part-time Professor, Florence School of Regulation, Robert Schuman Center, European University Institute

16.00 - 16.15 Coffee break

16.15 - 17.00 Policy Roundtable | Will future transformations of the natural resources sector further threaten stability?

Chair: Luigi Narbone | MEDirections Programme

Speakers:

Andris Piebalgs | Adviser to the President of Latvia and former Commissioner for Energy (Barroso I) and for Development (Barroso II); part-time Professor, Florence School of Regulation, Robert Schuman Center, European University Institute

Carole Naklhe | Crystol Energy

Eckart Woertz | Director, the GIGA Institute of Middle East Studies Professor for contemporary history and politics of the Middle East, University of Hamburg

Francesco Strazzari | Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

Hani Sabra | Alef Advisory

17.00 - 17.30 Drinks reception

Speakers

Ariel Ahram Virginia Tech

Rami Alrawashdeh Al-Hussein Bin Talal University

Tamer Badawi School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute

Manel Ben Achour I WATCH organization

Virginie Collombier MEDirections, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute

Christopher Frattina MEDirections, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute

Amine Ghoulidi King's College London

Laury Haytayan Natural Resource Governance Institute

Brigid Laffan Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute

Karen Meijer Deltares

Robert Mogielnicki Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington

Carole Nakhle Crystol Energy

Luigi Narbone MEDirections, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute

Andris Piebalgs Latvian Presidency; Florence School of Regulation, Robert Schuman Centre,

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