



March 1, 2019

INVITATION



The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in cooperation with Tel Aviv University, the Israeli Association for the Study of European Integration, and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Israel invites the public to a "roundtable" event on

The Rise of Antisemitism: Implications for Israeli-European Relations

Thursday, March 7, 2019, 15:45–19:15
Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), 40 Ha'im Levanon St., Tel Aviv

15:45-16:15 | Roundtable 1

- **Amir Dr. Oded Eran**, Senior Researcher, INSS, and former ambassador to the EU and Jordan
- **Dr. Maya Sion-Tidkyahu**, Co-President of the Israeli Association for the Study of European Integration (IASEI)
- **Mr. Mickey Driff**, Project Manager, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Israel

16:15-17:45 | Roundtable 2

The Commitment of the Council of the EU to Protect the Jewish Communities and to Combat Antisemitism

Speakers:

- **HE Dr. Emmanuelle Gaufret**, Head of the EU Delegation to Israel
- **Prof. Dina Porat**, Head of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry in Tel Aviv University and Chief Historian of Yad Vashem
- **Ms. Katharina von Schnurbein**, European Commission's Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism
- **HE Dr. Martin Weiss**, Ambassador of Austria in Israel

Chair: **Amir Dr. Oded Eran**

17:45-18:15 | Roundtable 3

Israeli Policy Towards Populist and Antisemitic Political Parties in Europe

Speakers:

- **Prof. Yehuda Bauer**, Professor Emeritus of History and Holocaust Studies at the Ahraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem
- **Ms. Noa Landau**, Diplomatic Reporter, *Haaretz*
- **Dr. Redica Radian-Gordon**, Deputy Director-General, Europe Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel
- **HE Dr. Susanne Waasmann-Rainer**, Ambassador of Germany in Israel

Chair: **Ms. Adi Kantor**, Research Associate, Europe Research Program, INSS

The event will be held in English.

The number of seats is limited. Confirm participation HERE

Please arrive 15 min. before the start of the event and bring your ID

Drinking is available for a fee of 10 NIS. Tel Aviv University public parking 4 NIS

Contact details: Tel. 03-6400400 Fax: 03-766-7160 www.inss.org.il

Foreign Affairs

EUROPE – US

Trump to EU: Play ball or 'we're going to tariff the hell out of you'

U.S. President Donald Trump issued a renewed threat to Brussels that the EU has to "play ball" in trade talks or "we're going to tariff the hell out of you." According to a transcript from the White House, Trump believes that the EU does not allow US farming products into Europe, and that the EU can be tougher than China. [*POLITICO*, February 25, 2019]

Europe's immense security challenges in the age of Trump

US President Donald Trump has publicly called the NATO alliance into question on several occasions and has reportedly discussed with his advisers whether the U.S. should simply withdraw from NATO entirely. Many European countries worry about this consideration, as the U.S. in an integral part of the North Atlantic partnership. Trump has not thus far taken any military steps that have actually harmed the alliance in any way. In fact, the Americans have increased their military presence in Europe, a fact that Europeans at the Munich Security Conference turned to for comfort. [*Spiegel Online*, February 22, 2019]

EUROPE – RUSSIA

Without the INF Treaty, Europe could see a new missile power. (Spoiler: It's not Russia.)

The United States recently announced its withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, due to allegedly Russian violations. This raised an alarm among arms control experts and many European states, which see the INF as a crucial element of European security. But there's another problem: the death of the INF could unshackle Ukraine's missile program, too. [*The Washington Post*, February 26, 2019]

Nord Stream 2 Russian gas pipeline likely to go ahead after EU deal

The Nord Stream 2 pipeline to take Russian gas to Germany is arguably Europe's most controversial energy project, drawing opposition from Ukraine, which it will bypass, and uniting the US, eastern EU states and the European commission, which fears it will undermine the bloc's "energy union" plans. The project has sparked serious geopolitical concerns and the threat of sanctions. Critics in Brussels and the US have warned it risks deepening Europe's reliance on gas imports from Russia, which already provide about 40% of the continent's consumption. Germany and Russia have defended the pipeline and shown little sign of a willingness to rethink their plans. [*The Guardian*, February 25, 2019]

EUROPE – EAST ASIA

Merkel wants government and industry to take on Asia together

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said European political and business leaders should work more closely together to counter the economic challenge from Asia, the latest sign of support for more government intervention to promote home-grown industrial champions. Merkel said in a speech to an Asia-Pacific forum that she sometimes "despaired" when trying to explain trade flows to Trump, who is infuriated by the U.S. trade deficit with Germany. [*Bloomberg*, February 26, 2019]

How Europe is resisting Trump on Huawei

Europe is pushing back against pressure from Donald Trump's administration to isolate Huawei out of next generation wireless markets, and is plotting a "third way" that stops well short of outright bans. American diplomats have spent months lobbying the Europeans to move against the Chinese telecoms company, which they call a strategic risk and a potential tool for spying by Beijing. But EU leaders now openly dispute the need for a ban on Huawei products. The Europeans are calling for a series of midway network security measures that will ultimately preserve China's presence in broad swathes of European telecoms markets. [*POLITICO*, February 26, 2019]

EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST

Both sides declare first EU-Arab League summit a success

The first Arab League-European Union summit in Egypt came to an end with both parties saying the conference had been a success. A second summit is due to take place in Brussels in 2022. The two-day meeting at the Red Sea was used as a starting point for the two regional bodies to boost cooperation on shared strategic priorities including migration, security and climate change. [*Euronews*, February 25, 2019]

Sham El-Sheikh summit declaration

After a two day summit, the EU and the Arab League agreed to continue to commit to invest in stability, and reaffirmed to continue strengthen economic cooperation. Furthermore, both entities restated their common positions on the Middle East Peace Process, as well as their commitment for a stable solution in Syria and Yemen. [*European Council Press Release*, February 25, 2019]

UK parliament votes to ban all branches of Hezbollah

The House of Commons voted to ban all wings of Hezbollah due to its destabilizing influence in the Middle East, classing the movement as a terrorist organization. The UK Labour Party gave its MPs the freedom to vote their conscience stating that there is "not sufficient evidence" that the organization meets proscription criteria and accusing the home secretary of taking the decision based on his "leadership ambitions." [*The Jerusalem Post*, February 27, 2019]

EUROPE – ISRAEL

Abbas urges Europeans to play greater role in peace process, recognize Palestine

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas urged European states at the EU-Arab League summit to play a greater role in mediating the peace process and recognize the "State of Palestine." Abbas also said that European states recognizing Palestine would not be a "substitute" for negotiations, or a move against Israel. In the past, he has stated that such a move would encourage Palestinians to maintain their hope for peace. [*The Times of Israel*, February 25, 2019]

Dutch Green Left Party votes to endorse Israel boycott

The Dutch Green Left Party became the Netherlands' first mainstream political movement to endorse a boycott of Israel. The endorsement came in a vote on a motion during the February 16 General Congress of the party, which has 14 seats out of 150 in the lower house of the Dutch parliament. [*Haaretz*, February 26, 2019]

Internal Affairs

EU POLITICS

Theresa May says Britain can still leave EU on 29 March

Theresa May has insisted it is still possible for the UK to leave the EU on March 29 if enough MPs back a revised withdrawal deal. In an article in the Daily Mail, the prime minister pleaded with MPs to get behind her deal, after she was forced to give them votes on extending article 50 and ruling out no deal if her withdrawal agreement does not pass. [*The Guardian*, February 27, 2019]

France's Macron says Britain would have to justify delaying Brexit

French President Emmanuel Macron said that the European Union would only agree to extend the Brexit deadline beyond March 29 if Britain justified a delay with a clear objective and new choices. European leaders want to avoid a disorderly no-deal Brexit that would send shockwaves through the \$16 trillion economy of the EU 27. [*Reuters*, February 28, 2019]

Europe's summit With Arab League ends as it began, overshadowed by Brexit

The first ever summit between the European Union and the Arab League was meant to be about developing trade ties between the two regions, improving security, reducing unemployment, encouraging cross-border investment and dealing with migration issues. However, Brexit seemed to dominate the agenda. British Prime Minister Theresa May travelled to the summit with optimists talking about a "deal in the desert". However, there seemed to be no real breakthrough over the course of the summit, but other European leaders found themselves adapting to the chaotic reality of the possibility of Brexit being pushed back from March 29. [*Forbes*, February 25, 2019]

African Union seeks to kill EU plan to process migrants in Africa

The African Union is seeking cease the EU's latest plan on migration, claiming it would breach international law by establishing "de facto detention centers" on African soil, trampling over the rights of those being held. A "common African position paper" leaked to the Guardian reveals the determination of the 55-member state body, currently headed by Egypt, to dissuade any of its coastal states from cooperating with Brussels on the plan. [*The Guardian*, February 24, 2019]

Brussels warns Italy, Greece over high debt and bad loans

The European Commission issued a warning as part of its European Semester Winter Package, which scrutinizes the economies of EU countries. In it, the Commission draws attention to Italy, Cyprus and Greece, and states they are all experiencing "excessive" imbalances in their economies because of high debt and the number of soured loans on their bank balance sheets. [*POLITICO*, February 27, 2019]

European parliament bloc set to consider ejecting Viktor Orbán

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán faces renewed calls for his expulsion from the European People's party (EPP) at a gathering of the powerful centre-right bloc next month. Orbán and his Fidesz party will be on the agenda of the EPP political assembly on March 20th, an event intended to approve the group's manifesto before European parliament elections in May. [*The Guardian*, February 27, 2019]

DOMESTIC POLITICS

As elections loom, Spain's PP ramps up rhetoric to stop voter drain

With a general election slated for April 28, Spanish political parties are in campaign mode. This is particularly evident in the Popular Party (PP), which is fighting to stop voters from switching allegiances in favor of Vox, the new far-right party that everyone is talking about. Vox's unexpected success at the Andalusian election last December has hardened PP's leader Casado's tone as he competes with the far-right party for voters who appreciate the strong nationalist, pro-tradition and anti-immigration message delivered by Vox leaders. [*El País*, February 27, 2019]

France fumes as Dutch government takes stake in Air France-KLM

A minor diplomatic row appears to be building after the Dutch government snapped up a near-13% stake in Air France-KLM, prompting the French government to accuse The Hague of acting like an "unfriendly" corporate raider. The Netherlands said it was prepared to increase its stake to 14% to ensure it can bring Dutch influence to bear on the company, putting it on an even keel with France, which already holds about 14%. [*The Guardian*, February 27, 2019]

What to do with Islamic State Returnees?

German authorities have been deliberating for some time about what to do with the overseas ISIS fighters. According to German diplomats, Berlin made the decision to not to get too involved with the imprisoned jihadists. "Our marching orders were, 'We're actually required to, but we're not going to,'" said one official. However, Berlin seems to have realized that it can no longer ignore the problem. Germany needs to come up with a clear position and a plan about what to do with the ISIS returnees. [*Spiegel Online*, February 25, 2019]

5Stars take another big hit in regional Italian election

A center-right coalition emerged the winner for the governorship of the Italian island of Sardinia. Christian Solinas, a senator from the Sardinian Action Party and the candidate supported by Matteo Salvini's far-right League, was proclaimed the winner of the election with around 47 percent of the vote. [*POLITICO*, February 26, 2019]

Ongoing Nazi pension payments cause uproar in Belgium

Belgian lawmakers have demanded a halt to German pension payments that a handful of residents still receive for their collaboration with the World War II Nazi occupation. The national government must "demand that the German federal government end the pension scheme for these Belgians," lawmakers said in a legislative text. Paying pensions for "collaboration in one of the most murderous regimes in history is in contradiction with collective remembrance" and against the values of the European Union, they said. [*i24 News*, February 20, 2019]

JEWISH COMMUNITIES

Labour Party 'Too Apologetic' on anti-Semitism, says key Corbyn ally

A key ally of Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said the party is "too apologetic" over anti-Semitism. The remark by lawmaker Chris Williamson, were given during a speech at a gathering for Corbyn supporters, where he said: "We have backed off too much, we have given too much ground, we have been too apologetic". [*Haaretz*, February 27, 2019]

Macron says anti-Semitism is at worst levels since World War Two

French President Emmanuel Macron announced a crackdown on the "scourge" of anti-Semitism, days after protesters held rallies against a rise in anti-Semitic incidents across the country. Speaking to leaders of the Parisian Jewish community, Macron criticized a "resurgence of anti-Semitism" unseen since World War II". The president added that "anti-Zionism is one of the modern forms of anti-Semitism," and in response, France will adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of anti-Semitism. [*CNN*, February 21, 2019]

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