EIPISA'S #FOOD4THOUGHT

FEBRUARY 2017

Issue Number 01

المعهد الأوروبي للمبادرة السياسية والتحليل الاستراتيجي
European Institute For Political Initiative And Strategic Analysis (EIPISA)

A message from **Dr Bassam Dweihi,**
President of EIPISA

Dear friends,

The European Institute for Political Initiative and Strategic Analysis (EIPISA) is a non-profit think tank created with the objective of providing European political leaders as well as society in general, with the necessary tools to develop political strategies that allow for peace, freedom and security in the Middle East.

We believe that to accomplish this task we need to take in to account three elements; knowledge, understanding and cooperation.

We seek to overcome prejudices, historical errors and misinterpretations through presenting accurate, transparent and verified information about what is really happening in the Middle East: only through reliable knowledge we can learn from past mistakes to move towards the future.

We hope that this newsletter will help to provide our readers with some accurate analysis regarding the most relevant political events that take place in Europe and its neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Bassam Dweihi
President, EIPISA

On Geopolitics

How has Syrian conflict modified the international crossroad of interests.

When the peaceful protests began to occupy the streets in 2011 nobody imagined the massacre that the Syrian government was about to throw to its own people. Almost six years after Syrian people is still the victim of massive human rights violations, but their soil has become the scenario of international disputes and interests between all the regional an international actors. But at this very moment, when all those interests are being discussed, thousands of people keep suffering the consequences of the utmost brutality.

On Terrorism

Islamophobia leads to terrorism

The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, said in his recent visit to Saudi Arabia that what is fueling terrorism is islamophobia.
"This is sometimes the best support that Daesh can have to make its own propaganda," Guterres added.
Anti-immigration fervor has grown in Europe with the influx of refugees, many of them Muslims fleeing wars in Syria and elsewhere. This has been used by far right-wing politicians to avoid more pressing debates or to gain in popularity by giving dull answers to very complicated problems.

On European Politics

Marion Le Pen claims EU brought terrorism to France

In a tweet, the Front National MP, Marion Le Pen said: "The European Union has also brought unemployment, insecurity and terrorism. #LeGrandJury."
The race for the French presidential elections has already started and all the Europeans will follow closely its development. It is not a surprise to see a representative of the Front National

On European Politics

Mogherini tells US President not to interfere in EU's politics

The EU foreign policy chief has remind President Trump that if he believes "European Union is not necessarily a good idea" or not it's an European concern. Ms Mogherini advised to "deal with America first" in a clear reference to Trump's campaign message.
Alarms have raised among top EU representatives following the latest declarations of the new US administration or the person chosen for US ambassador towards the EU, recently criticised by MEP Gianni Pitella.

On Refugee Crisis

South Sudan needs urgently response

UNHCR spokeperson has reported that "Recent new arrivals report suffering inside South Sudan with intense fighting, kidnappings, rape, fears of armed groups and threats to life, as well as acute food shortage."
More than 3.5 million people displaced are the result of one of the most severe refugee crisis of all times in Africa. The United Nations refugee agency has appealed for an urgent peaceful resolution and an urgent response, as this crisis is facing its fourth year with a massive underfunding.

On Human Rights

The Saydnaya prison: the last nightmare

Amnesty International published one week ago a report of a secret Syrian prison where the government forces where committing massive human right violations. *Human slaughterhouse: Mass hangings and extermination at Saydnaya prison, Syria* is the title of this last overwhelming prove of what the Syrian people is being suffering since the repression started.
We can't look to the other side, the

exploiting people's fear, but we would like to invite Ms. Le Pen to follow the international conference on terrorism that EIPISA will organise in collaboration with the MEP Ms. Mariya Gabriel and the EPP's Parliamentary Group. We promise to bring more profound debates than blaming the EU.

international community must condemn those atrocities. As expressed by Lynn Maalouf "the horrors depicted in this report reveal a hidden, monstrous campaign, authorized at the highest levels of the Syrian government."

Key documents & Events

Syria: Human Slaughterhouse: Mass hangings and extermination at Saydnaya prison, Syria, by Amnesty International

Counter-terrorism cooperation with the Southern Neighbourhood, By European Parliament's Sub-Committee on Security and Defence

Developing an EU Internal Security Strategy, fighting terrorism and organised crime, by Dr. Amandine Scherrer (Centre d'Etudes sur les Conflits, Paris) Dr. Julien Jeandesboz (King's College, London) Dr. Emmanuel-Pierre Guittet (University of Manchester, UK)

More Union in European Defence, Chair: Javier Solana Rapporteurs: Steven Blockmans Giovanni Faleg

- **International conference in Brussels on Children and armed conflict**
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- **Afghanistan: Challenges and perspectives until 2020**
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- **What prospects for an effective and coherent European Neighbourhood Policy?**
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- **Good or Bad Neighbours: Europe's Main Security Challenge**
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- **Strategy Seminar: New Dynamics for EU-Turkey Relations**

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