



EIPISA'S #FOOD4THOUGHT

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Meeting with International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Letter from **Dr. Bassam el Abdulla**,
President of EIPISA

Dear friends,

During the 21st of March EIPISA flew to Geneva to meet NGOs and international organizations based in the Swiss city, such as the International Organization for Migration—the United Nations Migration Agency—to explore forms of collaboration between our organizations.

I am pleased to announce that the results were very satisfactory, as we share values and goals and the IOM is amongst the most relevant organizations of the world in the field of migration.

During this meeting, EIPISA had the chance to present its values, objectives and future projects. In this regard, we found room for cooperation with the IOM and hope we can unveil our common projects in the upcoming weeks. As a non-governmental organization, EIPISA was informed that it could become an IOM partner by next year and participate as an observer during IOM meetings.

Slowly but surely EIPISA is finding its place amongst the most relevant European and international organizations. Our goal is to seize every opportunity to have a voice not only within the EU institutions but also inside the United Nations system!

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Bassam el Abdulla
President, EIPISA

Some thoughts on...

On Refugee Crisis

Have we forgotten the refugee crisis?

During the last weeks we have seen an escalation of tensions in several fronts, and now the Syrian conflict seems to be one of the top priorities in all the international agendas. But regardless of the importance of the geopolitical crossroad of interests in the region, in the EU we are still facing an unprecedented and unresolved crisis that strikes our core values in terms of human rights and democracy: millions of people trying to escape death and destruction are facing walls and razor wires in our borders. The situation is each and every day more complicated, but we fear that the ineptitude and a hidden agenda might lead to the implementation of the shameful EU Commission *Plan B*.

On Geopolitics

US response to Assad's chemical attack

On the 4th April, a chemical attack struck the Khan Sheikhun area of the Idlib province in the north west of the Syrian Arab Republic. The US decided to respond this action on Friday 7th April, justifying it with article 51 of the UN Charter on self-defence as "it was in the vital national security interest of the US".

Should we expect an escalation of the conflict ? Or, it is an exceptional US response ? Is this a change of direction of Trump's government external policy ? Which consequences this US response will have with its relations with Moscow in the mid long-term ?

On Geopolitics

Italy's G7 conference with a focus on geopolitics

The G7 met in Italy on the 10th, looking to put pressure on Russia to break its ties with Bashar al-Assad. Growing tensions between North Korea and the United States were also in the agenda, as the US are moving a navy strike group near the Korean peninsula due to Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

Libya's crisis was also part of the debates: Italy is hoping for vocal support for a United Nations-backed government in Tripoli, which has struggled to establish its authority even in the city.

The G7 Foreign Ministers conference had a clear agenda towards Russia, but what was the EU countries position towards US?

On Terrorism

Egypt Palm Sunday terrorist attacks

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the deadly bomb attacks on two Egyptian Coptic churches on Palm Sunday, in which at least 43 people were killed leaving over 100 injured. The attacks is the latest assault on a religious minority targeted by Islamist militants. Nonetheless, the situation remains uncertain as only two days after the attacks Egyptian authorities have dismantled a terror cell operating in Upper Egypt that was planning attacks targeting the Coptic Christian community, including the Virgin Mary Monastery in Durunka near Assiut. Are we facing a new

On Geopolitics

Tillerson arrives in Moscow

Right before the arrival of US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in Moscow, US President Donald Trump has expressed that US relations with Russia might be at “an all-time low” and stated a new-found faith in NATO, as if the alliance was “no longer obsolete” taking into account the recent geopolitical crises.

Tillerson's meeting failed to end to any solution for the three deepest differences between both countries: Ukraine, North Korea and Syria.

While US-Russia relations are at it lowest level in many years, we can see a renovated understanding between the two world biggest economies: while Russia vetoed a US-backed resolution on Syria at the UN security council while China had abstained.

Are we getting back to Cold War geopolitics?

method being performed by ISIS to spread terror in the region?

On Human Rights

Khan Sheikhun Chemical Attacks on civilians

On the 4th April, the chemical attack that struck the Khan Sheikhun area of the Idlib province in the north west of the Syrian Arab Republic resulted in 71 deaths, mostly civilians, including children. This happened right before the joint UN-EU conference on “the future of Syria and the region.” Labelling the attack as “sad” Federica Mogherini, failed to put once again EU in a solid position in the international context. The international community seems to align with the idea of a ceasefire and a political resolution between the Syrian government and the rebels, but the situation remains unchanged. But does not a military solution mean the failure of the international community after six years of indifference towards human rights violations?

Key documents & Events

O Brotherhood, What Art Thou?, by Stig Jarle Hansen, Foreign Affairs

IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook 2016, by IEMed

Human Rights in Iran after the Nuclear Deal Business as Usual or Time for Change?, by Firouzeh Nahavandi, Nazila Ghanea, Giulia Bonacquisti.

The European Union's Policies on Counter-Terrorism, coordinated by Kristiina Milt, European's Parliament for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

- **Challenges in the Mediterranean: Terrorism, Conflict, and Refugees**
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- **European defence after Brexit**
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