

# *Halki International Seminars*

FORGING REGIONAL COOPERATION **2009**

## **“CURRENT & EMERGING SECURITY CHALLENGES IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE, THE BLACK SEA, THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST: THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND TRANSATLANTIC INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT MANAGEMENT”**

*Organised by*

*The Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)*

*in cooperation with*

*The Balkan Trust for Democracy, Belgrade*

*and supported by:*

*The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMFUS), Washington DC*

*The Hellenic Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens*

*OTE, Hellenic Telecommunications Organization S.A., Athens*

*European Fund for the Balkans (An Initiative of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the King Bauduin Foundation, the  
Compania di San paolo and the ERSTE foundation hosted by NEF), Belgrade*

*General Secretariat for Youth, Athens*

*Embassy of the United States, Athens*

*French Institute of Athens*

*Region of South Aegean, Syros*

*Dodecanese Prefecture, Rhodes*

# **PROGRAMME**

**Halki-Greece, 17 -21 June, 2009**

Wednesday 17 June 2009

Arrival of participants

21:00 Welcoming Dinner at Maria's tavern

Thursday 18 June 2009

09:30 – 12:00 Global politics on the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: trends, challenges, problems and prospects  
*What will be the impact of climate change on international politics? Where are climate change and energy issues located in the EU list of foreign policy priorities? What does the emerging global order look like? What are the most pressing issues on the global agenda? Views from Washington, Moscow, Brussels and Paris.*

Chair: **Prof. Theodore Couloumbis**, Vice President, ELIAMEP, Athens

Speakers: **Dr. Steven Everts**, HR Solanas's Personal Representative for Energy and Foreign Policy, Council of the European Union, Brussels  
**Mr. Peter Van Praagh**, Senior Director, Wider Europe, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Washington D.C.  
**Dr. Dmitry Suslov**, Deputy Director for Research, Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, Moscow  
**Mr. Daniel Vernet**, Columnist, Boulevard-Exterieur  
**Dr. Alexandros Yannis**, Constantine Karamanlis Associate Professor of Hellenic and Southeastern European Studies, The Fletcher School, Tufts University, Massachusetts  
**Mr. Dimitri Zenghelis**, Senior Fellow, Grantham Climate Institute, London

12:00 – 12:30 *Coffee break*

12:30 – 14:30 Overcoming last obstacles in the normalisation of the Balkans: Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo  
*What are the outstanding political, institutional and legal issues in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Kosovo that drive and/or impede further normalization in the country? Are the consequences of the economic and financial sector crises an impediment or opportunity towards further normalization in the Western Balkans?*

Chair: **Dr. Jens Bastian**, Senior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP, Athens

Speakers: **Dr. Ioannis Armakolas**, ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford  
**Ms. Venera Hajrullahu**, Executive Director, Kosovo Civil Society Foundation, Prishtina  
**Mr. Gerald Knaus**, Chairman, European Stability

*Initiative (ESI), Istanbul*

**Dr. Ivan Vejvoda**, *Director, Balkan Trust for Democracy, Belgrade*

14:30

*Light buffet lunch*

18:00 – 20:00

The current state of affairs in US-EU-Turkey relations  
*Will Obama bring any change in US-Turkey relations? How can Turkey's Middle Eastern ambitions affect transatlantic relations? How important is energy as a parameter of US-TR-EU relations? Can the United States play any role in Turkey's EU accession process?*

Chair:

**Dr. Ioannis Grigoriadis**, *Lecturer, University of Athens*

Speakers:

**Dr. Steven Everts**, *HR Solanas's Personal Representative for Energy and Foreign Policy, Council of the European Union, Brussels*

**Professor Ahmet Evin**, *Executive Committee, Istanbul Policy Center, Sabanci University, Istanbul*

**Mr. Andrew Finkel**, *Journalist, Today's Zaman, Istanbul*

**Mr. Cengiz Candar**, *Senior Columnist, Radikal Daily, Istanbul*

Friday 19 June 2009

09:30 - 11:30

Current situation and prospects for the resolution of the "frozen conflicts" in the Black Sea region  
*Less than one year after the "August War" in the Caucasus, what is the state of affairs in the region? What are the prospects for Russian-Georgian relations? Is NATO expansion still on the table? What will be the impact of energy competition in the region?*

Chair:

**Dr. Alexandros Yannis**, *Constantine Karamanlis Associate Professor of Hellenic and Southeastern European Studies, The Fletcher School, Tufts University, Massachusetts*

Speakers:

**Dr. Sergei Konoplyov**, *Director, Black Sea Security Programme, Harvard University, Massachusetts*

**Mr. Peter Van Praagh**, *Senior Director, Wider Europe, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Washington D.C.*

**Amb. Nikoloz Vashakidze**, *Director, Georgian Institute for Russian Studies, Tbilisi*

11:30 – 12:00

*Coffee break*

12:00 – 14:00 Transatlantic initiatives in Europe's southern periphery: EU Neighbourhood Policy, Barcelona Process-Mediterranean Union, NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative  
*As the global financial crisis appears to be slowing down the "train of European integration", how can Europe influence its neighbourhood? Is the ENP an adequate tool? What is the added value of the Union for the Mediterranean vis-à-vis the "Barcelona process"? Is NATO a major player in the Mediterranean?*

Chair: **Ambassador Dr Mohamed I Shaker**, Vice Chairman, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, Cairo

Speakers: **Dr. Panagiota Manoli**, Director of Studies & Research, ICBSS, Athens

**Dr. Colin Scicluna**, Adviser, Policy Unit of the High Representative, Council of the EU, Brussels

14:00 *Light Buffet Lunch*

18:00 – 20:00 Current situation and prospects for the resolution of regional conflicts in the Eastern Mediterranean  
*Is Netanyahu willing to negotiate seriously about a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Who is the interlocutor on the Palestinian side? Is the two-state solution dead? What are the recent developments concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict? What can we expect from the Obama Administration? Can Europe upgrade its role in the region?*

Chair: **Dr. Wim Van Eekelen**, Board Member, Center for European Security Studies, The Netherlands

Speakers: **Dr. Yossi Beilin**, President, Bellink-Business Foreign Affairs Ltd.; Chairman, The Geneva Initiative, Herzliyah Pituach

**Mr. Hazem Kawasmi**, Chairman, Young Entrepreneurs Palestine, Ramallah

**Ambassador Dr Mohamed I Shaker**, Vice Chairman, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, Cairo

**Mr. Henry Siegman**, Director, US/Middle East Project Inc., New York

Saturday 20 June 2009

09:30 – 11:30 Current situation and prospects for the resolution of regional conflicts in the Gulf region  
*"It takes two to tango": Does Obama have an interlocutor in Tehran? Is Iran's nuclear programme an existential threat for Israel? Is the EU irrelevant when it comes to the Gulf region?*

Chair: **Dr. Thanos Dokos**, Director-General, ELIAMEP, Athens

Speakers: **Professor Henri Barkey**, Dept. of International Relations, Lehigh University

**Prof. Shai Feldman**, *Judy and Sidney Swartz Director's Chair, Crown Center for Middle East Studies and Professor of Politics, Brandeis University, Massachusetts*

11:30 – 12:00

*Coffee break*

12:00 – 14:00

The role of NGOs, civil society and networks in promoting regional cooperation and democratisation

Chair:

**Dr. Ivan Vejvoda**, *Director, Balkan Trust for Democracy, Belgrade*

Speakers:

**Mr. Salam Kawakibi**, *Chief Coordinator, Security Sector Reform, Arab Reform Initiative, Paris*

**Ms. Hedvig Morvai-Horvat**, *Executive Director, European Fund for the Balkans, Belgrade*

**Ms. Vessela Tcherneva**, *Director of European Council on Foreign Relations, Sofia*

14:00

*Light Buffet Lunch*

18:00 – 20:00

The need for a division of labour between transatlantic institutions and local stakeholders in addressing regional problems in Europe's southern periphery: A policy-oriented round-table discussion

Chair:

**Dr. Thanos Dokos**, *Director General, ELIAMEP, Athens*

Discussants:

**Professor Henri Barkey**, *Dept. of International Relations, Lehigh University*

**Mr. Gerald Knaus**, *Chairman, European Stability Initiative (ESI), Istanbul*

**Dr. Willem Van Eekelen**, *Board Member, Center for European Security Studies, The Netherlands*

20:30

Farewell Dinner at Pondamos Beach tavern

Sunday 21 June 2009

07:00

Departure of participants