



Wilfried
Martens Centre
for European Studies

Re-Thinking the Periphery: European Policy towards Northern Africa

7 September 2023
11:00-12:15 CET

L42 Business Center
& Workspaces
Rue de la Loi 42
1040, Brussels

The importance of a new external EU policy towards Europe's neighbourhood is widely acknowledged. But there is a huge gap between ambitions, policy concepts and reality.

The countries in Northern Africa are highly important for Europe's stability and prosperity. Till now, the European view on that region had been largely dominated by a "crisis perspective": migration, terrorism, energy.

But a true and sincere strategic partnership must take into account a wider range of cooperation fields and look into potentials rather than threats.

This discussion will start with an analysis of the status quo of the relationship between Europe and North Africa. It will then explore new approaches of bilateral relations and formulate policy recommendations for European policy makers in engaging with this region in the next legislation term 2024-2029.

PROGRAMME

10:45 **Registration**

11:00 **Welcome remarks:**

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director

Discussion:

Antonio López-Istúriz White, MEP, EPP, Secretary Treasurer, Martens Centre

Kawa Hassan, Non-resident Fellow, Middle East & North Africa, Stimson Centre

Imène Hmili (online), Programme Manager, Shoaa for Human Rights

Moderated by:

Peter Hefele, Policy Director, Martens Centre

12:15 End of discussion and lunch