

Programme

European Office, Brussels

10 Years after the Arab Spring: Away from Chaos towards Stabilization? – Reflecting the Revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa

Thursday, 14 January 2021

16.00 – 17.00 CET

Online-Event

In late 2010, protests against the authoritarian regime started in Tunisia and were followed by a wave of uprisings in other countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The immediate consequences were the fall of many authoritarian governments and rising hope of citizens to renew their political system and improve their living conditions. A decade after the Arab Revolutions, however, their achievements remain ambivalent. Except for Tunisia, no other country in the Middle East managed to establish a democratic government. Instead, the power vacuum in the aftermath of the revolution became exploited by Islamist and Jihadist groups. In the majority of the Arab countries today, authoritarian regimes are back in power while countries such as Syria, Libya and Yemen suffer from the consequences of ongoing civil war and terror. Was a sustainable system change in the Middle East unrealistic? Which main obstacles prevented a successful process of a democratization?

Today, the conditions of people living in the MENA region turn out to be worse compared to the start of the Arab Spring. Political instability, repression, poverty and unemployment create a popular feeling of hopelessness and frustration. Over the past two years, citizens in Sudan and Algeria started anti-government uprisings and protests calling for more political engagement and social justice. The pictures of the series of demonstrations in the Middle East reminded of the Revolutions in 2010 and prompted a discussion about the possibility of an 'Arab Spring 2.0'. How likely is a second wave of revolutions in light of the current situation in the Arab world? What is left from the optimism that systemic change is achievable which triggered the Arab Revolutions ten years ago? Can a fresh democratic spring follow after a long Islamist fall?

With regard to the deep and long-standing relations between the EU and Tunisia, the **European Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)**, in cooperation with the **Foreign Office of KAS in Tunisia**, with great honor invites Prof. Dr. **Gilles Kepel**, one of Europe's leading experts on the Middle East, to look back to the Arab Spring after a decade. Gilles Kepel is a professor at University Sciences Po in Paris and director of the Middle East and Mediterranean Program at PSL University. In our **Online Event on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 16.00 CET**, we look forward to discuss the prevailing situation and to hear perspectives for the future of democratization in MENA. After a discussion between Prof. Gilles Kepel and Dr. Holger Dix, head of the KAS Office in Tunisia, the audience has the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. We look forward to your active participation!

Programme

European Office, Brussels

Thursday, 14 January 2021

- 16.00 **Welcoming Remarks**
Dr. Hardy Ostry
Director of the European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- 16.05 **Keynote**
Prof. Dr. Gilles Kepel
Professor at Paris Institute of Political Studies
16. 20 **Dr. Holger Dix**
Director of the KAS Office Tunisia/Algeria
- 16.35 **Discussion**
moderated by Dr. Hardy Ostry
- 16.50 **Questions from the audience**
- 17.00 **End of event**

Information on registration and participation:

Please register by entering your name, e-mail address, organization and position. You will then receive a confirmation of your registration and further information about participation in the online event.

During the online event:

You will not be connected via video and muted by the host during the meeting. After the brief statements from the speakers, you are welcome to join the conversation: You can ask the speakers a written question (click the chat symbol in the toolbar).