



TOTAL Chair of  
EU Foreign Policy



**Understanding Political Islam in Arab Mediterranean Societies:  
Challenges and Prospects for EU Foreign Policy**

**Comprendre l'islam Politique dans les Sociétés Arabes Méditerranéennes:  
Défis et Perspectives pour la Politique Etrangère de l'UE**

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**International Conference, College of Europe (Bruges)  
TOTAL Chair of EU Foreign Policy  
Friday 24 February 2012**

The TOTAL Chair of EU Foreign Policy (Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies at the College of Europe, Bruges) is organising an international conference to discuss the position of political Islam in Arab Mediterranean societies. The aim of the conference is to explore the changing context in which the European Union implements its foreign policy.

In the aftermath of the Arab revolutions and uprisings, the EU has to deal with new interlocutors, which include important movements and political parties claiming to have an Islamic identity and agenda. Considering the relative neglect of the Islamic dimension in EU foreign policy debates and in academic literature on EU foreign policy, this conference aims to improve the understanding of Islam as a political, social and economic identity and will explore also its moral dimension. The conference will attempt to lay the foundations for a more balanced European approach towards Arab Mediterranean societies and their different tendencies.

The guest speakers are specialists on political Islam as well as practitioners from the Arab Mediterranean countries and the EU. The first session will analyse the relationship between Islam and the Arab Mediterranean political space, paying special attention to the role of Islamic identity, the different trends within political Islam and the socio-economic role of Islamic movements. The following session will focus on the evolving political landscapes of various Arab Mediterranean countries and the last session will discuss the implications of all this for the EU.

The conference reflects the core objectives of the TOTAL Chair of EU Foreign Policy, which are to increase general awareness of the 'societal level' and to integrate an 'outside-in perspective' in the analysis of EU foreign policy. The idea is to provide a counterweight to the predominant Western-centric and state-centric approaches in both the conduct and analysis of EU foreign policy.

For more information and registration, see [www.coleurope.eu/TOTALchair](http://www.coleurope.eu/TOTALchair)

\* The conference languages are English and French (no translation is provided)

## TOTAL Chair of EU Foreign Policy



### PROGRAMME

09:00-09:30 Registration

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#### OPENING SESSION

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09:40-09:50 **Welcome**

*Paul Demaret, Rector of the College of Europe*

09:50-10:00 **Introduction: EU Foreign Policy and the Challenge of Difference**

*Stephan Keukeleire, Chairholder, TOTAL Chair of EU Foreign Policy, College of Europe; Jean Monnet Chair, Leuven University*

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#### SESSION I – Political Islam in Contemporary Arab Societies / L'Islam politique dans les sociétés arabes contemporaines

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*Chair: Stephan Keukeleire, TOTAL Chair, College of Europe*

10:00-10:25 **Challenges to Islamic Self-Understanding Today**

*Emilio Platti, Professor Emeritus, KU Leuven, Belgium, IDEO, Cairo, Egypt*

10:25-10:50 **L'Islamisme en Méditerranée : une matrice identitaire partagée, des expressions politiques plurielles**

*François Burgat, Directeur, Institut Français du Proche Orient, Damas, Syrie.*

10:50-11:15 **Questions**

11:15-11:30 *Coffee break*

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#### SESSION II Part 1 – Political Islam and the Political Transitions in the Mediterranean / L'Islam politique et les transitions politiques en Méditerranée

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*Chair: Charles Thépaut, TOTAL Chair, College of Europe*

11:30-11:55 **The Egyptian Debate on Democracy and Political Islam**

*Amr El Shobaki, Member of the People's Assembly, Independent affiliated to Al Adl Party, Cairo, Egypt.*

11:55-12:20 **Le rôle des syndicats et partis islamistes avant et après la révolution tunisienne**

*Souad Abderrahim, Députée à l'Assemblée Constituante, Parti Ennahda, Tunis, Tunisie.*

12:20-12:45 **Questions**

12:45-14:00 *Lunch*

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### SESSION II Part 2 – Political Islam and the Political Transitions in the Mediterranean / L'Islam politique et les transitions politiques en Méditerranée

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*Chair: Erwan Lannon, College of Europe; Faculty of Law, Ghent University*

- 14:00-14:20**            **L'expérience palestinienne à la lumière des changements politiques actuels en Méditerranée**  
*Leila Shahid, Déléguée Générale de la Palestine auprès de l'UE, de la Belgique et du Luxembourg, Bruxelles, Belgique.*
- 14:20-14:30**            **Questions**
- 14:30-15:30**            **L'Islam politique et les transitions politiques passées, présentes et futures en Méditerranée**  
*Mohamed Hachemaoui, Professeur, Université d'Alger, Algérie.*  
*Salam Kawakibi, Directeur de Recherche, Initiative pour la Réforme Arabe, Paris, France.*  
*Fouad Ammor, Professeur, Groupement d'Etudes et de Recherches sur la Méditerranée, Rabat, Maroc.*
- 15:30-15:50**            **Questions**
- 15:50-16:15**            *Coffee Break*
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### SESSION III – The EU's and its Member States' Responses : How to Define a Balanced Approach ? / Les réponses de l'UE et de ses Etats Membres: comment définir une approche équilibrée ?

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*Chair: Erwan Lannon, College of Europe; Faculty of Law, Ghent University*

- 16:15-17:15**            *Alexandre Zafiriou, European External Action Service, Brussels, Belgium.*  
*Eduard Soler I Lecha, Research Fellow, CIDOB, Barcelona, Spain.*  
*Jean François Daguzan, Maître de recherche, Fondation pour la recherche stratégique, Paris, France.*
- 17:15-17:35**            **Questions**
- 17:35-18:00**            **Concluding remarks**  
*Erwan Lannon, College of Europe, Faculty of Law, Ghent University*  
*Stephan Keukeleire, TOTAL Chair, College of Europe*
- 18:00**                    **Closure of the conference**
- 18:00-19:00**            **Reception**

*All sessions will take place in Room E, College of Europe, Dijver 11, 8000 Bruges.  
Lunch and reception will take place in Room A, College of Europe, Dijver 11, 8000 Bruges.*