



CONFLICT, TRANSITIONS AND RESILIENCE: *Challenges in the Maghreb and Mashreq*

BREHON ADVISORY



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Scotland House

Rond-Point Schuman 6
1040 Etterbeek, Brussels

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This workshop brings together policy-makers, stakeholders and academics to explore the roots, possible trajectories, and long-run policy implications of the Arab Uprisings with specific focusing on three core issues:

1. **Resilience:** What role do institutions and economic policy play in supporting and sustaining societal resilience? What roles can internal actors play in combining security, stability, development, and democracy policies to achieve resilience?
2. **External Actors' Roles:** How can private intervention (for- and non-profit) and government policy increase the likelihood of orderly transitions towards more resilient societies?
3. **Avoiding Blowback:** How can the risks of 'backslide' best be managed? How can blowback be avoided?

The workshop will consider how the challenges these issues pose vary across specific MENA contexts, with particular respect to three categories of political systems: 1. 'post-populist republics' (Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen), 2. deeply divided societies (Syria, Lebanon, Libya) and 3. states in which protests have been muted.

The Workshop will be *closed* and held under '*Chatham House Rules*', i.e. *comments made are never for attribution unless otherwise specified*.

EVENT STRUCTURE:

The workshop will be held at *Scotland House, Scotland House, Rond-Point Schuman 6, 1040 Etterbeek, Brussels.*

- **1100-1130 Introduction/plenary address**
 - Andrea Teti, Shelley Deane, Alfonso Giordano
- **1130-1300 Session 1: *Post-Populist Republics: Egypt, Tunisia***
 - Economic security (macroeconomic policy, finance, labour, demography, sector diversification)
 - Political landscape (parties, movements, unions)
 - Security Sector
- **1300-1345 working lunch: short talks**
 - *The EU's response* (Andrea Teti)
 - *The Gulf's options* (Shelley Deane)
- **1345-1515 Session 2: *Deeply Divided Societies: Lebanon, Syria, Libya***
 - Economic security (macroeconomic policy, finance, labour, demography, sector diversification)
 - Political landscape (parties, movements, unions, sectarian actors)
 - Security Sector
- **1515-1530 coffee**
- **1530-1700 Session 3: *(In)stability and Resilience: Scenarios and Options for External Actors***
 - What options, tools and priorities do regional and international actors, both private (for- and non-profit) and public, have to maximise the likelihood of orderly transitions towards more resilient societies?
 - How can blowback be avoided or managed?

Presenters will be *limited to 7 minutes* for their initial intervention

All speakers will be *limited to 3 minutes* for questions or answers thereafter.

FRAMING QUESTIONS

Resilience & (In)stability:

1. How can resilience be measured?
2. What institutional features render states more or less resilient?
3. What factors affect societies' resilience and (in)stability in the specific context of the MENA? How can instability be mitigated?
4. How can security, stability, development, and democracy policies be combined to achieve resilience?

Economic resilience:

1. How is resilience correlated with economic security and with sector diversification?
2. Which economic sectors have displayed most resilience during times of instability?
3. What macroeconomic policies have states designed to manage transition?
4. How are under-employment and unemployment best addressed?

Institutional and Political resilience:

1. What institutional mechanisms must function to maintain socio-political cohesion through instability?
2. What lessons can be learned from the kinds of existing agreements reached to ensure political stability during transition?
3. How can existing multilateral arrangements be adapted to address increasing uncertainties?

GETTING TO SCOTLAND HOUSE

Scotland House is centrally located in Brussels' European Quarter and enjoys excellent transport links. **Schuman Metro station** is less than a minute's walk and **Brussels International Airport** is only 25 minutes by car or bus, or 35 minutes by train.

Brussels has a well-organised and user-friendly public transport system that including Metro train system, Trams, and Buses.

There are route maps of the interconnected train, tram and bus network with timetables posted at most stops, as well as free maps available from the tourist office. The [journey planner](#) on the website of the *Société des Transports Intercommunaux de Bruxelles* (STIB) includes a **map of the metro system**. The STIB site also features a [map of the entire transport network](#).

Brussels International Airport (BRU), also known as Zaventem Airport, is located north-east of the city centre in the nearby Flemish municipality of Zaventem, and is easily reached from Scotland House via **bus number 12**.

Brussels is relatively easy to negotiate **by car**, though renting a vehicle is often unnecessary as the city is well connected locally, nationally and internationally.

Further information on travel to Scotland House:

- [Public transport](#)
- Air: [Brussels Airport](#); [Brussels South Charleroi Airport](#)
- Train: [Eurostar](#)

