



Tuesday, 4 June 2013, 14:15 - 17:30 hrs
Room 03C050, Paul-Henri Spaak Building
European Parliament, Brussels

Interpretation in EN, FR, DE,
IT, ES, Arabic, and Turkish.

Programme

- 13:30 - 14:30 **Arrival and registration**
Coffee outside the meeting room
- 14:30 - 14:50 **Technical introduction to the seminar**
Yannis Darmis, Head of unit, Press Service
Alain Dumort, Head of unit, Media Networks, European Commission
- 14:50 - 15:10 **Welcome and preface**
Anni Podimata (S&D, Greece), European Parliament Vice-President responsible for Communication and Information Policy
Hughes Mingarelli, Managing Director of EEAS, responsible for North Africa, Middle East, Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq
- 15:10 - 17:15 **Module 1: The role of the European institutions - supporting democracy, human rights and freedom of speech two years into the Arab Spring**
Edward McMillan-Scott (ALDE, UK), EP Vice-President responsible for Human Rights, Democracy and the Sakharov network
Pier Antonio Panzeri (S&D, Italy), Chair of EP Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union
Barbara Lochbihler (Greens/EFA, Germany), Chair of EP Subcommittee on Human Rights
Hughes Mingarelli, Managing Director of EEAS, responsible for North Africa, Middle East, Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq
Moderated by: Jaume Duch Guillot, EP Spokesperson and Director for the Media
- 17:15 Reception
End of day one



Wednesday, 5 June 2013, 9:15 - 12:45 hrs
Room 03C050, Paul-Henri Spaak Building
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Programme

- 09:15 - 11:00 Module 2: The situation of media in the countries of the Arab Spring**
Doris Pack (EPP, Germany), Chair of EP Committee on Culture and Education
Marietje Schaake (ALDE, The Netherlands), Member of EP Committee on Culture and Education and Rapporteur "Freedom of press and media in the world"
Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL, France), Member of EP Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (TBC)
André Lange, Head of Department for Information on Markets and financing, European Audiovisual Observatory
Khaled Q. Y. Bashir, Al Arabiya, Palestine
Riad Muasses, Head of the Arabic service of Euronews
Moderated by: Vaclav Lebeda, EP official, Press Service
- 11:00 - 12:35 Module 3: The role of women in the democratic process since the Arab Spring**
Women's rights in the aftermath of the Arab Spring
Silvia Costa (S&D, Italy), Rapporteur "Situation of women in North Africa"
Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR, United Kingdom), Member of EP Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
Alberto Cortezon Gomez, Head of Human & Social Development Sector, DG DEVCO Unit F4 – Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South
Mara Marinaki, Managing Director of Global and Multilateral Affairs of the European External Action Service (TBC)
Dalia Ziada, activist and blogger, Tunisia
Henda Chennaoui, blogger, Tunisia
Moderated by: Paula Fernández Hervás, EP official, Press Service
- 12:35 - 12:45 Closing remarks**
Juana Lahousse-Juárez, Director General for Communication, EP
- 12:45 Lunch reception**
- 14:15 Departure on foot to the Committee of the Regions**



Wednesday, 5 June 2013, 14:45 - 16:45 hrs

Room JDE 52, Rue Belliard 101

Committee of the Regions, Brussels

**Interpretation in EN, FR
and Arabic**

Programme

14:45 – 15:00 Technical introduction to remainder of the seminar

Alain Dumort, Head of Unit, Media Networks, EU Commission

Andrew King, Project Manager, European Journalism Centre

Paul Ames, Course Leader

15:00 – 16:30 Covering the Arab Spring: different media, different perceptions of events

A panel discussion with journalists and experts highlighting the differences in news coverage of the Arab Spring between Arabic and European media.

Natacha David, former journalist and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) expert

Shahira Amin, France 24 (TBC)

Mona Sewilam, Nile TV

Sakhr Al Makhadhi, freelance journalist for the BBC

16:30 - 16:45 Coffee break and time for individual follow-up questions and interviews

End of day two



Thursday, 6 June 2013, 9:30 - 15:00 hrs

Room JDE 52, Rue Belliard 101

Committee of the Regions, Brussels

**Interpretation in EN, FR
and Arabic**

Programme

09:30 - 11:00 “Hard Talk” with

Bernardino León, EU Special Representative for the Southern Mediterranean region

Michael Mann, Chief Spokesperson to HRVP Catherine Ashton (EEAS) ([TBC for this panel](#))

A “one/two against all” session with the EU representative for the Southern Mediterranean region, who will answer questions on-the-record to all matters that may arise.

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break and time for individual interviews

11:15 - 13:00 Tweeting the revolution: did social media bring social change?

This session will focus on the growing role and influence of social media in creating political change. The panel will be asked if social media was the driving force behind the Arab Spring, or if its use overshadowed other important factors.

Rawya Rageh, Egyptian reporter, Al Jazeera English ([TBC](#))

Nadia Khiari, blogger, Tunisia

Moran Barkai, Author of Revolution: Share! The Role of Social Media in Pro-Democratic Movements

Ruth Eglash, The Washington Post

13:00 - 13:30 Evaluation

13:30 – 15.00 Networking lunch

End of seminar and departure of participants

Background note

Two years after the start of the upheavals that swept through the Arab world, the political situation in these countries remains fluid. Every Arab state has been affected. In some there has been genuine regime change, in others reform has begun within the old political system. Syria, tragically, has plunged into a bloody civil war.

What part has the European Union played in the unfolding of these events and what part can - or should - it be playing now in supporting transitions and reforms in its southern neighbourhood? The media played a crucial role in the Arab revolutions. What is the situation of the media now? Women also played a prominent role but concerns persist about women's rights in the region. Are these worries justified?

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To discuss the issues, the press services of the European Parliament and the European Commission are holding a seminar for journalists over three days on 4-6 June in Brussels. This follows up on a similar event held in November 2011, the year in which the European Parliament awarded the 2011 Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought to five representatives of the Arab people, in recognition and support of their quest for freedom and human rights.

Representatives of the EU institutions will take part, but a notable feature will be the presence of journalists and bloggers from several of the countries affected by the Arab Spring. Journalists from the EU Member States as well as the Brussels press corps will also be invited.

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The seminar begins at the Parliament, with three debates between panellists and the invited journalists.

The first panel, of MEPs and Commission representatives, will look at action taken by the European Union in general and the European Parliament in particular in response to developments in the region.

Freedom of expression and the media situation in the Arab Spring countries will be the subject of the second debate, with a panel of MEPs and journalists. While the underlying causes of the upheavals were social, economic and political, the role of the media - particularly social media - in driving the events forward quickly became apparent.

Women's rights and the role played by women in the events of the last two years are the focus of the final panel of MEPs and guest speakers.

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In addition to the European Parliament's programme, the European Commission is organising three complementing sessions in conjunction with the European Journalism Centre to highlight media coverage of the region, and the role social media played in the Arab Spring.

Journalists will spend the final two half days, 5-6 June, participating in a programme that will raise important issues with EU stakeholders, other journalists from various media outlets, bloggers, and NGOs.

These interactive sessions will provide the visiting journalists the opportunity to take part in discussions, debates, and most importantly to pose their questions directly to Brussels-based decision-makers and learn from the experiences of their peers.

A panel discussion focused on the differences of media coverage of the Arab Spring, including citizen journalism, will kick-off the afternoon session on 5 June.

The final day will begin by putting journalists face-to-face with a high-ranking EU official and expert of the Southern Mediterranean region, allowing for an engaging on-the-record exchange of questions and answers.

To bookend the seminar, the subject of social media, and its perceived influence on the Arab Spring, will take centre stage. The diverse panel will debate whether new media was the catalyst of social change, and how social media was used to report the events by the mainstream media.

To help ensure that the sessions are provocative and remain on-track, a Brussels-based correspondent will fulfil the role of course leader throughout the duration of this part of the programme.

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