Transformative changes have taken place in the Middle East and North Africa since the heady days of the Arab uprising in late 2010 and early 2011. Syria, Libya and Yemen have descended into sectarian and tribal warfare, which has killed and displaced large numbers of people, drawn in regional powers engaged in a proxy war and destabilised neighbouring countries, including Lebanon and Jordan. Popular discontent in Egypt, the most populous country in the region, is growing under an authoritarian regime that has not addressed the root causes of the January 2011 revolution, while Algeria is going through a protracted open-ended succession crisis. Only Tunisia has, to some extent, fulfilled the optimists’ expectations of the democratisation of the southern neighbourhood, but the country still faces significant challenges. In an effort to optimise its response to the turbulence on its doorstep, the EU proposed a new approach to the southern neighbourhood in 2015.

**Egypt: A failed revolution?**
*At-a-glance note by Beatrix Immenkamp, June 2016*

The most populous of the Arab countries, situated at the crossroads between Africa and the Middle East, Egypt is an important partner for Europe. The EU and Egypt share many foreign policy concerns, including the Middle East peace process, migration and the fight against terrorism. This note weighs up the challenge of reconciling growing EU concerns over the deteriorating human rights situation in post-revolutionary Egypt against the importance of enhancing cooperation with Egypt as a partner for stability in the region.

**Jordan: A protest movement eclipsed**
*At-a-glance note by Beatrix Immenkamp, June 2016*

The Syrian refugee crisis has diverted attention away from the causes of the unrest in 2011, but has given rise to new grievances that have the potential to undermine the stability of the country once more. The note briefly discusses the assistance Europe can provide to a strategic partner facing the monumental challenge of hosting 1.26 million refugees in a country of 9.5 million.

**Libya after Gaddafi - a challenging transition**
*At-a-glance note by Joanna Apap, June 2016*

During the five years following the uprising against Muammar Gaddafi, Libya has been through much turmoil. The situation which evolved led to a fragmented Libya and the resulting power vacuum has led, not least, to the rise of ISIL/Da’esh in Libya and to the country’s increasing role as a departure point for migrants hoping to reach Europe. This note discusses the interplay between the different dynamics at stake in Libya - partisan, regional and tribal - and addresses the challenges posed by this prevailing instability, both for Libya and for its neighbours.

**Tunisia: Democracy in transition**
*At-a-glance note by Joanna Apap, June 2016*

Tunisia has taken key steps toward democracy since its Jasmine Revolution, and has so far avoided the violent chaos and/or return to authoritarian government seen in other Arab Spring countries. This note discusses how the revolution has given confidence to Tunisians to increasingly claim the right to examine the political choices of their government, and strengthened civil society.

**Syria: Turning commitments into actions**
*At-a-glance note by Patryk Pawlak, June 2016*

The conflict in Syria is just one of the illustrations what might happen if peoples’ dream of living in a more egalitarian and prosperous society meets a harsh response from those clinging to power. It also shows the complexity of root causes that may lead to conflict and the importance of building societal resilience. This note discusses briefly how those factors played out in the Syrian context and stress the urgency of turning the already made commitments into concrete actions.
Further reading

**Conflict in Syria: Trigger factors and the EU response**  
**Briefing by Patryk Pawlak, January 2016**  
This briefing explains in more detail the root causes of the conflict in Syria, its consequences and the instruments deployed by the EU and international community towards restoring peace.

**EU Strategic communication with the Arab world**  
**Briefing by Patryk Pawlak, May 2016**  
Maintaining good relations with the Arab world is crucial for achieving some of the EU’s main policy objectives, like supporting democracy or countering radicalisation. This briefing provides an overview of EU actions and instruments used to strengthen its strategic communication in the region.

**The European Neighbourhood Policy**  
**In-Depth Analysis by Philippe Perchoc, October 2015**  
Ahead of publication of the Commission proposal in November 2015, this study sets out to retrace how the European Neighbourhood Policy emerged.

**International coalition to counter ISIL/Da’esh (the ‘Islamic State’)**  
**Briefing by Carmen Cristina Cîrlig, March 2015**  
The rapid advance of the terrorist group ISIL/Da’esh in Iraq and Syria during the summer of 2014 and its stated expansionist goals convinced the entire world of the imminent security threat that the group represents. This briefing describes the coalition that was formed to combat the threat.

More in the Graphics Warehouse

**The EU contribution to building Syrian refugee and host community resilience through the Madad Fund**

![Map of Europe showing contributions to the Madad Fund](image)

The Madad Fund: contributions and commitments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total volume</th>
<th>Shortfall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>€733.18 million</td>
<td>€766.82 million</td>
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Data source: European Commission, DG NEAR

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