

The Gas Equation in the Eastern Mediterranean: Regional Setup and International Ramifications

Evening conference
27 October 2022
17:00 – 18:30



Mrs Laury HAYTAYAN (Natural Resource Governance Institute)
Dr Nicolas MAZZUCCHI (Strategic Studies Centre of the French Navy)

Dear Madam, Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to an **evening conference** organised on **Thursday 27 October 2022** by the **Centre for Security and Defence Studies** of the Royal Higher Institute for Defence.

Belgium and Europe, both preparing for a particularly harsh winter given the soaring price of hydrocarbons, are turning primarily to the Middle East as they seek to diversify their sources of supply. However, this neighbouring region is currently undergoing profound changes in this regard. While Persian Gulf oil has been at the heart of geostrategic issues since the Second World War, in recent years the focus has significantly shifted towards Eastern Mediterranean gas.

Since the first fruitful prospecting at the turn of the millennium, Israel has progressively established itself as the overall winner of this providential manna. Most of the coastal states in the region, however, are not outdone, as Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, Egypt and Libya have all recently discovered gas reserves – albeit of variable size – beneath the seabed of their respective territorial waters. While these newly exploitable resources bode well for a region that has been economically devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, they also bring their own challenges and dilemmas.

While the “EastMed” pipeline – connecting Israeli fields to the European market – has been a milestone in the new Mediterranean energy paradigm since 2020, it has also rekindled tensions over maritime boundaries between Athens and Istanbul on the one hand, and Beirut and Tel Aviv on the other. In the wake of these tensions, new alliances (Turkey-Libya) and counter-alliances (Greece-Egypt) have emerged between local actors, while an increasing number of regional and global actors are inviting themselves to the *mare nostrum*.

In order to interpret the major reconstructions at work in the Eastern Mediterranean, we are pleased to welcome Ms Laury Haytayan, director of the Middle East and North Africa department at the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), and Dr Nicolas Mazzucchi, director of research at the French Navy’s Centre for Strategic Studies (CESM).

This conference will take place **in English and French** on **Thursday 27 October 2022 at 17:00 in the conference room at campus Renaissance** (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8/Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels**). A simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Dutch will be provided in the conference room. We thank you in advance for registering via the following link: www.defence-institute.be. **Registration is compulsory and must be received by Monday 24 October 2022 at the latest.** You will then receive a registration confirmation.

(Signed)

Filip BORREMANS, MSc Eng
Air Force Colonel GS
Director-General
Royal Higher Institute for Defence

Programme:

16:30: Welcome
17:00: Conference and Q&A
18:30 – 19:00: Reception