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EIN Seminar on Mediterranean security as a key factor for EU stability and development

Introduction:

- **Paulo Rangel MEP**, *EIN Chairman, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group in the European Parliament responsible for Political Strategy and the European Ideas Network*

Chair:

- **Mariya GABRIEL MEP**, *Vice-Chair of the EPP Group in the EP responsible for the Working Group on Mediterranean Union, Euromed, Head of the Bulgarian EPP Delegation*

Speakers:

- **Dr Ebtesam al KETBI**, *President of the Emirates Policy Centre, Abu Dhabi*
 - **Amb. Delphine BORIONE**, *Deputy Secretary-General, Union for the Mediterranean*
 - **Florence GAUB**, *Senior Analyst at the European Union Institute for Security Studies*
 - **Walid PHARES**, *Co-Secretary General, Trans-Atlantic Legislative Group on Counter Terrorism*
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- EU roots are Mediterranean. We have common past and common interests and that is why we need a better cooperation. EU destiny depends closely on the destiny of our southern neighbour.
 - We need to have a global strategy putting at the centre the individual with his whole dignity. Coordination should be strengthening on intergovernmental, parliamentary and civil society level. We also have to reaffirm Union for Mediterranean role as an intergovernmental body on the bases of co-ownership to enable both northern and southern countries to be involved simultaneously. The ultimate goal is to build bridges across the Mediterranean.
 - The Mediterranean stability is linked to the refugee crisis. Refugees are mixing the issue of fleeing Syria with getting to a better society and Europe is the easiest path that will get them to security. We need a transatlantic strategy towards the refugees, as well as a closer cooperation with North Africa and Middle East countries. This is not only a humanitarian issue, it is also a security one. If nobody takes those refugees, there will be no hope for them and subsequently a risk of radicalisation.
 - We need more education to avoid radicalism. Young people without education, without prospect or feeling of belonging to a society would be easy to be recruited by extremists. We need to give them hope by launching specific project in education and job creation.
 - Together, we shall define our priorities and promote regional integration, human development and regional stability. The EU had astonishing success in this matter: decreasing child mortality, increasing literacy, reducing the number of people leaving in absolute poverty. The condemnation of mass murders of religious minorities by ISIS with the vote of a resolution in the European Parliament represents one of these achievements. However, the political reform and state building have not been so successful. The governments in the region have either support the extremism ideology or tolerated it. The Arab lawmakers should be brought in together with think tanks from the Gulf Area to fight against erosional states and to prevent growing of radicalism.
 - Both sides have the same security priorities in the region. But there is only a consensus in fighting a small part of what is considered as terrorist organisation. We need more cooperation and coordination to ensure Mediterranean stability. The first step for the EU is to not only highlight when southern countries do something wrong but also recognise when progress has been done.
 - The crisis that we have now is in south-east. There are issues to the east and issues to the south but security is a global concern. We should not look at our neighborhoods in a separated way. We have to open our dialogue with all of them, increase the role of civil society and promote a mutual reciprocal understanding.

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