

**The 10th meeting of
 The Global Strategy Group Middle East**

*11-12 February 2013, Costa del Sol Hotel, Kuwait City
 Second floor conference room "CASA"*

The agenda

Monday 11 February	<p><i>Sessions will take place at the Costa del Sol Hotel in the second floor conference room "CASA"</i></p> <p><i>All sessions are private, held behind closed doors</i></p>
9:00-9:30	<i>Welcome and self-introduction of participants</i>
9:30-10:45	<p><i>The emerging new political landscape in the Arab world</i></p> <p>Two years after the start of the revolutions and popular uprisings in the Arab world, events keep unfolding, reshaping the political landscape and the balance of forces in the whole region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What factors and forces will define the evolution in the region in the coming period? • What awaits Jordan, Lebanon, Libya Bahrain, Iraq and the GCC? <p><u><i>Discussion initiators:</i></u> Omar Al-Nakib, Senior Geopolitical Analyst, National Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Saifaldin Abdul Rahman, Vice President, IWG Inc., Iraq Rana Sabbagh, Journalist and Columnist, Jordan Robin Wright, Journalist, Author and Foreign policy analyst, USA</p> <p><u><i>Moderated:</i></u> Shafeeq Ghabra, Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University; President, Jusoor Arabiya, Kuwait</p>
10:45-11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15-12:45	<p><i>Arab monarchies facing the challenges of dissent and uncertainty</i></p> <p>The monarchies of the GCC have not been spared by the turmoil of the Arab awakening: from violent protest in Bahrain to mounting pressures for institutional reform in Kuwait; from pervasive ferment in UAE to increasing nervousness in Saudi Arabia about power transition, the whole GCC area is facing the end of stability based on political immobilism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much change and evolution can the GCC regimes absorb? • What kind of power will the monarchies able to preserve? <p><u><i>Discussion initiators:</i></u> Abdulhadi Alajmi, Chairman of the History Department, College of Arts, Kuwait</p>

	<p>University, Kuwait Mansoor Al Jamri, Editor in Chief, Al-Wasat, Bahrain Jamal Khashoggi, General Manager & Editor-in-Chief, Al Arab News, Bahrain</p> <p><i>Moderated:</i> Shafeeq Ghabra, Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University; President, Jusoor Arabiya, Kuwait</p>
13:00-14.30	Luncheon
14:30-16:00	<p><i>The Muslim Brotherhood: How could one brand evolve into different shades</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the MB evolving as it gets exposed to the realities of power in the different countries where it is now in charge or gaining increasing clout? • What does it mean for the political evolution in the region? • Will power bring fragmentation? <p><i>Discussion initiators:</i> Ehab Al Kharrat, President of Human Rights Committee, Shura Council, Egypt Juan Cole, Professor of History, University of Michigan, USA Ann Lesch, Associate Provost, American University in Cairo, Egypt Khadija Moalla, Senior Policy and Program Advisor, United Nations Development Program, Kuwait</p> <p><i>Moderated by :</i> Claude Smadja, President, Smadja & Smadja Strategic Advisory, Switzerland</p>
16:15-17:30	<p><i>What scenarios - and their implications - for regime change in Syria?</i></p> <p>As a political solution looks more implausible than ever, and Bashar El Assad shows no intention to abandon the fight, Syria’s civil war is set for a fight to the finish between the opposition trying to unite under the Syria National Coalition for Revolutionary and Opposition Forces and the regime – both thinking they can prevail militarily.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What course of events looks the more plausible over the coming months? • What will be the implications for the region? <p><i>Discussion initiator:</i> Farah Atassi, Founder and President, Arab Information & Resource Center in Washington D.C., USA Nadim Houry, Deputy Director Middle East & North Africa Division, Director of the Beirut office, Human Rights Watch, Lebanon</p> <p><i>Moderated by</i> Shafeeq Ghabra, Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University; President, Jusoor Arabiya, Kuwait</p>
17:30-17:45	Coffee break
17:45-19:00	<p><i>Endgame year for Iran?</i></p> <p>The presidential election of June 2013 is already a hot topic in Iran with opponents and partisans of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad already rattling sabers. In the meanwhile the</p>

	<p>economic situation continues to deteriorate with hyperinflation making the rial almost worthless and the sanctions exacting an increasingly heavier toll. One can expect that President Obama will intensify the sanctions as Tehran continues its dash towards nuclear capability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there still an option for a “grand bargain” with Tehran and can Ayatollah Khamenei be brought to compromise, and on what possible terms? • As Iran gets ever closer to the so-called “red line”, will the US have a last ditch initiative or/and have another option than resorting to force if sanctions fail to derail Ayatollah Khamenei from getting Iran to the nuclear threshold? • How would the Arab world react to tightening the squeeze even more on Iran ... and ultimately to the US and Europe resorting to force? <p><i>Discussion initiators:</i> David Pollock, Senior Fellow, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, USA Robin Wright, Journalist, Author and Foreign policy analyst, USA</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Claude Smadja, President, Smadja & Smadja Strategic Advisory, Switzerland</p>
20:00-22:00	<p><i>Dinner in honor of the members of the Global Strategy Group Middle East</i></p> <p>Hosted by Dr. Shafeeq Ghabra at his residence: Al Andalus, Block 12, Street 18, House 19</p> <p><i>Transportation will be provided from Costa del Sol Hotel at 7:40pm</i></p>

Tuesday 12 February	<p><i>Sessions will take place at the Costa del Sol Hotel in the second floor conference room “CASA”</i></p> <p><i>All sessions are private, held behind closed doors</i></p>
09:00-10:15	<p><i>What prospects for crippled economies in the Arab world?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can be done to restore some growth in countries where political tensions and uncertainties keep hampering economic activities and deterring investment? • How can the Middle East deal with the growing economic divide between the Gulf countries and the rest of the region where turmoil and uncertainties are holding back growth? <p><i>Discussion initiators:</i> Shaha Aliriza, Lead Gender Specialist in the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Unit, The World Bank Elias Bikhazi, Group Chief Economist, National Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Florence Eid, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Arabia Monitor, UK Khaled Sifri, Chief Executive Officer, Emirates Investment Bank PJSC, UAE Samer Younis, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, Kharafi National, Kuwait</p> <p><i>Moderated by:</i> Claude Smadja, President, Smadja & Smadja Strategic Advisory, Switzerland</p>

10:15-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-12:00	<p><i>Can the Israeli-Palestinian peace process be resuscitated?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there any time left before the settlements policy of Israel close any window of opportunity for a two-state solution? What would convince the Israeli public that a genuine two-state solution is still possible? • Can Hamas and Fatah agree on the terms of a compromise settlement with Israel, and if so, on what terms? Has the UN vote on non-member state status changed anything? • What could prompt Barak Obama to invest himself in resuming a peace process? • What kind of involvement from key Arab states such as Saudi Arabia is needed? <p><u>Discussion initiators:</u> Adib Jarrar, Organizational Development and Leadership Consultant, Clinical Psychologist, Palestine David Pollock, Senior Fellow, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, USA</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Shafeeq Ghabra, Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University; President, Jusoor Arabiya, Kuwait</p>
12:15-13:15	<p><i>What future can liberal and secular forces still have in the Middle East</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent can women remain a key force for liberalism in countries such as Egypt or Tunisia? • Can liberal and secular groups regroup into a force to be reckoned with by the Brotherhood and Islamist groups? <p><u>Discussion initiators:</u> Mai Al-Nakib, Professor, Kuwait University, Kuwait Noman Benotman, President, Quilliam, UK Juan Cole, Professor of History, University of Michigan, USA Ann Lesch, Associate Provost, American University in Cairo, Egypt Khadija Moalla, Senior Policy and Program Advisor, United Nations Development Program, Kuwait</p> <p><u>Moderator by:</u> Claude Smadja, President, Smadja & Smadja Strategic Advisory, Switzerland</p>
13:15-13:25	<p><i>Concluding points: What do we take home?</i></p> <p>Shafeeq Ghabra, Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University; President, Jusoor Arabiya, Kuwait Claude Smadja, President, Smadja & Smadja Strategic Advisory, Switzerland</p>
13:30-14:30	Closing luncheon