

# EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE AGE OF TRUMP

On Tuesday 16 October 2018, at 15:00–16:30  
At the Seminar Hall  
Arkadiankatu 23, entrance H (inner courtyard), Helsinki

The Middle East peace process has stalled since President Trump's decision last year to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital led Palestinians to withdraw from negotiations. While the Trump administration is developing its own plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace, the EU remains committed to the two-state solution. This seminar will discuss the present impasse in the Middle East peace process, its broader international context, and possible ways for the EU to revive it and to contribute to a negotiated solution.

*Speakers:*

**Robert Malley**, President and CEO of the International Crisis Group

**Tytti Tuppurainen**, Member of Parliament and Chair of the UN Association of Finland

**Wolfgang Mühlberger**, Senior Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

*Chair:*

**Pär Stenbäck**, Minister (hon.) and founding Board Member of the International Crisis Group

Speakers' biographies 

## Biographies



**Robert Malley.** Prior to rejoining Crisis Group, first as Vice President for Policy and since January 2018 as President & CEO, Robert Malley served in the Obama administration as Special Assistant to the President, Senior Adviser to the President for the Counter-ISIL Campaign, and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf region. He also served as Special Assistant to President Clinton for Arab-Israeli affairs and Director for Near East and South Asian affairs at the National Security Council. Before joining the Obama administration, he was Program Director for Middle East and North Africa at Crisis Group, leading the organisation's research, analysis, policy prescription and advocacy in and about the region. Robert Malley is a graduate of Yale University, Harvard Law School and Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He is the author of *"The Call from Algeria: Third Worldism, Revolution and the Turn to Islam"* and has published several articles in the New York Review of Books, Foreign Affairs, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Le Monde and many other publications.



**Tytti Tuppurainen** has been a member of the Parliament of Finland since 2011. She is the Second Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament's Grand Committee (EU Affairs) and a member of the Parliament's Agriculture and Forestry Committee. She is also the Chair of the Finnish-German Parliamentary Friendship Group and Deputy Chair of the Finnish-USA Parliamentary Friendship Group. Tytti Tuppurainen is a member of the PES (Party of European Social Democrats) Presidency. She is the Chair of the UN Association of Finland, the Social Democratic Women in Finland, the Women's network in the Parliament of Finland and the board of NYTKIS (The Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations). She holds a Master of Arts degree from Oulu University.



**Wolfgang Mühlberger** is Senior Research Fellow at FIIA. Wolfgang has a professional background in research, diplomacy and government relations in the MENA region. He previously worked at the National Defense Academy in Vienna, was a Visiting Fellow at the NATO Defense College in Rome and a Visiting Researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in Tel Aviv. His publications cover political transitions and conflicts in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. Research interests include EU-MENA relations, Islamist movements, and conflict management/peace building. Wolfgang Mühlberger holds a M.Sc. in Economics and Business Administration from the Vienna Business University and a M.Phil. in Arabic and Islamic Studies from Vienna University. He studied Arabic in Morocco, Tunisia, Syria and Yemen.



**Pär Stenbäck** has made a long career in Finnish politics and in international organisations. He was a member of the Finnish Parliament (1970-1985), served as the Minister of Education from 1979 to 1982 and as the Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1982 to 1983. He received an honorary minister title in 1999. Pär Stenbäck was the Secretary General of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) between 1988 and 1992. He also functioned as the Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers in Copenhagen (1992-1997). In 1995, Pär Stenbäck became a founding board member of the International Crisis Group. In June 2017, he founded the New Foreign Policy Society in Finland "Nya Utrikespolitiska Samfundet".