



EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2023

The quest for a more “geopolitical” EU foreign policy in the MENA region

CALL FOR PAPERS

The war in Ukraine has reinvigorated calls for the European Union to become more “geopolitical”, echoing the motto of a “geopolitical Commission” President Von der Leyen put forward at the beginning of her mandate. Routine references to the need of the EU to “learn quickly to speak the language of power” (HRVP Borrell) or calls for more “EU strategic autonomy” (President Macron) can be considered as variants of the “geopolitical” discourse, demonstrating also that the concept of a more geopolitical EU is multifaceted and not well defined (see for instance [Europe’s geopolitical confusion](#)). According to other observers, the fundamental geopolitical shift in EU external action has not yet happened (see for instance [The awakening of geopolitical Europe](#)).

The objective of this Call for Papers is precisely to get to the bottom of what a more geopolitical EU foreign policy may mean in relation to a specific region, the Middle East and North Africa.

Paper proposals may relate to the concepts and questions listed below. The list is only indicative and not exhaustive.

- A **transactional relationship** between both shores of the Mediterranean? What does it mean? What does it take for the EU to develop a more transactional approach? Is this exclusive from its traditional transformative approach?
- **Economy and demography** are geopolitics: why the EU should not give up on supporting its partners in dealing with socio-economic and demographic challenges.
- **Inter-connectivity**: Are both shores of the Mediterranean bound to be more interconnected as a result of the war in Ukraine (infrastructures, energy, trade)?
- **EU global gateway**: leeway for the EU to become more geopolitical in the MENA region?
- To what extent are the keys to EU **strategic autonomy** to be found in the MENA region?
- **Geopolitics and strategic communication**: to what extent being more geopolitical means a revolution of how the EU communicates in the MENA region.
- **Speaking the language of power** in EU’s relations with its southern neighbourhood: what does it take?





- Can the EU develop its geopolitical ambitions based on the **existing institutional** architecture that underpins the relationship with its southern neighbourhood? Is a reform of the European Neighbourhood Policy needed?
- **Geopolitics and conflicts:** Does a geopolitical Europe require a change of paradigm in how the EU approaches conflict prevention and resolution in its Southern Neighbourhood?

ELIGIBILITY

The Call for Papers is open to experts and researchers affiliated to institutes from the EuroMeSCo network (which will be given priority), as well as to other researchers and experts from the Euro-Mediterranean region.

SELECTION AND PROCESS

- Interested candidates will first submit a short description of the Paper proposed (up to **350 words excluding references** in English describing the theme, research objectives and scope of the paper as well as an indicative initial reference list) through this [APPLICATION FORM](#).
- A minimum of **5 proposals** will be selected. Proposals will be selected based on objective criteria including: a concise and structured presentation of the research objectives and of the Paper, the originality of the topic and its policy relevance as well as the inclusion of an indicative list of references.
- All applicants will be notified by e-mail of the results of their application.
- Pre-selected proposals will be consolidated in the form of short concept notes (2-3 pages).
- Selected candidates will receive formal guidelines for the submission of the Papers, and they will be asked to submit an advanced draft of their proposal.
- Selected authors will be invited to present their Papers in parallel sessions of the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference, taking place in October 2023. Authors will get feedbacks and inputs from other experts and researchers, to be used to finalize the Paper. Papers will be adjusted in light of the debates held at the Conference and/or consolidated based on the feedback received from the EuroMeSCo Secretariat. Flights and accommodation will be covered for selected authors.
- Following the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2023, authors will be expected to submit a revised and final version of their Paper which incorporates the feedback received. Each Paper should have a length of **5,000-8,000 words**, excluding final references and footnotes. It should have high scientific, policy and technical quality and should be an original work.





- The final version of the Paper will be **peer-reviewed** and if successful, will be published as part of the EuroMeSCo research Papers series.
- Each Paper will be awarded with **€2,700 gross**, provided that the peer review is positive and that the provided Paper meets the established quality standards. The payment will be activated upon submission of the final document.

CALENDAR

The contest will consist of the following stages:

1. Launch of the Call for Papers: **25 May 2023**
2. Deadline for Paper proposals submission: **11 June 2023, 23:59hrs CET**
3. Notification of Paper proposals pre-selection: **15 June 2023**
4. Submission of the concept note (between 2-3 pages) of the Paper proposals: **28 June 2023**
5. Notification of Paper proposals selection: **7 July 2023**
6. Submission of the advanced draft of the Paper proposals: **17 September 2023**
7. Submission of the Paper by **20 November 2023**
8. Review and publication of the EuroMeSCo Paper: **December 2023- January 2024**

