



Wilfried  
**Martens Centre**  
for European Studies

**G | M | F**

The German Marshall Fund  
of the United States

STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

## Seeing the Big Picture: Transatlantic Challenges in the Middle East and North Africa

17 February 2016  
16:00 – 18:00

Residence Palace  
8th floor  
Rue de la Loi, 155  
1040 Brussels

The **Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies** and the **German Marshall Fund of the United States** cordially invite you to a debate on the challenges for the transatlantic partnership in the Middle East and North Africa. The event also features the launch of the Martens Centre's latest issue of its journal *European View* 'Revitalising Transatlantic Relations'.

In the last five years, the Middle East and North Africa have become a focal point for both the EU and the US. The US engaged to broker a nuclear deal with Iran, despite much criticism, and have attempted to find a solution for peace in Syria, which has been unsuccessful to date. Meanwhile, the EU continues to deal with a non-stop flow of refugees: a humanitarian consequence of the persistent turmoil throughout the Middle East. Furthermore, Islamic State and the ongoing Sunni-Shia animosity have become hard nuts for the West to crack.

What positive notes from the Arab Spring are still there for the transatlantic partners to engage in? How can the West fight more effectively against the terrorist actors in the region? Can conflicts be solved one by one? What effect have recent interventions by the West had on regional issues?

*Due to increased security measures at Residence Palace, you must RSVP in advance and arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the event.*

### PROGRAMME

16:00	Registration
16:30	Welcome by <b>Tomi Huhtanen</b> , Executive Director, Martens Centre
Panel	<b>Ian O. Lesser</b> , Senior Director, Foreign and Security Policy and Executive Director, Transatlantic Center Brussels, German Marshall Fund of the United States  <b>Magnus Norell</b> , Senior Policy Adviser, European Foundation for Democracy and Adjunct Scholar, Washington Institute for Near East Policy
Moderation	<b>Ingrid Habets</b> , Research Officer, Martens Centre



**Ian O. Lesser** is the Senior Director for Foreign and Security Policy at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. He also serves as Executive Director of the Transatlantic Center Brussels. Prior to joining GMF, he was Vice President and Director of Studies at the Pacific Council on International Policy. Lesser was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, the London School of Economics, and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and received his D.Phil from Oxford University.



**Magnus Norell** is a Senior Policy Adviser for European Foundation for Democracy. He is currently Associate Director of Studies in Terrorism, Organised Crime and Middle East Politics at Infosphere in Stockholm. He is also Adjunct Scholar at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. He specialises in matters relating to terrorism, political violence, democracy and security in the Middle East and Central Asia. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stockholm University.



**Tomi Huhtanen** was a Political Adviser and subsequently a Senior Adviser for the EPP, focusing on Economic and Social policies. During this period, he launched the *European View* policy journal, of which he became Editor-in-Chief. In 2007, he was put in charge of launching the political foundation of the European People's Party, the Centre for European Studies (renamed the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies in 2014); in the same year, he was nominated as the Centre's Director, and is since October 2015 its Executive Director.



**Ingrid Habets** is the Research Officer for Foreign Policy and Political Party Structures at the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, and Assistant Editor-in-Chief of the *European View*. She holds a Masters degree in International Relations from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. Previously, she worked as representative at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and contributed to building a broad network within the Brussels institutions.