

The panel discussion is organized by the Austrian Institute for International Affairs – oiip in cooperation with ideaz – the Platform for Intercultural and Comparative Research, and the Anna Lindh Foundation and support by the Foreign Ministry and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.



Federal Ministry for
European and International Affairs



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akademie wien
Vienna School of International Studies
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Panel Discussion

Egypt in Transition Ready for Democracy?



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Tuesday, June 7, 2011
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Diplomatic Academy of Vienna
Favoritenstraße 15a, 1040 Vienna

Owing to construction work there are no facilities for parking on the premises of the Diplomatic Academy. Participants are strongly advised to use public transport.

Egypt in Transition

Ready for Democracy?

The Egyptian Revolution should not be perceived as the end, but rather as the beginning of a troublesome transformation process whose outcome is open and difficult to predict. Since President Mubarak's departure in February 2011 a military council has taken control. The army regards this process as a technical rather than as a political one. Many activists fear that transition to a democratic order cannot happen under these circumstances.

Will, as Tocqueville held in regard to the French Revolution, the long duration of the structure prevail over the short duration of the conjuncture? Together with Egyptian activists, experts, representatives of civil society and politicians we aim at discussing Egypt's post-revolutionary transition process, to learn from other examples and to assess the possible outcomes.

The discussants will address in their input statements to the questions: "*Will continuity prevail over change?*" and if then "*What kind of democracy is likely to emerge?*" and "*How to deal with pluralism?*"

At the end of each panel, there will be time for Q&A.
The language of the panel discussion is English.

16:00	Welcome Otmar Höll (Director, oiip) Sabine Koissenbrunner (Head of the Task Force Dialogue of Cultures, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs)
16:15	Panel I: Will continuity prevail over change? An assessment of the transition process <i>Can we compare the Arab Spring with 1989?</i> <i>What can we learn from other examples?</i> Vladimir Gligorov (Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies) <i>Who are the actors in the transition process?</i> <i>How to deal with pluralism?</i> Yasmine El Rashidi (Writer, Cairo) <i>How to deal with authoritarian structures?</i> <i>Can democratic behaviour evolve?</i> Maye Kasm (American University in Cairo) <i>Chair:</i> Corina Milborn, Writer and Journalist
16:45	Coffee Break
18:15	Panel II: What kind of change? How to deal with pluralism in what kind of democracy? Outlooks from different perspectives <i>What kind of democracy? Where are the limits for freedom?</i> Abou Elela Mady (Chairman El-Wasat Party, Cairo) <i>Is social change possible?</i> Esra Abd El Fatah Rachid (Egyptian Democratic Academy, Cairo) <i>Is Egypt ready for liberal democracy?</i> Tarek Osman (Writer, London/Cairo) <i>Chair:</i> Cengiz Günay (oiip)
20:00	Buffet