

## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH AFRICA

*Barcelona, 19-20 September 2010*

### SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

8pm: Introductory dinner Discussion

**Venue:** Restaurant in Hotel Rey Don Jaime, Castelldefels

### MONDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER: FULL DAY DISCUSSION WORKSHOP

**Venue:** Castell de Montjuïc, Carretera de Montjuïc 66

The shift of global power away from the West threatens to undermine the EU's hopes of supporting human rights, democracy and the rule of law overseas. The rise of successful undemocratic states, like China, and the problems of some new democracies have cast doubt on the benefits of liberal democracy. The EU has lost influence to emerging powers that emphasize sovereignty over human rights, and there is resistance to any idea of the West exporting its model to the rest of the world.

This workshop is intended to explore the implications of this changing global climate in the North African region, and to identify, in this particular region, whether and how there is potential to make progress on opening up political space.

Each session will be kicked off by the discussant(s) giving a few introductory remarks, followed by an open discussion.

9.00-9.30 Introductory comments from Jordi Vaquer, CIDOB and Anthony Dworkin ECFR.

9.30-11.00 Session 1. Opportunities for progress, moderated by Jordi Vaquer, CIDOB.

**Discussants:** Kristina Kausch, FRIDE and Aboubakr Jamai, former editor of Le Journal Hebdomadaire.

**Session objective:** to understand the current environment and the prospects for human rights, democracy and the rule of law in North Africa.

**Key questions:** What opportunities exist for making progress toward genuine and sustainable transformation? What issues are most important to help open political space in the region, both in the short and the longer term? Will modernization and better governance on its own lead to the development of greater political space and respect for human rights? How are these goals perceived? What kind of popular/elite support is there for different possible areas of reform?

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 Session 2. Human rights and other goals, moderated by Anthony Dworkin, ECFR.

**Discussants:** Cyrille Rogeau, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Amr Hamzawy, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

**Session objective:** to explore the context for promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in North Africa, and the interrelationship with other regional developments and interests.

**Key questions:** How does support for these values relate to other important issues in the region? To what extent are there trade-offs involved? Would greater political openness lead to greater instability? To what extent do these conflict with other objectives that the EU pursues in the region? What is the balance between short-term and long-term priorities?

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-14.05 Welcome words from Carlos Carnero, Ambassador at Large for European Projects, Spanish Presidency of EU

14.05-15.30 Session 3. The role of international actors, moderated by Jose Ignacio Torreblanca, ECFR.

**Discussants:** Fiona Rumney, British Embassy Rabat and Hugh Roberts, independent expert.

**Session objective:** to examine the potential influence of different actors in the region and how they can be most effective in promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

**Key questions:** Who are the key powers in the region? What role is there for external actors and for the EU in particular? What kind of leverage does it possess and how could this best be used? Would the EU do better to focus more on particular limited objectives? What is the potential for conditional measures like “advanced status” and how well is it being used? Would it be possible to get greater consensus within the EU behind an emphasis on some key issues?

15.30-15.45 Coffee and Tea

15.45-17.00 Session 4. Looking forward, moderated by Susi Dennison, ECFR.

**Session objective:** to identify at a practical level what conclusions our discussions point towards for international actors’ engagement in the region.

**Key questions:** What are the next steps? How can the EU take advantage of the opportunity that exists with forthcoming political transitions in the region? What potential is there for the EAS to make a difference? What are the concrete steps that could be taken to move forward?

17.00 Closing remarks – Narcis Serra, President of CIDOB