Events in the Gulf region, such as the recent attacks on Saudi oil installations, have dramatically increased tensions including the possibility of a wider armed conflict involving Iran, the United States and the GCC states. While the parties are weighing their options, European responses have been fairly muted, mostly limited to calls for de-escalation and a return to the diplomatic table. Given the widespread consequences that a renewed conflict in the Gulf would have, the question to be asked is whether Europe can really afford to continue with its current passive policy approach to the emerging crisis.

This majlis discussion will focus on the current drivers for conflict in the Gulf, the implications for regional, European as well as international security, and analyse potential scenarios for the months ahead. A key emphasis of the discussion will be on the options available to European governments as they struggle to come up with policies that prevent the situation from unravelling further.