ROUNDTABLE:
IMPLICATIONS OF BREXIT FOR THE EU AND THE GULF

11:15 - 13:00 followed by light lunch Tuesday 10 March 2020

VENUE: BUSSOLA INSTITUTE 28, Square de Meeûs, 1000 Brussels

The UK’s departure from the EU will undoubtedly have consequences for the EU’s foreign and security policy and status. To consider the likely implications, in particular with a view to the Gulf Region, the Bussola Institute will host a roundtable discussion with invited experts on Tuesday 10th March, 2020.

In addition to having historic ties with the Gulf region, the UK is also one of Europe’s larger economies. The impact of Brexit on both the UK and the EU and their future relations with the Gulf is likely to be felt politically, strategically and economically. One issue that the roundtable will explore in this regard is whether the UK will soon emerge as a competitor for the EU in terms of a potential free trade agreement with the GCC or in other aspects of preferential treatment for both goods and services.

The roundtable will also explore how existing strategic relationships may evolve in the wake of Brexit and the potential consequences for the region’s wider relations with the EU and its individual member states. Finally, the roundtable will consider how Brexit may impact on the EU’s political relations with the Gulf states, particularly at a time of shifting political priorities and polarities.

INVITATION

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Mr. Mr. John Dennehy
Secretary General of the Bussola Institute

Mr. Michael Stephens
Research Fellow, Middle East Studies, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), UK

Michael Stephens is a Consultant Fellow at RUSI, having served as RUSI’s Middle East Research Fellow and head of the RUSI Leadership Centre until February 2020. From March to June 2017, he was seconded into the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, serving as the Senior Research Analyst for Syria and Lebanon. Michael Stephens has fourteen years of experience working in the Middle East, and has conducted research across Turkey, the Levant, Iraq and the Gulf States. As a frequent commentator on Middle East affairs, his writing has appeared in many news outlets and he is also a regular broadcast commentator. Michael also regularly advises the Crown Prosecution Service on issues relating to national security, and counter terrorism.

Mr. Angus Taverner
Head of Communications – Researcher, Bussola Institute

Angus Taverner has been involved in research and analysis of issues in the GCC for the past 15 years. He holds an MA in Strategic Communication and writes regularly on diverse Gulf issues involving political, economic and strategic developments, and economic issues. He is particularly well-known for his expertise in reputational management and political risk analysis. Recently, he has completed a research project on the future of NAID-GCC relations which will form a chapter of a book to be published shortly by Routledge.

Moderator:

Mr. Michael Stephens
Research Fellow, Middle East Studies, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), UK