

# International Conference

## THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER IN QUESTION: REGIONAL SECURITY AND PROSPERITY IN TIMES OF GLOBAL FLUX AND DISARRAY

**3 – 4 October, 2025**

Jean Monet Amphitheatre (M203)  
University of Nicosia

### Organizers:

Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean Review (BSEMR)

School of Law, University of Nicosia

Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Black Sea and Mediterranean Studies, Aristotle University of  
Thessaloniki (ILABSEM AUTH)

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

### Programme

Friday, 3 October  
18:00 – 20:00

#### Welcoming Addresses

- Prof. Grigoris Zarotiadis  
*Interdisciplinary Laboratory of Black Sea and Mediterranean  
Studies» (ILABSEM), Director*
- Prof. (Emerita) Sophia Kaitatzi-Whitlock  
*The Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean Review (BSEMR), Editor in  
Chief*
- Prof. Achilles C. Emilianides  
*University of Nicosia, School of Law, Dean*
- Prof. Hubert Faustmann  
*Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Resident Director; University of  
Nicosia*

#### Keynote Speech

**“The Middle East Paradoxon: Can a New Regional Order Emerge  
after Disruption?”**

- Prof. Carsten Wieland  
*Middle East expert, Senior Associate at the PRIO Cyprus Center and  
Associate Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)*

### Round Table Discussion

#### **“A Transitioning International Orders: Challenges, Perils and Opportunities”**

- Prof. Grigoris Zarotiadis  
*Interdisciplinary Laboratory of Black Sea and Mediterranean Studies» (ILABSEM), Director*
- Prof. (Emerita) Sophia Kaitatzi-Whitlock  
*The Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean Review (BSEMR), Editor in Chief*
- Dr. Constantinos Adamides  
*University of Nicosia, Department of Politics and Governance, Head*
- Chair: Dr. Michalis Kontos  
*University of Nicosia, Department of Politics and Governance, BSEMR Associate Editor in Chief*

Saturday, 4 October

9:00 – 9:30

### **Registrations**

9:30 – 11:00

### **International Law in Recession?**

#### **International Law in an Age of Uncertainty: Enforcement and Legitimacy under Pressure**

- Prof. Assoc. Jonida Mehmetaj (University Ismail Qemali, Vlore, Albania)

### **Cybersecurity and International Law: Charting Stability in the Black Sea–Eastern Mediterranean Region**

- Prof. Gijo George (Jarbom Gamlin Government Law College/Rajiv Gandhi University, India)

### **The Legality of Israel’s June 2025 Use of Force Against Iran: Revisiting Self-Defence and International Legal Norms in a Fractured Global Order**

- Dr. Antonis St. Stylianou (University of Nicosia, Cyprus)

### **Hypotheses for the failures of international law: The violent 20th century and the present moment, with a focus on the Black Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean**

- Dr. Nandia Kornioti (University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus)
- Chair: Dr. Michalis Kontos (University of Nicosia)

11:00 – 11:30

### **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 13:00

**Disruptive Technologies and Hybridity: Non-Traditional Security Aspects**

**Europe as the Promised Land: Misinformation and Irregular Migration in the Eastern Mediterranean**

- Prof. Petros Iosifidis (City St. George's, University of London)
- Dr. Dimitrios Tsagalas (University of Cyprus, Cyprus)

**Regional Security and Prosperity in Times of Global Flux: The Impact of Inter-Neighbour Sabotage Actions**

- Dr. Anisa Telharaj (University Ismail Qemali, Vlore, Albania)

**The Extraordinary Rise of Cyber Attacks and Their Impact on Private Life, Public Institutions, and National Stability**

- Ms. Adeljana Shehaj (Cultural Heritage Administration, Albania)

**AI Governance and Value-Based Design: Integrating Christian Ethics into Judicial Systems in the Eastern Mediterranean for Democratic Resilience**

- Ms. Pelagia Eleftheriadou (OPED – Think Tank for the Modernization and Reform of the Justice System, Greece)
- Chair: Dr. Petros Petrikos (University of Nicosia)

13:00 – 14:00

**Lunch Break**

14:00 – 15:00

**Global Economic Governance and Regional Integration: Challenges and Prospects**

**Regional Prosperity and Employment Integration in Times of Global Influx**

- Dr. Eleni Koutsouraki, Dr. Katerina Oikonomou, Ms. Lina Pelekidou, Ms. Ioanna Kirou, Mr. Andreas Vorizanakis, Dr. Kleio Koutra (Hellenic Mediterranean University, Greece)

**Assessing Public Attention to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

- Prof. Larissa Leonidovna Bozhko (Rudny Industrial University, Rudny, Kazakhstan)
- Chair: Prof. Grigoris Zarotiadis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

15:00 – 16:15

**Regional Geopolitics in the Eastern Mediterranean and Broader Middle East**

**Narratives of Maritime Sovereignty: The Mavi Vatan Doctrine**

- Mr. Theodor Skarvelis (University of Groningen, Netherlands)

**A Delicate Balancing Act: The Arab States, Arab Media & the Coverage of Gaza from the October 7th Attacks until the First Ruling of the ICJ**

- Mr. Umer Fasie Bashir (University of Nicosia, Cyprus)

**Turkish Soft Power and Public diplomacy in Western Thrace and the Dodecanese**

- Mr. Iraklis Gerogiokas (University of Nicosia, Cyprus)
- Chair: Dr. Yiannos Katsourides (University of Nicosia)

16:15 – 16:30

**Coffee Break**

16:30 – 17:45

**The International System in Transition: Contemporary Great Power Politics and Strategic Dilemmas**

**The US-Russia Competition in the Eastern Mediterranean: Global Power Transitions in a Regional Context**

- Dr. Zenonas Tziarras (University of Cyprus, Cyprus)

**Europe's Shift Toward Autonomous Defense: Strategic Independence or Fragmentation of NATO?**

- Mr. Themistoklis (Themis) Zanis (Political Scientist/ Geopolitical Analyst, New York, USA)

**Trump Gaza: The Impact of Trump's Neocolonialistic AI Fantasy on Geopolitics from a Film-Psychological Perspective**

- Mr. Johann Pibert (University of Bonn, Free University of Berlin, Germany)
- Chair: Prof. (Emerita) Sophia Kaitatzi-Whitlock (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)