

“The Belt and Road Initiative”: China’s new “Silk Road” and the Eastern Mediterranean

Friday 16 November 2018, Goethe Institute - Nicosia

The conference aims at exploring the above aspects with emphasis on the Eastern Mediterranean. Experts from around the world will be called to address questions such as the following: What is the importance of the region for China and what are Beijing’s plans for it? What are the perceptions regarding BRI among Eastern Mediterranean states and how could they contribute to the development of the region? What other great-power interests are at stake? Could China’s policy be beneficial for the Eastern Mediterranean?

08:45 - 09:00 REGISTRATION

09:00 - 09:15 WELCOMING REMARKS

Harry Tzimitras
Hubert Faustmann
Charalambos Tsardanides
Ping Li

09:15 - 09:45 KEYNOTE SPEECH

H.E. Huang Xingyuan Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Cyprus
Belt and Road Initiative and opportunities for Cyprus

09:45 - 11:15 PANEL 1 – Setting the Scene: the BRI in the Global and European Context

CHAIR: Harry Tzimitras

PRESENTATIONS:

- Alexandre Sheldon-Duplaix
Is the BRI a grand strategy?
- Jiayi Zhou
The BRI: Geo-Economics with Chinese Characteristics?
- Fei Su
China’s Maritime Silk Road: aspirations and the implications to Europe
- Mengmeng Huang
Chinese Investment in Europe under the framework of BRI: Challenges and opportunities

11:15 - 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 - 13:15 PANEL 2 – The BRI in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East

CHAIR: Charalambos Tsardanides

PRESENTATIONS:

- Zenon Tziarras
Re-imagining the Eastern Mediterranean
- Charalambos Tsardanides
Great Powers and the Eastern Mediterranean: From the geopolitics of the past to the geoeconomics of the present?
- Qiang Liu
The BRI and Trends of China’s Energy Demand as well as its Effects to the East Mediterranean/Middle East
- Moritz Pieper
Geostrategic and geoeconomic implications of the Silk Road Economic Belt for the Persian Gulf

13:15 - 14:15 Lunch



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14:15 - 15:45 PANEL 3 – The BRI and Regional States of Interest

CHAIR: Hubert Faustmann

PRESENTATIONS:

- Plamen Tonchev
Chinese Investment in Greece: Status, Issues and Prospects
- Mehmet Ögütçü
The BRI for Turkey and 16+1
- Michalis Kontos
Small States in a Self-help International System: The BRI and Cyprus in the Changing Regional Balance of Power