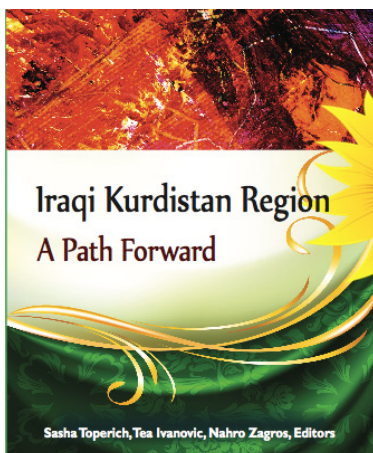




Mediterranean Digest

2017 Annual Compendium

The Mediterranean Basin Initiative's yearly overview.



In 2017, we published three comprehensive book volumes: *Iraqi Kurdistan: A Path Forward*, *Vision 2020: Bosnia and Herzegovina Towards its European Future*, and *Turkey and Transatlantic Relations*.

In November, we hosted the 5th annual Transatlantic Economic Forum, co-organized in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Representatives from 15 countries of the larger Mediterranean, Middle East, and Gulf countries participated.

Throughout the year, we have organized many events on Egypt, North Africa, and the Western Balkans in our ongoing effort to support stronger transatlantic ties and reform processes in these countries.

With our publications, articles, and events, we hope to have contributed to a widened public understanding of the multi-faceted histories, struggles, and prospects for the entire larger Mediterranean Basin.

Enjoy this fourth annual retrospective, and please continue to follow our work at:

<http://transatlanticrelations.org>

ALGERIA AND THE UNITED STATES: A NEW DAWN ON THE HORIZON?

On February 2, the Center for Transatlantic Relations hosted the conference “Algeria and the United States: New Dawn on the Horizon?”

Sasha Toperich, CTR-SAIS Senior Fellow and Director of the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East, and Gulf Initiative opened the conference. Panelists included **Ismael Chikhoune**, President and CEO of the U.S. – Algeria Business Council; **Hafida Benchahida**, Algerian Senator, and **Slim Othmani**, CARE think tank President, Algeria. The event was moderated by **Samy Boukaila**, CTR-SAIS Visiting Scholar.



“Algeria is at a crossroads choosing a new economic model based on a diversified economy,” **Samy Boukaila** added. “There is a need for the U.S to take bilateral relations to a new level, and to help re-engineer an efficient, sustainable Algerian economy. **Boukaila** also pointed out the Algerian renewable energy sector, creating a new opportunity for solar energy production, where the first 4.000 MW tender is to be launched in the coming months.

Slim Othmani, President of the Algerian think tank CARE, stressed the importance of strengthening the private sector in Algeria, and cooperation among countries of North Africa. “Algeria decided to switch to a new economic model, but it takes time to establish a liberal economic model. Things are moving in the right direction, and we are clearly seeing some positive signs of a healthy economy, but progress is slow,” he said.



L-R: Samy Boukaila, Ismael Chikhoune, Hafida Benchahida, Slim Othmani, Sasha Toperich.

“There is a very strong and abundant security exchange of information and cooperation within the Maghreb, and with the U.S on countering violent extremism. We have had several meetings in Algiers that our neighbors have been attending and participating in. We are including our partners, Tunisians, Libyans, Egyptians, in trying to bring about stability and peace in the region,” said **Hafida Benchahida**, Senator, Algeria.



L-R: Hafida Benchahida, Algerian Senator; and Slim Othmani, CARE President.

"In 2008, trade between the U.S and Algeria accounted for 22 billion dollars, but dropped to 5.9 billion dollars last year. The reason is a decreased purchasing of oil and gas, as the U.S is becoming energy self-sufficient. We now see more diversified trade, such as in the pharmaceutical industry, where a biotechnology hub was set up for R&D; a project that is supposed to last until 2040, and involves a variety of U.S companies and universities. We have been seeing more Algerian private companies partnering with the U.S," said **Ismael Chikhoun**, President and CEO of the U.S. - Algeria Business Council.

You can view the panel discussion [here](#) and [here](#).

A special Digest edition on Algeria is available [here](#).

ALGERIAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HELD MEETINGS AT CAPITOL HILL AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT

The Algerian delegation led by **Djamel Bouras**, Vice President of the Algerian National People's Assembly, held meetings with Senator **Jim Inhofe** (R-OK), Congressman **Joseph Kennedy** (D-MA), Congressman **John Conyers, Jr.** (D - MI), and Congressman **Sean Duffy** (R-WI).

The delegation also met with **John Desrocher**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Egypt and Maghreb Affairs at the State Department.



L-R: **Djamel Bouras**, VP APN (FLN Party); **Sedik Chiheb** (RND Party spokesperson), **John Desrocher** (U.S. State Department); **Madjid Bouguerra**, Ambassador of Algeria to the United States; **Hafida Benchahida**, Algerian Senator; **Abdelkrim Mehenni** (RND Party).



Algerian Senator **Hafida Benchahida** and Congressman **Joseph Kennedy** (D-MA).

EGYPT: MOVING FORWARD

Sasha Toperich met with **Tarek Kabil**, the Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry, in Cairo on February 12.

A new investment law, one that is more encouraging to FDI and investment, is currently in the Egyptian Parliament, and expected to pass by Spring 2017, Minister **Kabil** said. The Minister pointed out Egypt's attractiveness as a country that has FTA with many countries in the Middle East and Africa, and is committed to expanding these agreements.

By 2022, roughly 20 percent of Egypt's power supply will come from renewables, with many wind, solar, and hydro plants already in construction. In the last decade alone, Egypt has generated 50 percent of its entire electricity, and compared to the power shortages it suffered from just a few years ago, Egypt now has a surplus, Minister **Kabil** said.



Sasha Toperich met with **Mohamed Mousa Omran**, First Under-Secretary for Research, Planning, Authorities, and International Cooperation at the Ministry of Electricity. **Omran** noted the current power surpluses in Egypt, in large part due to the Siemens investment project of 14,400 KW. He explained the huge potential for renewables; while this industry now accounts for a mere 2 percent of total supply, the goal is to reach 20 percent by 2022. The current production stands at 40,000 GW, but is expected to reach 60,000 GW.



Sasha Toperich and Tarek Kabil, the Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry.

“Egypt registered 3.5 billion dollars in U.S. goods exports in 2016,” says Tarek Kabil, Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry

Solar plants are expected to add a total of 10,000 MW. In the first phase of the development project, 33 international and Egyptian developers are present.



Sasha Toperich and Mohamed Mousa Omran, First Under-Secretary for Research, Planning, Authorities, and International Cooperation.

Sasha Toperich also met with **Amr Nour El-Din**, Legal Advisor to the CEO of the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), at the GAFI headquarters.



"The new investment law will ease the process of doing business, making everything electronic, and virtually creating a one-stop-shop for potential investors," says Amr Nour El-Din (L), Legal Advisor to the CEO of GAFI.

Amr Nour El-Din talked in detail about the legal nature of investments into Egypt, and particularly in the nine Egyptian Free Zones (FZ). "The sales tax is 13 percent, there is no income tax, and the customs tax depends on the type of material produced," he said, noting that all land is rented and cannot be purchased, but while most leases are on a long-term basis (a high percentage of renters have been in the FZs since they were established in 1975).

El-Din explained that company registrations (one-stop-shops) will soon become electronic, and financial requirements for companies to register are expected to be lowered for joint stock companies (shareholding companies), from 250,000 dollars to roughly 15,000 dollars. For LLCs, there would be no capital requirements.



L-R: Dina Nawar, Tea Ivanovic, Sasha Toperich, Omar Mohanna, Dina Khayat.

Sasha Toperich, CTR-SAIS Senior Fellow and Director of the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East and Gulf Initiative, and **Tea Ivanovic**, CTR-SAIS Fellow, met with Egypt-U.S. Chamber of Commerce leadership, **Omar Mohanna**, **Dina Nawar**, and **Dina Khayat**, in Cairo.

"Renewables would be subject to a 2-3 percent customs duty, a 20-year commitment for wind projects, and 5 years for PP. New subsectors include wasteful energy and concentrated solar power (CSP)," says Mohamed Mousa Omran, First Under-Secretary for Research, Planning, Authorities, and International Cooperation.



The CTR-SAIS Delegation paid respect to the Unknown Soldier Memorial and the Anwar Sadat Tomb in Nasser City, Cairo, Egypt.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In Sarajevo, CTR-SAIS and the America-Bosnia Foundation (ABF) delegation led by **Sasha Toperich**, CTR-SAIS Director of the Mediterranean Basin, the Middle East, and the Gulf Initiative, met with **Matthew Field**, Head of the Political Section at the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and **Adnan Muminović**, Political Economic Advisor at the European Union Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina. **Mak Kamenica**, ABF Executive Director, **Dejan Radmilović**, ABF Project Manager, and **Tea Ivanovic**, CTR-SAIS Fellow attended the meeting.



L-R: **Dejan Radmilović**, ABF Project Manager; **Tea Ivanovic**, CTR-SAIS Fellow; **Matt Field**, Head of Political Section at the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Mak Kamenica**, ABF Executive Director.



Preparations for the *Vision 2020 Bosnia and Herzegovina: Towards Its European Future* publication and its book launches were discussed in effort to support ongoing socio-economic reforms in the country.

The Bosnian IT sector was featured in an op-ed article in the Huffington Post. You can read it [here](#).



Vision 2020 Bosnia and Herzegovina: Towards Its European Future.

DEJAN RADMILOVIĆ, ABF PROJECT MANAGER, SPEAKS AT PANEL ON CORRUPTION

Dejan Radmilović, Project Manager of the America-Bosnia Foundation, spoke at a conference titled, "Institutional corruption: is there a force that can oppose it?" in Sarajevo on March 19.



Dejan Radmilović, ABF Project Manager, speaks at a panel on corruption in Sarajevo.

"Corruption is not a problem limited to Bosnia and Herzegovina, but it affects our status in the eyes of the international community, where this problem is closely tied to our country. It is damaging us, and has already resulted in reduced activities with the EU. Considering BiH's efforts to join the Euro-Atlantic community, and to successfully respond to all the requirements set by the European Union, we cannot afford such a lack of confidence," **Radmilović** said.

"Some of the most important current activities, such as the reform agenda – which the America-Bosnia Foundation fully supports through its initiatives – cannot be implemented if we have constant setbacks posed by corruption. This problem is systematic, and it is represented in all areas of our society. The only solution is pressure from citizens, i.e., for them to start demanding their democratic and civil rights, along with 'pressure' coming from the international community," he added.

Radmilović stressed the effects on the local economy. "Needless to say, corruption gravely affects

the economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where international SMEs – which for us represent economic giants – view the country as extremely uncertain, and instead, we attract various types of precarious investors, who are only interested in short-term profits."

"We hope that there will soon be a change in consciousness, where concrete actions and solutions will be taken instead of creating new strategic and master plans that will never become reality. Difficult steps are ahead of us, but we are ready to take them. We, the America-Bosnia Foundation, will always support activities that will help us reach the goal of a European future," **Radmilović** concluded.



MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE IN TUNISIA SIGNS AN MOU WITH TURKU SCIENCE PARK

The MDI and The Loukil Holding signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Turku science park and the University of applied science in Turku. This event took place at the margins of the Finnish minister of Foreign Affairs', **Timo Soini**, visit to Tunisia. **Ghazi Ben Ahmed**, head of MDI, declared that this partnership will strengthen the capacities of MDI to train youth in the ICT sector, and to bring state of the art know-how and expertise in technology and innovation.



Angela Kontouli, responsible for the women platform within MDI, stated that Tunisia needs this type of partnership to boost job creation and private initiatives in ICT, strengthen the startup ecosystem, and develop joint research and projects.

ALGERIA TO LAUNCH 4,000 MW SOLAR ENERGY TENDER

Algeria will soon launch a tender for the development of 4,000 MW of solar energy. The tender may be divided into three-1,350 MW projects, opened for FDI in a joint venture structure with the government's Sonatrach and Sonelgaz as the offtake agreement, providing the client to plug into the grid, ensure a market price and not the subsidies price of the KWH.



DIGITAL ECONOMY AND DIPLOMACY DISCUSSED AT THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON D.C.

CTR-SAIS Fellow **Tea Ivanovic** joined a panel discussion on the digital economy, digital diplomacy, and transatlantic relations in the digital age, commemorating 60 years of the Treaty of Rome and EU Digital Day at the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C on March 23.



*L-R: **Andrea Glorioso**, the EU delegation to the U.S.; **Lauren Williams**, ThinkProgress; **Tea Ivanovic**, CTR-SAIS Fellow; and **Daniel Sepulveda**, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy.*

Speakers included **Mark Buell** of the Internet Society, **Andrea Glorioso** of the Delegation of the European Union in the United States, **Daniel Sepulveda**, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, and **Lauren Williams** of ThinkProgress, and **Tea Ivanovic**, CTR-SAIS Fellow. The conversation covered the rise and importance of social media, legal frameworks for the digital world, and the current transatlantic dialogue on cybercrime and unconventional warfare.

“Sixty years ago, in Rome, the foundations were laid for the Europe that we know today, ushering in the longest period of peace in written history in Europe. Even though 60 years is merely a glance from a historic perspective, it is the period with the largest sequential technological advances ever made. Social media has leveled out the playing field by allowing direct and equal communication - there are 140 characters in a tweet, regardless of who you are or what you do for a living. There is no discrimination in what can be put out to the world.

Digital platforms allow for bureaucrats, diplomats, and heads of state to instantly respond and connect with their constituencies,” **Ivanovic** said.

“At an unprecedented rate, we are facing unconventional types of warfare, often difficult to anticipate, predict and prevent as a number of recent terrorist attacks have showed. There is an alarming misunderstanding that it pays off to disseminate false information on the internet because justice follows years later. In order to upgrade the quality and professional distribution of information, an independent and efficient judiciary and stronger building of rule of law is an essential precondition in this respect,” **Ivanovic** concluded.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT OF AYLIN ÜNVER NOI AS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN TURKEY

Aylin Ünver Noi, CTR-SAIS Non-Resident Senior Fellow, was appointed Associate Professor on March 27 by a jury composed of Prof. **Ahmet Nuri Yurdusev** from the Middle East Technical University, Prof. **Erhan Şahap Büyükkakıncı** from Galatasaray University, and Prof. **Mesut Hakkı Caşın** from Özyeğin University.



Aylin Ünver Noi, CTR-SAIS Non-Resident Senior Fellow, and her colleagues.

SORAN UNIVERSITY IN IRAQI KURDISTAN OPENS A RESEARCH CENTER

According to the latest edition of Spain-based Webometrics Ranking List, which ranks universities worldwide, Soran University, our partner university, has maintained its third place in Kurdistan and eleventh place in Iraq. Webometrics updates its ranking twice a year.

The process is based on the publication of research papers in accredited and well-regarded peer reviewed journals, website activity and the posting of activities and documents from the university.

From a modest beginning in 2009, Soran University (SU) achieved remarkable progress in all areas of academic excellence; it is renowned for being the leading university in the Kurdistan Region, coming first in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) university rankings for the last two years, as well as remaining in a high position in the overall ranking for Iraq as a whole.



Since its early beginnings, SU has expanded drastically and now counts five faculties: Law, Arts, Science, Engineering, and Education, serving the needs of more than 3,000 students. Located in an area of important industrial development, the science departments of Soran university have gained a positive reputation for related science and engineering research in tandem with environmental research, with the recently opened Research Center for Natural Resources leading the way.

GROWING TIES BETWEEN CTR-SAIS AND EGYPT

During his May visit to Egypt, **Sasha Toperich**, CTR-SAIS Director of the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East, and the Gulf Initiative met with representatives of the business community and discussed investment and trade opportunities in Egypt. **Toperich** also met with Major-General **Muhammed el Khusky**, Assistant Minister for International Relations at the Ministry of Defense of Egypt.



*Sasha Toperich with Egyptian Member of Parliament **Dalia Youssef**, member of the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Education in the Egyptian Parliament. They discussed ways to further help grow the transatlantic relationship.*

On June 5, well-known Egyptian TV news anchor **Ossama Kamal** hosted **Sasha Toperich** at the prominent DMC TV in Cairo. They discussed U.S.-Egypt relations, regional political issues, and economic development.

You can watch the interview [here](#).

Sasha Toperich wrote an article for the Huffington Post, available [here](#).



*Sasha Toperich was a guest at Egypt's DMC TV show with anchor **Ossama Kamal**.*

SASHA TOPERICH MET WITH ABDULSALAM KAJMAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL IN LIBYA



Sasha Toperich (L) and Abdulsalam Kajman, Vice President of the Presidential Council in Libya.



CTR-SAIS NON-RESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW AYLIN ÜNVER NOI INTERVIEWED BY AZERI TODAY

Aylin Ünver Noi, CTR-SAIS Non-Resident Senior Fellow, was interviewed by Azeri Today on May 11.

Ünver Noi assessed the meeting of the President **Erdoğan** and President **Putin** held in Sochi and its effects on Turkey and the United States relations. She also evaluated Turkey-EU relations focusing on President **Erdoğan's** statements that "Turkey will abandon the EU if there is no progress in the negotiations on its accession to the EU," and "Turkey can hold a referendum on the need to join the European Union."



Finally, she evaluated Turkey's role in the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. She said that "Turkey has always supported Azerbaijan on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh in the framework of territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan."

The interview is available [here](#).

AYLIN ÜNVER NOI ATTENDS CONFERENCE ON MENARA PROJECT IN ISTANBUL

Aylin Ünver Noi, CTR-SAIS Non-Resident Senior Fellow attended a conference titled “Middle East and North Africa Regional Architecture: Mapping Geopolitical Shifts, Regional Order and Domestic Transformations,” organized by the Center for International and European Studies (CIES) at Kadir Has University, in partnership with the Center for Public Policy and Democracy Studies (PODEM). The conference was held on May 15th at Kadir Has University (Galata Auditorium) within the framework of the MENARA project.



The MENARA Project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program, and studies the geopolitical order in the making, identifies the driving forces behind it, sheds light on bottom-up dynamics, and assesses the implications of these processes on the EU and its policies towards the region. In order to do so, the MENARA Project poses a single all-encompassing question to help articulate a consistent and coherent research project: Will the geopolitical future of the region be marked by either centrifugal or centripetal dynamics, or a combination of both? The project includes three levels of analysis (domestic, regional and global).



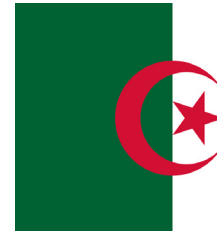
Aylin Ünver Noi, CTR-SAIS Non-Resident Senior Fellow, and Nathalie Tocci, Director of Istituto Affari Internazionali and Special Adviser to EU HRVP Federica Mogherini.

Eduard Soler Lecha, Senior Fellow of CIDOB and Scientific Coordinator of the MENARA project offered welcome remarks and a short overview about the initiative.

Nathalie Tocci, Director of Istituto Affari Internazionali and Special Adviser to EU HRVP **Federica Mogherini** kicked off the conference by speaking on behalf of those who drafted the European Security Strategy and are now working on its implementation. Experts from the region discussed “Politics of Identity in the MENA Region” and “the Geopolitical Risks in the MENA Region” during the two panels of the conference.

ALGERIA'S UPCOMING PARLIAMENTARIAN ELECTIONS INCLUDE 21 NEWLY FORMED POLITICAL PARTIES

Algeria Legislative Election are scheduled for this May, with 44 political parties participating, (21 newly created) for 462 Seats in the parliament. The three largest formations are the FLN, RDN, the Islamic coalition front, and the Democratic movement of the RCD-FFS Kabyle parties, along with the MPA, are the major contenders.



The party of former President **Bouteflika's** chief of staff and former Prime Minister **Ali Benflis**, "Talai El houryet" and the "Jil Jadid" party of **Sofiane Djilali**, announced a boycott of the elections.

CTR-SAIS CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF THE MARSHALL PLAN

The Center for Transatlantic Relations held a series of events celebrating 70 years since the announcement of the Marshall Plan – aid for the development of Europe following World War II.

Former Austrian President **Heinz Fischer**, Ambassador of the EU to the United States, **David O'Sullivan**, and former Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright** spoke at the Marshall Center in Leesburg, VA on June 5.



L-R: Daniel Hamilton, Günter Bischof, Wolfgang Petritsch, Janusz Reiter, and Karen Donfried.

On June 6, CTR-SAIS organized a panel discussion at the U.S. Congress, which included distinguished speakers such as Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation President **Wolfgang Petritsch**, and German Marshall Plan President **Karen Donfried**. Congressman **Don Beyer** (D-VA) provided opening remarks, noting the importance of Congress' approval of the Marshall Plan and its commitment to transatlantic prosperity.

CTR-SAIS Fellow **Tea Ivanovic** wrote about the event. It is available [here](#).

BOOK LAUNCH: THE TRANSATLANTIC DIGITAL ECONOMY IN 2017

Daniel Hamilton, CTR-SAIS Executive Director, wrote the first-ever comprehensive book publication on the transatlantic digital economy. The book was launched at the U.S Congress.



CTR Executive Director **Daniel Hamilton**.

In the context of today's debates about jobs, skills, digital divides, privacy, security, competitiveness, and changing economic fortunes.



Transatlantic Digital Economy 2017.

The Transatlantic Digital Economy 2017 provides key facts and figures about the United States and Europe in the digital world, with often counterintuitive connections with important implications for policymakers, business leaders, and local officials.

The book is available for download [here](#).

SASHA TOPERICH, CTR-SAIS SENIOR FELLOW, WRITES ABOUT U.S.-EGYPT RELATIONS FOR THE HILL

In an op-ed titled "US-Egyptian alliance is key to progress in the Middle East," **Sasha Toperich**, CTR-SAIS Senior Fellow, a contributor to The Hill, writes on the importance of strong U.S.-Egypt relations, and analyzes the meaning of a delegation of Egyptian members of parliament to Washington, the first in nine years.

Toperich argues that the visit is an opportunity for U.S. leaders in policy, government, and business to further the important dialogue started by President **Trump** and President **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi** on several key issues.



You can read the article [here](#).

CTR-SAIS NON-RESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW AYLIN ÜNVER NOI, WRITES “QUO VADIS, TRANSATLANTIC VALUES” FOR THE HUFFINGTON POST

In a Huffington Post article titled “Quo Vadis, Transatlantic Values?” CTR-SAIS Non-Resident Senior Fellow **Aylin Ünver Noi** points to recent developments that led to a divergence in understanding among the transatlantic alliances, with new approaches to regional groupings and regionalism.



You can read the article [here](#).

She explains this divergence within the framework of changes in economic policies that emerged as a result of the efforts to find a way out of the crisis and the global Keynesian resurgence. “Following the global financial crisis of 2008, a reapplication of a Keynesian model led to the argument that the Washington consensus was over, and that this in turn led to a return to embedded liberalism. States seemed to be more skeptical of free markets, and are choosing to focus more on domestic stability, seeking to promote local industries instead of focusing on attracting outside capital.” She concludes by asking what type of a new economic order the United States is envisioning, and what will be the role of its transatlantic partners in this emerging new economic order.

EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS VISIT WASHINGTON D.C.

For the first time in nine years, a delegation of 14 Egyptian parliamentarians visited Washington D.C. During their week-long stay, they met with a bipartisan cohort of U.S. members of Congress, ending their stay with a closed panel discussions at the Center for Transatlantic Relations – SAIS.



CTR-SAIS Senior Fellow **Sasha Toperich** wrote an article about their stay, available [here](#), and also an analytical piece about U.S.-Egypt relations, [here](#).

CTR-SAIS Fellow **Tea Ivanovic** interviewed MP **Dalia Youssef**, available [here](#).



For the first time in nine years, a delegation of 14 Egyptian parliamentarians visited Washington D.C.

CTR-SAIS VISITING FELLOW MARIETTE HÄGGLUND IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

CTR-SAIS Visiting Fellow **Mariette Hägglund** spent time in Iraqi Kurdistan, working with the Barzani Charity Foundation as part of a CTR-SAIS Mediterranean Basin Initiative project and WYLN.



WYLN Advisor **Mariette Hägglund** (Center-left) met with **Falah Mustafa** (Center-right), KRG Minister of Foreign Affairs.

She assisted with the CTR-SAIS Mediterranean Basin initiative book project on Iraqi Kurdistan, and met with the KRG Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Falah Mustafa**, and the KRG Minister of Planning, **Ali Sindi**.

Hägglund also helped deliver humanitarian aid in Mosul with the Barzani Charity Foundation during her working visit in Iraqi Kurdistan, as part of a CTR-SAIS Mediterranean Basin Initiative project and WYLN.



WYLN Advisor **Mariette Hägglund** helps deliver humanitarian aid in Mosul.



WYLN Advisor **Mariette Hägglund** in Mosul.

CTR-SAIS NON-RESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW, AYLIN ÜNVER NOI ATTENDS CONFERENCE IN MARSEILLE, FRANCE

On July 3-5, CTR-SAIS Non-Resident Senior Fellow, **Aylin Ünver Noi** attended “the Euro-Mediterranean Conference: Bringing together civil society, practitioners and researchers to prevent radicalization” organized by The FACM and UNISMED Foundation in Marseille, France.



The panel “What Synergy and Support between Actors on the Northern and Southern Shores of the Mediterranean to Stem the Phenomenon.”



CTR-SAIS Non-Resident Senior Fellow, **Aylin Ünver Noi** (R).

Ünver Noi gave a speech at the panel “What Synergy and Support between Actors on the Northern and Southern Shores of the Mediterranean to Stem the Phenomenon.”

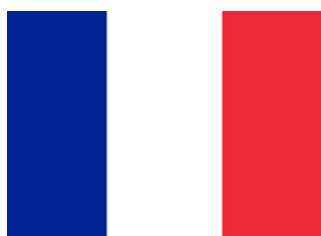
You can read more about the event [here](#).

Jean-Marc Borello, President of the SOS Group and private advisor of the French President, **Emmanuel Macron**, provided introductory remarks at the meeting. International experts took part in the debate, including Olivier Vanderhaegen, Head of the Mission to Prevent Radicalization among Young People, Molenbeek (Belgium); Assoc. Prof. **Aylin Ünver Noi**, CTR-SAIS Non-resident Senior Fellow and member of the ACM Foundation Advisory Council; **Enric Olivé -Serret**, Director, UNESCO Chair on the Mediterranean Cultural Dialogue and member of the ACM Foundation Advisory Council; **Sébastien Boussois**, Doctor of Political Science, expert of the Near East and collaborator of the FACM; and **Vicent Garcés**, President of the ACM Foundation and former member of the European Parliament.



AYLIN ÜNVER NOI ATTENDS MEDITERRANEAN CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY FOUNDATION (FACM) ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING IN PARIS, FRANCE

Aylin Ünver Noi, CTR-SAIS Non-Resident Senior Fellow and advisory council member of the FACM attended the FACM Advisory Council meeting held at the headquarters of the Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l'Homme Foundation (FPH) on n July 7-8 in Paris, France.



The FACM Advisory Council meeting was held at the headquarters of the Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l'Homme Foundation (FPH).

The meeting began with words by **Matthieu Calame**, director of the FPH, who, in an analysis of the geopolitical importance of the Mediterranean region today, encouraged Council members to continue their work. The Council thanked him for his hospitality and continued support for the activities of the FACM.

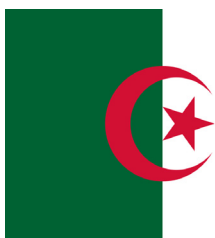
The Council welcomed the recent constitution of the Larache (Morocco) and Menton (France) citizens' constituencies, as well as the upcoming formation of the Ramallah (Palestine) and Algiers (Algeria) circles. Currently the FACM network already has twenty-six citizen circles in twenty countries in the Mediterranean region.

The Council is preparing the VII FACM meeting to be held in Casablanca (Morocco) in November 2017, under the title "Citizen conditions and means of action for peace and progress in the Mediterranean". This meeting, which will involve all the circles of the FACM, will allow us to address the great challenges in relation to Mediterranean citizenship and the integration of the region.

A declaration issued by the CC-FACM in which the members of the Council express their great concern due to the incidents in the Near East, the Gulf region, and the Riff. On the other hand, an appeal is being made to the citizens of the Mediterranean region to continue their struggle for justice, solidarity and freedom, essential pillars for the construction of a peaceful region and its development.

OFFICIAL RESTITUTION OF THE ALGERIAN “NATIONAL BUSINESS AGENDA”

On July 12, the official restitution of the Algerian “National Business Agenda,” sponsored by CIPE (Center for International Private Enterprise), Am-Cham, and CARE was held at the Hotel El Djazair, Algiers, Algeria.



The Document PREE (Programme de Reformes Economique pour l'Entreprise), or the Algerian National Business Agenda for a better Business Climate, was co-signed by 30 business supporting associations and more that 300 business leaders from all over the country.

The quarter evolution of each axis of reforms will be published online. You can view the reports [here](#).

This program is a novel way proposed to government and stakeholders to collaborate for the sake of improving Business climate and improve economic conditions to foster growth and employment for the young and growing population of Algeria.

You can view the conference [here](#).



Djamel-Eddine Bouabdallah, President of the CCIAE, Algerian-Spanish Chamber of commerce and Industry, and **Mehdi Bendimerad**, Vice-President of international relations for FCE, and CARE Member.



Slim Othmani, CARE President.

THE KURDISTAN REGION: STRATEGIC U.S. ALLY IN A TOUGH NEIGHBORHOOD

The Washington Times, in partnership with Kurdistan 24, hosted a conference in Washington D.C. on July 28 to explore and discuss the most important issues related to the upcoming referendum on Kurdish independence.

You can find more information about the event [here](#) and [here](#).



One of the panels during the full day event.



Tom McDevitt, Chairman of the board of directors of the Washington Times addressing the audience.

**The
Washington
Times**



SASHA TOPERICH WRITES FOR THE WASHINGTON TIMES, “KURDISTAN REGION: UNTAPPED ECONOMIC POTENTIAL”

In a special section on the September 25 Kurdish referendum on independence, **Sasha Toperich**, CTR-SAIS Senior Fellow and Director of the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East, and Gulf Initiative, writes on the future economic prospects of the Kurdistan Region, in his op-ed titled “Kurdistan Region: Untapped Economic Potential.” He describes the progressive investment laws, abundant natural resources, and governance transparency as predictors for increased economic growth in the years to come.

You can read the article [here](#).

**The
Washington
Times**

MOROCCO CELEBRATES THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF KING MOHAMMED VI ENTHRONEMENT

On July 31, the Embassy of Morocco in Washington D.C. organized a reception at the Hall of the Americas, on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the enthronement of His Majesty King **Mohammed VI**.



Princess **Lalla Joumala Alaoui**, the newly appointed Moroccan Ambassador to the United States, provided the welcome remarks.

The Princess previously served as her country’s ambassador to the United Kingdom, and was appointed in February 2016 to the embassy in Washington, D.C.



Princess Lalla Joumala Alaoui, the new Ambassador of Morocco to the U.S.

Morocco was one of the first countries to recognize the United States as an independent nation. U.S. Secretary of Commerce **Wilbur Ross** was in attendance with his wife **Hilary Geary**.

VP OF SORAN UNIVERSITY, NAHRO ZAGROS, AND CTR-SAIS FELLOW TEA IVANOVIC WRITE FOR THE CIPHER BRIEF

In light of the Kurdish referendum on independence, scheduled for September 25, 2017, CTR-SAIS Fellow **Tea Ivanovic** and Vice-President of Soran University, **Nahro Zagros**, wrote an analysis for The Cipher Brief.



The authors argue that due to its role as a key ally during and after the eventual defeat of the so-called Islamic State (ISIS), as well as its defense of democratic values such as tolerance and multiculturalism, an independent KRI would play a stabilizing role in a tumultuous Middle East.

You can read the article [here](#).

CTR-SAIS VISITING FELLOW MARIETTE HÄGGLUND JOINS PANEL DISCUSSION ON FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY

WYLN Advisor **Mariette Hägglund** participated in a panel discussion, discussing Finland's foreign policy, Islam, and the refugee crisis, in Helsinki, Finland. The two other panelists were **Nils Torvalds**, European Member of Parliament and Finnish presidential candidate, and **Mats Löfström**, Member of Parliament of Finland.

The panel discussion was hosted by the Swedish People's Party of Finland in light of the upcoming presidential elections in Finland in Spring 2018.



CTR-SAIS Visiting Fellow **Mariette Hägglund** (C).

REFORMS IN EGYPT AND BILATERAL US - EGYPT RELATIONS

Sasha Toperich met with Egyptian members of parliament, Dalia Youssef and Ibrahim Hegazy, to discuss reforms in Egypt and bilateral US - Egypt relations.



L-R: **Sasha Toperich**, CTR-SAIS Director of the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East, and the Gulf Initiative; **Dalia Youssef**, Egyptian MP; and **Ibrahim Hegazy**, Egyptian MP.

SASHA TOPERICH AT EGYPTIAN DMC TV SHOW WITH PROMINENT ANCHOR OSSAMA KAMAL

During a two hour-long TV show, the guests discussed Egyptian President **el-Sisi** and U.S. President **Trump**'s address at the UN General Assembly. **Sasha Toperich**, CTR-SAIS Director of the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East, and the Gulf Initiative joined an Egypt MP, AmCham representative, and former ambassador and assistant minister of Foreign Affairs. The Egyptian Foreign Minister joined in live from New York.



Guests of **Ossama Kamal** during his popular show on DMC TV.



L-R: **Sasha Toperich**, **Dalia Youssef**, and TV anchor **Ossama Kamal**.



SASHA TOPERICH MEETS WITH EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS

During his visit to Cairo, **Sasha Toperich**, CTR-SAIS Director of the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East, and the Gulf Initiative, met with government and religious leaders.

Toperich was interviewed by the Egyptian Youm7. The interview (in Arabic), is available [here](#).

Toperich wrote on U.S.-Egypt bilateral relations for The Hill, available [here](#).



Sasha Toperich and Tarek El - Molla (R), Egyptian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.



Sasha Toperich and His Eminence Shawki Allam, the Grand Mufti of Egypt.



Sasha Toperich and Pope Tawadros II, the 118th and current Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark.

EGYPT: A PATH FORWARD

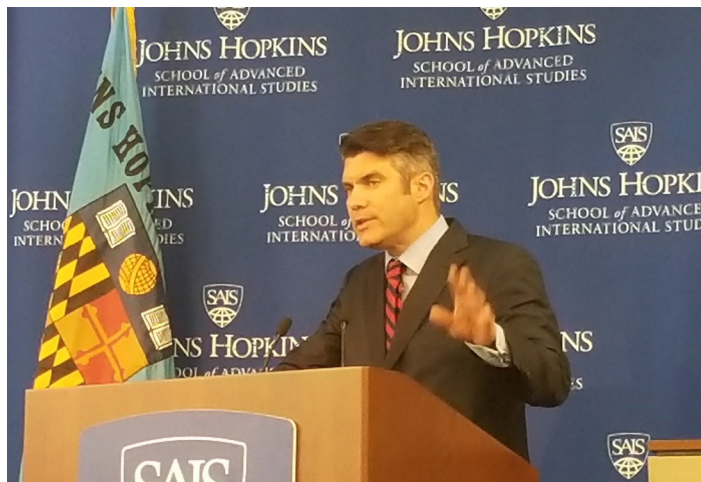
Congressman **Jeff Fortenberry** (R-NE), **Shafik Gabr**, renowned businessman and Chairman of Shafik Gabr Foundation, and **Mark Kimmitt**, U.S. Brigadier General (ret.) and former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Political - Military Affairs discussed Egypt and bilateral relations.

Daniel Hamilton, CTR SAIS Executive director delivered opening remarks. **Sasha Toperich**, CTR SAIS Senior Fellow and Director of the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East, and Gulf countries Initiative, moderated the panel. The event was part of the annual East-West: The Art of Dialogue Fellowship program sponsored by the Gabr Foundation.

To learn more about the East-West Dialogue, see [here](#).



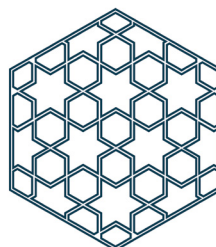
L-R: **Sasha Toperich**, Director of the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East, and Gulf countries Initiative; **Shafik Gabr**, Chairman of Shafik Gabr Foundation; and Congressman **Jeff Fortenberry** (R-NE).



Andy Branner, WYLN Mediterranean Basin Fellow provided the closing remarks.



L-R: **Shafik Gabr**, Chairman of Shafik Gabr Foundation; Congressman **Jeff Fortenberry** (R-NE); and **Mark Kimmitt**, U.S. Brigadier General (ret.) and former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Political - Military Affairs.

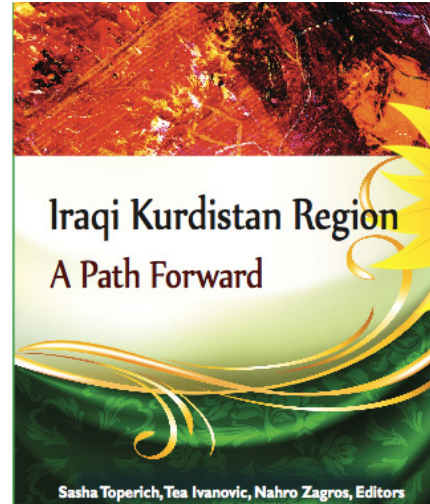


The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

BOOK LAUNCH: IRAQI KURDISTAN: A PATH FORWARD IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

CTR-SAIS launched *Iraqi Kurdistan: A Path Forward* on September 12. Ahead of the referendum on independence on September 25, this edited volume features respected authors and experts who elaborate on important issues and shed light on the vibrant dynamics of this emerging democracy.

Sasha Toperich, CTR-SAIS Senior Fellow and Director of the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East, and Gulf Initiative, provided the welcome remarks.



L-R: Nahro Zagros, Eric Brown, Brendan O'Leary, and Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman.

The panelists were **Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman**, KRG Representative to the United States; **Brendan O'Leary**, Lauder Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania; and **Eric Brown**, Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute.

Nahro Zagros, Vice President of Soran University, moderated the panel.

More information about the book launch is available [here](#).

The book is available for download or purchase [here](#).

CTR-SAIS Fellow **Tea Ivanovic** conducted an interview with KRG representative **Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman**, available [here](#).



BOOK LAUNCH: VISION 2020: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TOWARDS ITS EUROPEAN FUTURE IN SARAJEVO, BIH

CTR-SAIS launched *Vision 2020: Bosnia and Herzegovina Towards Its European Future* in Sarajevo on October 3.

The ambassadors of the United States, the European Union, the UK, and Germany delivered opening remarks in support of the reform processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The one day conference included three panel discussions:

“Reform Agenda: Where Are We Today and What Are The Next Steps?” with **Fadil Novalić**, Prime Minister of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Jelka Miličević**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and **Goran Miraščić**, Member of the Economic Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Panel was moderated by **Matthew Field**, Head of Political, EU Special Representative Office / EU Delegation in BiH.

“Improving the Economy, Banking and IT Sectors”, with **Edin Karabeg**, CEO, Sberbank BiH, **Artur Turemka**, General Manager, Balkans, Mastercard and **Armin Talić**, Executive Director, Bit Alliance. **Mak Kamenica**, Deputy Chief of Party, USAID Energy Investment Activity (USAID EIA) moderated the panel.



Maureen Cormack, Ambassador of the United States to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, Head of EU Delegation to BiH and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“Reforms: Civil Society Perspective” with **Sanela Klarić**, Provost International Burch University and President Green Council, **Ajka Baručić**, Kult Institute, **Adis Arapović**, Programme Manager, the Centers of Civic Initiatives (CCI), **Srdan Blagovčanin**, Chair of BoD, Transparency International BiH. Panel was moderated by **Dejan Radmilović**, Project Manager of the America-Bosnia Foundation.

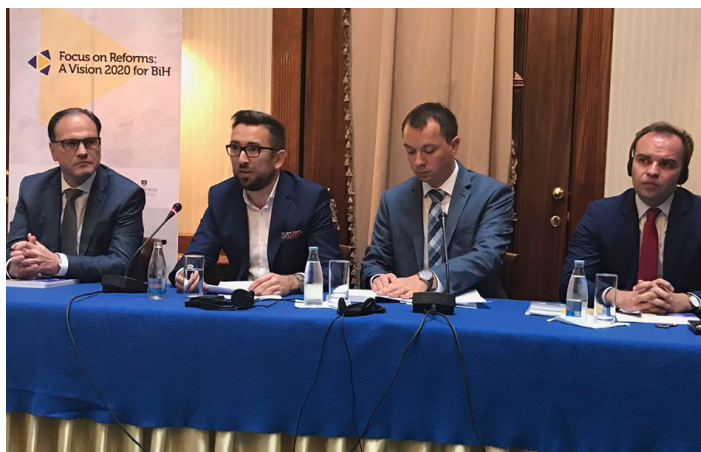
The book is available for download or purchase [here](#).



Christine Constanze Hohmann, German Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Mak Kamenica, Executive Director of the America-Bosnia Foundation, organized the event.



L-R: Edin Karabeg, Armin Talić, Mak Kamenica, and Artur Turemka.



L-R: Goran Mirašić, Darko Milunović, Matt Field, Jelka Miličević, and Fadil Novalić.



L-R: Adis Arapović, Ajka Baručić, Dejan Radmilović, and Sanela Klarić.



The books were available for purchase at the event.

VISION 2020: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BOOK LAUNCH IN LONDON

On October 9, the London School of Economics (LSE) hosted the book launch of *Vision 2020: Bosnia and Herzegovina Towards its European Future* (CTR/Brookings, 2017). **Adnan Muminović**, Political Economic Advisor, EU Special Representative in BiH, **Michael Pugh**, Emeritus Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Bradford and **Vesna Bojičić-Dzelilović**, Civil Society and Human Security Research Unit at LSE chaired the event. **Sasha Toperich** delivered the welcoming remarks.

More information about the book launch is available [here](#).



L-R: Adnan Muminović, Michael Pugh, and Vesna Bojičić-Dzelilović.



Sasha Toperich with Branko Nešković, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Kingdom, who attended the LSE book launch.

SASHA TOPERICH PARTICIPATES AT CONFERENCE IN WILTON PARK

Sasha Toperich participated at the closed conference "Security, the Western Balkans and the UK: working together to address shared challenges" at Wilton Park (UK), from October 18-20, organized by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Wilton Park.



CTR-SAIS SENIOR NON-RESIDENT FELLOW AYLIN ÜNVER NOI WRITES ABOUT PESCO FOR ANADOLU AGENCY

“The transatlantic alliance between the U.S. and Europe, which was formed around common values and norms 70 years ago, did not only contribute to ending the conflict, integration, and peace, but has also brought the two sides closer together, shaping transatlantic relations and establishing a liberal international order based on cooperative security, economic openness, democratic solidarity, and multilateral institutions,” writes **Ünver Noi** in her article for the Turkish Anadolu Agency.



The article is available [here](#).

CTR-SAIS SENIOR NON-RESIDENT FELLOW AYLIN ÜNVER NOI IN AN INTERVIEW WITH EURASIA EXPERT



CTR-SAIS Senior Non-Resident Fellow Aylin Ünver Noi in an interview with Eurasia Expert titled “Ankara wants to get Russian technologies of air defense systems: Turkish expert” (Анкара хочет получить российские технологии систем ПВО – турецкий эксперт).

The interview (in Russian) is available [here](#).

CTR-SAIS SENIOR NON-RESIDENT FELLOW AYLIN ÜNVER NOI QUOTED IN AN ARTICLE FOR ARAB NEWS

CTR-SAIS Senior Non-Resident Fellow Aylin Ünver Noi was quoted in the article titled “Turkey threatens to scrap refugee deal over Kurdish role in Syria peace talks,” in Arab News.



The Middle East's Leading English Language Daily

The article is available [here](#).

2017 TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC FORUM

The 5th annual Transatlantic Economic Forum saw government, private sector, and media representatives from 15 countries of the wider Mediterranean, Middle East, and the Gulf.

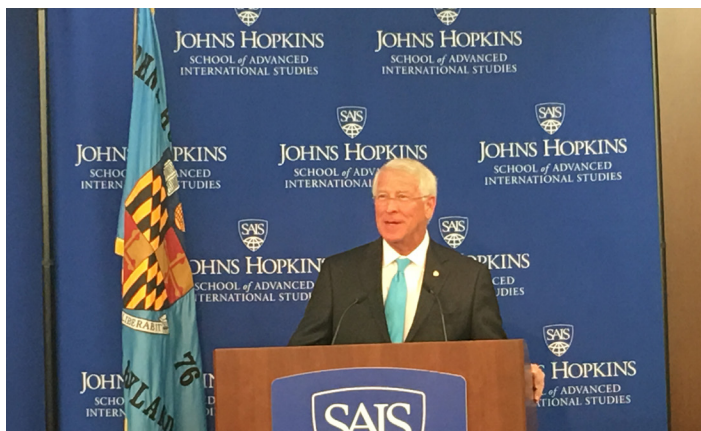
A special edition digest about the 2017 Transatlantic Economic Forum is available [here](#).



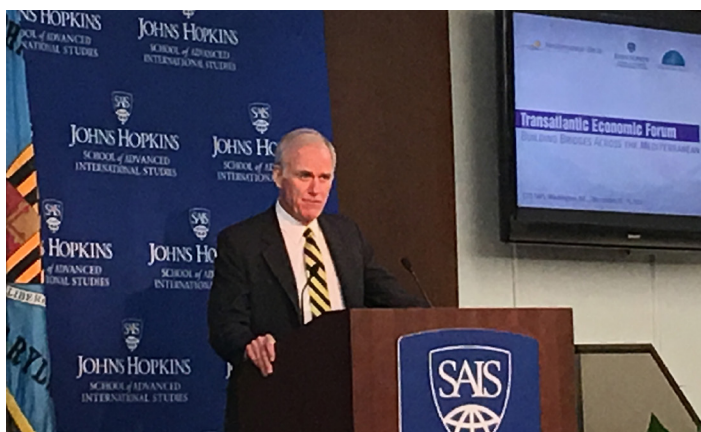
Amanda Bennett, VOA Director.



Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT).



Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS).



Richard Spencer, U.S. Secretary of the Navy.



L-R: **András Simonyi**, CTR-SAIS Managing Director; **Mahieddine Taleb**, Advisor to CEO, Sonatrach, (Algeria) accepting for **Abdelmoumen Ould Kaddour**, CEO, Sonatrach, (Algeria); **Steve Lutes**, Vice President for the Middle East, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; **Ali Haddad**, CEO, ETRHB Haddad Group (Algeria), 2016 Awardee; **Omar A. Bahlaiwa**, President, Optimum Business Consulting Bureau (OBCB), Member of the board of the Committee for International Trade (CIT), (Saudi Arabia); **Omar A. Mohanna**, Chairman, Suez Cement Group of Companies, (Egypt); **Kocho Angjushev**, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, accepting for **Zoran Zaev**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Macedonia; **Sasha Toperich**, Director of the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East and Gulf Initiative, CTR-SAIS.

Transatlantic Economic Forum

BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN

CTR-SAIS SENIOR NON-RESIDENT FELLOW AYLIN ÜNVER NOI WRITES ABOUT TURKEY-U.S. RELATIONS FOR TURKISH ANADOLU AGENCY

CTR-SAIS Senior Non-Resident Fellow Aylin Ünver Noi analyzes Turkey-U.S. relations and stresses “There is an increasing need to rebuild trust and solidarity among the transatlantic partners before it is too late.”

The article is available [here](#).



AYLIN ÜNVER NOI TV PROGRAM “MIDDLE EAST” ON A HABER CHANNEL



CTR-SAIS Senior Non-Resident Fellow Aylin Ünver Noi appeared on the Turkish TV program “Middle East” on the A Haber Channel.

You can view the program (in Turkish) [here](#).

CTR-SAIS SENIOR NON-RESIDENT FELLOW AYLIN ÜNVER NOI WAS INTERVIEWED ABOUT TURKEY-EU RELATIONS FOR TURKISH MEMLEKET

The interview (in Turkish) is available [here](#).



ANDY BRANER JOINS CTR-SAIS AS A MEDITERRANEAN BASIN FELLOW

Andy is the President and CEO of KIVU, an international student organization helping students “Discover their Vocation in a Global Community.” The KIVU Gap Year is an international school located in Denver, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. The primary goal of KIVU is to teach and train high school and university students to engage in their chosen profession through internships in a global context. Andy is an internationally recognized speaker and trainer for youth. He has written five books on youth culture, and has over 20 years of experience working with youth.



Andy Braner (L), President of KIVU, WYLN and Mediterranean Basin Fellow, hands over the Mediterranean Basin Award to Congressman **Jeff Fortenberry** (R-NE).

Read more about Andy [here](#).

CTR-SAIS SENIOR NON-RESIDENT FELLOW AYLIN ÜNVER NOI ON A SETA PANEL IN ISTANBUL

SETA Istanbul organized a panel on “the United States National Security Strategy 2017” on December 21, 2017. The moderator was **Hüseyin Alptekin** from SETA, and panelists were Prof. **Çağrı Erhan** from Altınbas University, CTR-SAIS Senior Non-resident Fellow and Assoc.Prof. **Aylin Ünver Noi**, and Assoc.Prof. **Hasan Basri Yalcin** from SETA.

Ünver Noi compared and evaluated the U.S. National Security Strategy (2017) and the Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy for the European Union (2016).

More on this panel is available [here](#).



The panelists discussed “the 2017 United States National Security Strategy.”

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THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN INITIATIVE

The Mediterranean Basin Initiative was launched in 2013 by the Center for Transatlantic Relations (CTR) at the Johns Hopkins University - School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

The Initiative brings together policy makers, academics, the private sector, civil society activists, and women in leadership from the United States, the European Union, and the countries of Southeast Europe and North Africa in a collaborative, issue-focused framework built around the themes of stronger transatlantic economic cooperation, empowering civil society and women in leadership, and political and academic dialogue throughout the Mediterranean.

