

INVITATION

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AFTER THE NUCLEAR DEAL

Potential Partner or Strategic Threat?

Panel Discussion

Wednesday, 10 February 2016, 6.00–8.00 pm
Hotel Mandarin Oriental Munich
Neuturmstraße 1, 80331 Munich

On 16 January 2016, after years of difficult international negotiations on Iran's nuclear program, the United Nations, the United States, and the European Union lifted their sanctions against the regime in Tehran. This step was taken after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported Iran's full compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, an agreement reached between the P5+1 and Iran in July 2015. Accordingly, Iran has reduced both its stockpile of enriched uranium and the number of centrifuges in use.

The lifting of the sanctions symbolizes a significant rapprochement between the international community and Iran regarding a highly controversial issue. However, numerous areas of conflict remain. In Syria, Iran backs the Assad regime, while Western and Arab states support oppositional forces and almost unanimously agree that Assad has to leave power. Although Iran is part of the anti-DAESH coalition, the Islamic Republic's vision of Syria and Iraq's future is utterly different from that of the Western state community and their partners in the Middle East. Iran's exertion of influence in Bahrain, Lebanon, Palestine, and Yemen concerns both Western governments and their regional allies.

This panel discussion will shed light on the following questions: Is the end of the sanction regime a first step towards normalization of relations between the Western state community and Iran? Is Iran a potential partner – economically, politically or even with respect to questions of regional security and stability? Will the expected economic recovery strengthen moderate forces in Tehran and reshape Iran's foreign policy in the long run? Or will those who warn of an Iranian wolf in sheep's clothing be proven right after all?

PROGRAM

Wednesday, 10 February 2016

06.00 pm **Arrival**

06.15 pm **Welcoming and Opening Remarks**

06.30 pm **Panel Discussion**

Colonel (ret.) Tim Collins, OBE

CEO, New Century Consulting

Prof. Dr. Reinhard C. Meier-Walser

Director, Academy for Politics and Current Affairs, Hanns Seidel Foundation

Dr. Walter Posch

Analyst, Austrian National Defense Academy

Dr. René Rieger

Chairman, MEIA Research

Moderation:

Dr. Helmut Pisecky

Austrian Society for Policy Analysis

08.00 pm **Reception in the Foyer**

The Austrian Society for Policy Analysis, MEIA Research, and the Karl-Theodor-Molinari-Stiftung would greatly appreciate your presence at the event.

Due to limited capacity, we kindly ask for your registration
by 5 February 2016 via email to iran2016@meia-research.org