
Presentation Press Conference of the Middle East Mediterranean Summer Summit 2018

Lugano, May 22, 2018 – The first edition of the Middle East Mediterranean (MEM) Summer Summit, organized by Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) will take place from 16 to 26 August 2018, in Lugano, Switzerland.

This event enjoys the joint support of Ignazio Cassis, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, and of Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic.

The international event will gather 150 young participants from 30 countries of the Middle East Mediterranean region and Europe, as well as high-level political authorities, intellectuals, and business leaders to discuss and propose solutions for dialogue and growth in the region.

The two-phased programme includes a Seminar (16-24 August) for the young participants and a Forum (25-26 August), bringing together high-level speakers with young change-makers. This model of encounter, heterogeneous and trans-generational, is innovative and promotes effective dialogue between people who do not usually have the opportunity to be in contact.

The press conference will begin at 11h30 on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at Villa Ciani in Lugano (Sala degli Specchi, Palazzo dei Congressi, Piazza Indipendenza 4) with the following speakers:

- **Boas Erez**, Rector of Università della Svizzera italiana
- **Gilles Kepel**, Director Chaire Moyen Orient Méditerranée (MOM), ENS - Paris Science et Lettres, Scientific Director Middle East Mediterranean (MEM) Freethinking Platform, Università della Svizzera italiana
- **Marco Borradori**, Mayor of Lugano
- **Manuele Bertoli**, State Councillor of the Canton Ticino.

Journalists interested in attending the press conference please confirm by e-mail at: MEMpress@usi.ch

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