

# EuroArab Forum

PROMOTING INNOVATIVE AND INVENTIVE IDEAS

“A New European Parliament: New Euro-Arab Relations? A conservative and a progressive perspective in debate”

A collection of reactions from participants

**Andy C. :**

“I enjoyed the meeting and thought there was an interesting discussion. I wrote a short article on the Sudan/Bashir aspect:

<http://www.andycarling.com/2009/03/waltzing-without-bashir/>

I subscribe to your google calendar and will try to get to more meetings, please feel free to add my email to any mailing list you have.”

**Isabel M.:**

“Regarding the debate from the 17th March, I must say that I enjoyed being there. I am quite interested in the EU's position towards other major powers, such as China/Asia, America or in this case Arabia. I think you had some good representatives invited and the moderator did likewise a very good job. The only thing I found quite surprising was the direction the discussion went into after a few minutes. I somehow expected the discussion to be more general meaning that I would have liked to have a few more information about the current status quo; where Europe stands regarding Arabia, what steps are being taken by the EU to approach Arabia etc. I had the feeling that the discussion started right away with one of the most critical subjects that can be discussed in terms of EU and Arabia. Namely the topic of genocide in Dafur, the violation of human rights and "organizations" such as Hezbollah or Hamas in the Arab world. Of course it is more than crucial to discuss these topics however, to start right away with these focal points might not be the best idea as people tend to get very emotional (as you have seen). I would have been likewise interested to get to know more about the relations of Europe and Arabia in terms of industry and economy. Should my feedback sound all too negative, it is not meant in this way. I enjoyed it and would attend further discussions in case you are planning to do so.”

**Salwa M.:**

“Regarding reporting the event ... actually I didn't write something ... but I did that on air phone call with the TV channel I told you about ...

In addition, I would like to do a report about your forum and the different youth initiatives sponsored by the parliament ...”

**Seyhan S.:**

“Tuesday's session was really interesting for me and I have to admit I have first time taken part in the conference of a group for Europe and Arab world.

But as it was noted during the session, maybe you might rather focus on transformation of the governance models, its possibility and therefore the likely improvement of Euro Arab relation, maybe for a better expression I should say, how the EU best help Arab world for conflict resolution, what are the requirements or circumstances expected to ease the reconciliation, or calming down of the whole peninsula.

Any way, they have been some questions in my mind when the work comes to the Middle East and Mediterranean, where a high percentage of Arab population is present and are in close relations with Europe, but those countries are in need of reconciling their culture with the European ones, I mean democracy, human rights, good governance etc.”

**Yasmine M. :**

“I was really glad to participate to your event.

It indeed gives a global picture on the Middle East geopolitics as seen by the EU. It opens doors for further debates and gives exposure within the EU to the situation in the region. It also allows for a short however intense dialogue between EU representatives and the public.

You might consider organising more debates of the sort that would be longer, go deeper in the analysis of the situation, inviting experts and speakers to share their thoughts and views.

I was particularly happy to meet you and your team. I respect and admire your initiative and encourage you for the future.

I hope I get the chance to contribute to your work and future projects.”