



INVITATION

The International Institute for Peace (IIP) in cooperation with the Press and Communication Office of the Embassy of Greece in Vienna cordially invites you to the upcoming talk on:

New challenges for European democracies and identities - A Greek-Mediterranean perspective

- Date:** Thursday, 21st of March 2019
- Time:** 6:00 pm
- Venue:** International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/II, 1040 Vienna, Austria
- Registration:** <https://www.iipvienna.com/registration/>



Welcome:

- **Konstantinos Prokakis**, First Counselor for Communication, Head of the Press and Communication Office of the Embassy of Greece in Vienna.
- **Stephanie Fenkart**, Director of the International Institute for Peace (IIP).

Talk with:

- **Hannes Swoboda**, President of the International Institute for Peace (IIP), former MEP.
- **Konstantinos Douzinas**, President of the Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign Affairs of the Greek Parliament.

Content:

During the last decade Greece has been a hot spot for European politics under a variety of perspectives. The country has passed through a double crisis due to the financial turbulences and the imposed austerity policies after 2010, on the one hand, and the overwhelming flux of refugees and asylum seekers after 2015, on the other hand. Most recently, Greece has attracted the attention of the international community due to the ratification of the so called Prespa Agreement, which settled the 27-year dispute between North Macedonia and Greece regarding the name of the former Yugoslav Republic. This fact was also welcomed positively as a good practice to settle other conflicts (e.g. Kosovo-Serbia) in the Balkan region.

In this context, Greece represents an exception in the current political trend in Europe that has shown the rising of nationalist and illiberal populist movements. The country is governed since 2015 by a coalition led by Syriza. Konstantinos Douzinas is a member of Syriza, a Greek MP and President of the Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign Affairs of the Greek Parliament. He is also a scholar, Professor of law and Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at the University of London. In this sense, he defines himself as an “accidental politician”, unexpectedly catapulted from academia into politics.

A discussion with him will allow the audience to tackle a series of crucial issues such as the role of the political forces in Europe and their prospects in the light of new elections for the European Parliament; but also issues related to migration and integration and the lessons learned from the Greek paradigm. Moreover, it will be discussed whether the Prespa agreement can work as a good practice for other disputes in the Balkan region.

The Discussion will be held in English.

The IIP and the Press and Communication Office of the Embassy of Greece in Vienna invite to snacks, Greek delicacies and drinks after the event!

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