



# Watch List 2020

## 2020 WATCH LIST VIRTUAL POLICY DIALOGUE

Wednesday 25 - Thursday 26 November 2020

On Zoom (Central European Time)

Crisis Group invites you to join the annual Watch List Policy Dialogue, a series of roundtables discussing international crises, the drivers of hostility and causes of instability, and policy options to prevent, mitigate and help solve deadly conflicts.

After three editions with participation limited to European policy makers, Crisis Group's Watch List Policy Dialogue will be open to policy practitioners, regional experts and diplomats working on peace and security from the European Union and its member states, civil society and international organisations.

This year, the dialogue will take place virtually over two days and will gather participants around five short and dynamic panel discussions on Kosovo/Serbia, Libya, the Sahel, Turkey, and the economic impact of COVID-19 in Latin America. Drawing from the analyses and recommendations presented in Crisis Group's yearly issues of the EU Watch List – the [Watch List 2020](#), and its [May](#) and [September](#) 2020 updates – Crisis Group analysts and expert panellists will discuss how the EU can play a stronger role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and address key policy challenges to generate stronger prospects for peace.

The event will be streamed live on [Crisis Group's Youtube Channel](#). Below you will find a draft agenda with the topics of each session.

## AGENDA

### Day 1 - Wednesday, 25 November 2020

14h45-  
15h00  
(CET)

#### After COVID-19: The EU role in strengthening global peace



**Richard Atwood**  
Chief of Policy,  
Crisis Group



**Hilde Hardeman**  
Director and Head of  
Service, FPI,  
European  
Commission



**Stefano Tomat**  
Director, Integrated  
Approach for  
Security and Peace,  
EEAS



**Giuseppe Famà**  
Head of EU  
Affairs,  
Crisis Group

15h00-  
16h00  
(CET)

#### Session I: The EU and Turkish foreign policy ambitions - at odds?

Ankara's foreign policy ambitions have been on the rise for a decade. Since 2016, Turkey's role has become even more relevant and problematic for the EU, from Syria to Libya, and most recently in Eastern Mediterranean and **Azerbaijan**. Tensions in the **Eastern Mediterranean** particularly have prompted a major debate in the Council over the effectiveness of their policy and tools to contain the escalation with Ankara.

The aim of this panel will be to 1) provide a domestic perspective of the Turkish foreign policy drive 2), assess tension points in the region, and 3) address which incentives and disincentives can the EU offer to mitigate tensions with Ankara.

#### Speakers



**Nigar Göksel**  
Turkey Project  
Director,  
Crisis Group



**Ioannis Grigoriadis**  
Senior Research  
Fellow, ELIAMEP



**Zaur Shiryev**  
South Caucasus  
Analyst  
Crisis Group



**Ilke Toygür**  
Turkey Fellow,  
CATS/SWP



**Moderator  
Olga Oliker**  
ECA Program  
Director  
Crisis Group

16h00-16h15 (CET) - **Short break**

16h15-  
17h30  
(CET)

#### Session II: Seven years on: How can the EU help stabilise the Sahel?

The Sahel remains a test case for the EU foreign policy, all the more since Brussels and member states have been engaged on almost all fronts, from security to development and humanitarian relief. Yet, the rise of intercommunal violence, especially in the centre of Mali, does not tell a good story about their impact, mostly due to an excessive

emphasis on security initiatives. The coup in Mali, as well as the elections in Burkina Faso and Niger all risk putting strain on an already underserved region in terms of governance, security, and development. But did the EU engagement on all fronts yield the expected results?

What role can the EU play to uphold governance reforms while continuing to work on the security front? Are these two goals even compatible at present? How can the new EU regional strategy ensure a more balanced support to governance and what tools should the EU use to help stabilise the Sahel?

#### Speakers



**Joanne Adamson**  
Deputy SRSG,  
MINUSMA



**Angel Losada**  
EUSR for  
the Sahel



**Jean-Hervé Jezequel**  
Project Director  
Sahel, Crisis Group



**Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim**  
Sahel Analyst,  
Crisis Group



**Moderator  
Comfort Ero**  
Africa Program  
Director,  
Crisis Group

## Day 2 - Thursday, 26 November 2020

14h30-  
14h45  
(CET)

### Welcome



**Giuseppe Famà**  
Head of EU  
Affairs,  
Crisis Group

14h45-  
15h45  
(CET)

### Session III: Can the EU do more to help end the Libyan conflict?

A tenuous ceasefire in Libya is holding, averting, for the moment, a flareup in the military confrontation between forces loyal to the Government of National Accord (GNA) and those headed by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar. But the lull in fighting could be short-lived if Libya's rival factions fail to reach a political settlement that would unify the country's divided institutions, including its military, as well as a durable agreement on the management of oil revenues.

What role could the EU and its member states play to usher the Libyan parties toward common ground? Could they do more to help end the Libyan conflict, given the competing interests of Turkey, Russia, Egypt, Qatar and the UAE that are being played out in Libya, and in light of the EU's own internal rifts?

#### Speakers



**Ghassan Salamé**  
Former SRSG of the UN, and Head of UNSMIL



**Claudia Gazzini**  
Libya Analyst  
Crisis Group



**Moderator Joost Hiltermann**  
MENA Program Director  
Crisis Group

**15h45-15h50 (CET) - Short break**

**15h50-16h50 (CET)**

**Session IV: Increasing the odds of a successful EU mediation between Kosovo and Serbia.**

While Kosovo and Serbia have been at peace since 1999, the unresolved dispute over the former's independence remains a source of instability in the Western Balkans. A central question remains the EU Council position on the issue of mutual recognition, all the more given that five EU member states do not recognise Kosovo to date. Amid a highly polarised environment, after an 18-month lull in the EU-facilitate dialogue, contacts between the two parties restarted.

Potential solutions remain controversial, but leaders in Belgrade and Pristina seem more open to discuss controversial alternatives such as more regional autonomy or territorial exchange.

How can the EU enhance the odds of a successful mediation leading to mutual recognition? What are the main hurdles? What is the intersection with Euro-Atlantic prospects in both countries?

**Speakers**



**Engjellushe Morina**  
Senior Policy Fellow, ECFR



**Marko Prelec**  
Consultant  
Western Balkans, Crisis Group



**Naim Rashiti**  
Executive Director,  
Balkans Policy Research Group



**Moderator Alissa de Carbonnel**  
ECA Deputy Program Director,  
Crisis Group

**16h50-17h00 (CET) - Short Break**

**17h00-18h00 (CET)**

**Session V: The Economic Fallout of COVID-19 in Latin America: what challenges for regional stability?**

With 1.7 million refugees, the continuing war, and a polarized political arena, Colombia has already faced significant challenges before counting nearly a million COVID-19 infections. In Central America, the pandemic aggravates its challenges, including predatory criminal gangs and vulnerable migrants. Mexico too has felt the brunt of the pandemic, as criminal gangs are consolidating their hold. These are just some examples of Latin American countries that face increasingly difficult challenges due to the health crisis.

This panel will analyse the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Latin American security crises, with special regard to the contributions the EU can make to improve the situation.

### Speakers



**Ana María Tribin**  
Public Policy Specialist, UNDP



**Ivan Briscoe**  
Latin America Program Director, Crisis Group



**Moderator Renata Segura**  
Latin America Deputy Program Director, Crisis Group

**18h00-18h10 (CET)**

### Conclusions



**Elissa Jobson**  
Director of Global Advocacy, Crisis Group