



Conference European Foreign Policy ASSESSING EU'S ROLE IN THE WORLD

[Jose Lamego](#), Member of Portuguese Parliament and former Secretary of State: *[The Relations between EU and The Middle East](#)*

Abstract

The European Union plays a relatively modest role in the different political crisis scenarios in the Middle East. It acts mainly as a "soft power" and a donor. The Middle East is also a political arena where the type of relationship between the EU and the United States is defined, at least at the level of the popular perception. The regional powers (Egypt, Saudi Arabia) are nowadays bringing a positive contribution in the field of crisis management, mainly in the relationship between Israel and Palestine