



Conference 24th November 2016

Book Launch “Eurasia e Jihadismo”

On November 24th the EU-Gulf Information Centre has hosted in its headquarters in Rome an important book launch and debate called “Eurasia and Jihadism”. During this event, experts from various fields talked about how the region between Europe and Asia has become a strategic crossway for terrorist and criminal activities. Most of the speakers were also author of chapters of the book “Eurasia e Jihadismo”, launched in the same event.

The speakers were: Matteo Bressan, editor of the volume and analyst at the NATO Defence College Foundation, prof. Romeo Orlandi, an expert on China and Vice President of the Association Italia-ASEAN, Claudio Bertolotti, an analyst focused on central Asia, and Vincenzo Tuzi, a Colonel from the Guardia di Finanza, focused on disrupting criminal activities that fund terrorist groups.

The debate was attended by 30 participants from the most diverse background, with a common interest in global affairs, particularly from an Asia perspective. Among them, researchers, journalists and university professors interested in expanding their personal knowledge.

The event began with welcome remarks by Dr. Belfer, who underlined the centrality of such topics in an increasingly interconnected world. Dr. Belfer also underlined that the EGIC is eager to offer its space to book launches and debates as an integral part of its mission in promoting knowledge and information. He also took the opportunity to present also EGIC’s research and activities. The debate was then opened by prof. Romeo Orlandi, who dissected the new role of China in the region, and spoke at length of the One Belt One Road policy, highlighting how China is today perhaps the strongest proponent of further globalization as a way to achieve mutual development. Dr Matteo Bressan subsequently looked at the downsides of a globalized world, namely the fact that it provided a platform for the advancement of the phenomenon of foreign fighters in terrorist groups such as Daesh. Afterwards Claudio Bertolotti dealt with the most risky areas in the One Belt One Road projects, the Af-Pak region. He explained why the security concerns are sensible, and that indeed the security situation in Afghanistan is collapsing, as testified by the exponential development of the opium trade. Colonel Tuzi picked up from there to highlight how not only drug trafficking

but also counterfeiting has become a source of funding for terrorist activities. What vividly emerged in the subsequent lively debate is that the international community cannot afford to ignore the ground-breaking events and projects happening in Asia, as the public is eager to know more about opportunities and risks connected to them. Therefore, more effort will be put to further explore the Asian perspectives.

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