

EU 'has lost all credibility' on democracy in Middle East

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On Saturday 05 February 2011, Dr **Michelle Pace** (</staff/profiles/government-society/pace-michelle.aspx>), of the Political Science and International Studies department, was interviewed by Patrick Cooke, journalist at the Times and Sunday Times newspapers in Malta, on ongoing events in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), particularly on the people's revolts in Tunisia and Egypt.

Asked about the European Union (EU)'s role in the current events unfolding in the MENA, Michelle Pace argued that the EU had lost all credibility on democracy promotion in the region after it isolated Hamas following the movement's victory in Palestinian elections in 2006. She said that the EU should not make the same mistake again regardless of the outcome of ongoing protests in Egypt and elsewhere in the MENA against undemocratic regimes. "The international community has to choose between key Arab partners – for the pretence of a Middle East Peace Process which they are trying to keep afloat – and the demands of the people in the region for democratic reform".

Read the full story at [timesofmalta.com \(http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20110203/local/eu-has-lost-all-credibility-on-democracy-in-middle-east\)](http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20110203/local/eu-has-lost-all-credibility-on-democracy-in-middle-east)