



**Book Launch Invitation:**

**“The Arab Spring: Implications  
for Economic Integration”**

**Edited by Michael Gasiorek\***

**Date: 7 June, 2013**

**Time: 14:00 to 18:00**

**Place: Hotel Novotel Paris Tour Eiffel, France**

**Introduction**

The past decade has witnessed substantial changes in the World economy: the on-going “economic crisis” especially in Europe, the rise of economies such as China, India and Brazil and the fall of authoritarian regimes in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. This latter, also called the Arab Spring, has resulted in dramatic political and economic changes in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya and a rapidly deteriorating situation in Syria. Other countries in the MENA region have also experienced key policy changes, such as Morocco, Jordan and Algeria.

The aim of this publication is to bring together some reflections, from a group of distinguished scholars and specialists, on these developments and on the role of international integration and the potential importance of international trade for the countries of the MENA region. The timing is apposite bearing in mind the dramatic changes in these societies, the ongoing changes in the world economy, and also the pressing economic and social need for higher rates of economic growth in the MENA region, especially given the demographic changes taking place and the consequent rise in young people entering the workforce.

This volume includes two types of contributions: The first part of the volume contains three country-specific analyses from leading country experts who provide their thoughts on the processes taking place and on the importance of different policy initiatives. There are chapters by Ahmed Ghoneim on the transition process in Egypt, Mouna Cherkhaoui on the changes taking place in Morocco and on the importance of Maghreb regional integration, and from Raed Safadi on the options for Syria. The chapter on Syria predates the current troubles but is nevertheless highly pertinent both as a powerful summary of development leading up to the current situation, but also as a pointer to the future when eventually there is some resolution to the tragedy currently unfolding.

The second part of the volume includes contributions which are more cross-country in nature and take a broader perspective on trade-related issues. These include chapters by Caroline Freund and Alberto Portugal-Perez, who assess the effects of preferential trading agreements on trade in the region, Patricia Augier, Olivier Cadot, Julian Gourdon and Mariam Malouche, who provide a detailed analysis of non-tariff measures in the region, and Jean-Pierre Chauffour and Bernard Hoekman, who identify a range of policy areas they suggest the region should focus

---

\* Professor, Department of Economics, University of Sussex, United Kingdom and FEMISE

on in order to stimulate more trade and investment, greater integration in supply chains and, as a result, higher growth rates.

This edited volume is part of the “FEMISE Edited Volumes Series” and is published by the Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) as a Vox e-CEPR report. The Volume received financial support from the European Commission within its grant funding for FEMISE<sup>1</sup>.

### Book Launch:

“The Arab Spring: Implications for Economic Integration”; Edited by Michael Gasiorek

### Agenda

14:00-14:15	<b>Welcome Drink</b>
14:15- 15:00	<b>Opening session: Welcome and Opening remarks</b>  Ahmed Galal, President and coordinator, FEMISE and Managing Director of ERF Michael Gasiorek, University of Sussex & FEMISE
15:00-16:15	<b>Session 1: Economic Integration: A Regional Perspective<sup>2</sup></b> <b>Moderator:</b> Jean Louis Reiffers, President of the Scientific Committee and coordinator, FEMISE and President of the Scientific Committee of IM  <b>Harnessing existing Trade and investment Opportunities:</b> Jean-Pierre Chauffour and <b>Bernard Hoekman</b>  <b>Non-tariff measures: Regional cooperation and competitiveness through regulatory governance:</b> <b>Patricia Augier</b> , Olivier Cadot, Julien Gourdon and Mariem Malouche  <b>Assessing MENA’s trade agreements:</b> Caroline Freund and <b>Alberto Portugal-Perez</b>  Floor Discussion
16:15-16:30	Coffee Break
16:30-17:45	<b>Session 2: Economic Transformation and the Role of Integration: Country Cases</b> <b>Moderator:</b> Ahmed Galal, President and coordinator, FEMISE and Managing Director of ERF  <b>Egypt integration after the revolution:</b> <b>Ahmed Ghoneim</b> <b>Morocco and the Maghreb after the Arab Spring:</b> <b>Mouna Cherkaoui</b>  <b>Syria’s Long road to Self-Healing:</b> <b>Raed Safadi</b>  Floor Discussion
17:45-18:00	<b>Closing remarks</b>  Jean Louis Reiffers, President of the Scientific Committee and coordinator, FEMISE and President of the Scientific Committee of IM
19:00-	<b>Dinner</b>

---

<sup>1</sup> The contents of this Volume are the sole responsibility of the editor and authors and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

<sup>2</sup> Names in Bold are those of the speakers who will be presenting the chapter on behalf of their co-authors in the launch.