

North Africa**HARDBALL**

26 July 2011, Bury House, 33 Bury Street, St James's, London

Cross-border Information (CbI)'s AfricaHardball brings together policy-makers, analysts and executives in a private meeting that allows frank discussion of key political issues affecting African markets.

North AfricaHardball will draw on CbI's reputation as a prominent source of analysis and information about North Africa to help delegates understand how the next phases of the 'Arab Spring' uprisings will pan out.

Session One of North AfricaHardball will discuss developments across the region to help shape participants' understanding of political volatility and economic challenges. Session Two will comprise a scenario-building exercise, building up the ideas generated in Session One to better manage risk, shape policy and understand how politics and business may evolve over the next few years in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia and the disputed Western Sahara.

AfricaHardball is played out under the Chatham House Rule, which states that participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

TIMETABLE AND THEMES

09.00 Registration/Coffee

09.20 North AfricaHardball – Session one: Critical discussion

The dialogue will be led by Jon Marks, CbI chairman, associate fellow of Chatham House and Maghreb-watcher for over 30 years. Comment will be provided by CbI's John Hamilton – whose work on Libya, in particular, is widely admired – and a number of invited experts including Algeria specialists Lakhdar Ghattas and Hakim Darbouche. After each topic has been introduced, the floor will be open to the participants round the table to add their own thoughts and insights.

- **UNDERSTANDING THE 'ARAB SPRING'**

- The outlook for Tunisia and Egypt: is profound change really under way in either? We assess the ruling elites and social forces fashioning policy, and ask whether these economies can produce sufficient rewards to meet popular demand.
- Scenarios for Libya. How long can the conflict endure? And after a settlement is achieved how will the new Libya look?
- States of 'exception': asking what the future holds for Algeria and Morocco. Can their regimes hold firm against the tides of change? We will assess Moroccan Palace and Algerian *decideur* politics, asking whether traditional ways of looking at ruling groups could be losing their relevance.

- **POLITICAL ISSUES AND RISK MITIGATION FOR BUSINESS**

- Which elements of political risk are most important for corporate planners?
- Are regulatory shifts more damaging than civil chaos?
- Between the theory and practise of business ethics and other governance issues

- **REGIONAL CONTEXTS**

- The Western Sahara and prospects for reviving the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA). The Western Sahara dispute remains unresolved, but there are signs that Algeria and Morocco have recognised they share a community of interests that make rapprochement a more attractive option. We will discuss the benefits of regional integration, and the pitfalls to achieving it. We ask: can the UMA be revived?
- Doing politics and business with Europe's southern flank. The EU, international financial institutions, the USA and other players all have had to reshape their policy responses, and financial support, for North Africa. We ask: is the international community's response to this year's events fit for purpose? And can new political arrangements be put in place to give dynamism to EU-North African relations?

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15 North AfricaHardball – Session two: Scenario building

Based on the Session One interventions, AfricaHardball will launch a scenario-building exercise, to establish patterns to the ideas produced by the meeting. In this session we build up scenarios for the future using a whiteboard, imagination and – we hope – some feisty discussion of the issues. This session is facilitated by Jon Marks, but the ideas come from all participants.

12.45 North AfricaHardball closes

