



Conference On

Media and European-Middle Eastern Relations. A Virtual Dialogue?

Le Meridien Commodore Hotel, Hamra, Beirut, November 9th to 11th 2005

The year 2005 marks a milestone in modern Lebanese history. The tragic and moving historical events were chosen, presented and reflected in Middle Eastern and European Media. To discuss these events as media events, the Orient-Institut Beirut, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Institut Français du Proche-Orient hold this conference in Beirut.

The organizers intend this conference to be devoted to an examination of the processes of selection and presentation of historical and political events for the media and the analysis of their impact on the typical picture of "the other culture" in Europe and the Middle East and the relations between both of them, taking different layers of consumers into consideration.

In other words, the organizers intend to investigate the contemporary relevance of news from the Middle East to the European Media and vice versa. In a second step the organizers attempt to analyze the effects of reporting on the respective societies and the perception of "the other". Furthermore this conference serves to make a substantial contribution to the widely spread discussion on the relationship between Europe and the Middle East. The focus will be on the virtual dialogue in the media and its influence on these relations.

This conference will be a gathering of journalists, representatives of the different formats of European and Middle Eastern media as well as representatives of politics and media scientists who might find it useful and attractive to discuss and even to speculate on the significance of media selection and presentation focusing on the events of 2005 in Lebanon and the Middle East.

The organizers intend to gain insights to an understanding of the modern and post-modern world in the era of globalization seen in, through and from behind the mirror of the media and discuss it with those who concern themselves with the broad patterns of historical and cultural development in the media context.