

## **HIIK Side Event: Transnational Dimensions of Political Conflict in a Global Perspective**

### **Press Release (317 Wörter / 1848 Zeichen)**

On February 12, 2016, the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIK) hosted its side event on „Transnational Dimensions of Political Conflict in a Global Perspective“ at the 52. Munich Security Conference, which took place from February 12 to 14 this year. The delegation consisted of Jasper Linke, Ingrid Rooda, Klaus-Peter Becker, Dr. Christoph Trinn, and Thomas Wencker.

During an informal lunch, the invited guests had the opportunity to learn about the HIIK and its work and, in a following discussion, to talk about transnational conflicts.

The discussion was moderated by Dr. Magdalena Kirchner (Transatlantic Fellow of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs) and we were glad to announce Mark Leonard (Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations) and Dan Smith (Director of the International Peace Research Institute SIPRI in Stockholm) as our speakers.

Following the lunch, the participants had the chance to talk with our HIIK representatives at the information boards about the publication of the new Heidelberg Disaggregated Dataset (DISCON), the Heidelberg methodology for conflict measurement, and about secession and resource conflicts.

The HIIK emphasized the need to reinstate border security in areas of conflict with transnational actors and called for a greater sensitivity of external forces concerning the integration of cross-border violent conflicts in local and regional conflict systems.

During the discussion, the challenges in the fight against the so-called Islamic State (IS) were addressed. Furthermore, conflict prevention and interventions as methods of political actions were discussed.

The HIIK was pleased to welcome people from different political backgrounds as well as our conflict research colleagues as our guests.

Among others, His Highness Prince Turki Al Faisal bin Abdulaziz al Saud (Chairman of the King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies), Her Excellency Hanna Serwaah Tetteh (incumbent Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ghana) and Michael Møller (Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva) offered a practical perspective to the discussion.