

The OSCE Mediterranean Partnership for Co-operation

A Compilation of Relevant Documents and Information

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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THIS BROCHURE IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN PDF
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Design: red hot 'n' cool Vienna
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The OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Algeria

Egypt

Israel

Jordan

Morocco

Tunisia

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Joint Foreword

There is almost no need to define the long-standing relationship between the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, which dates back to the origins of the Organization and has evolved and matured throughout its history. It was at the 1993 Rome Ministerial Council that Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, together with Israel, requested a closer and more structured relationship with the CSCE, before officially becoming “Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation” in 1995 (Jordan became a Partner in 1998). From the 1996 Lisbon Summit Declaration to the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation in 2007, all the main historical documents that paved the way of the OSCE furthered the framework for enhanced dialogue and co-operation with the Mediterranean region.

The historic changes that have swept across the Southern Mediterranean over the past three years have reinforced the relevance of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership as a support to the Partners on their path towards stability and democratization. As the OSCE participating States have all had their own experience of democratic transition, they could not stand by as passive spectators of the so-called “Arab Spring”. After the 2011 Lithuanian Chairmanship of the OSCE fostered an internal debate on how the OSCE could assist its Mediterranean Partners, the Vilnius Ministerial Council decided to

... further enhance the Partnership by broadening dialogue, intensifying political consultations, strengthening practical co-operation and further sharing best practices and experience gained in the development of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security in the three OSCE dimensions according to the needs and priorities identified by the Partners (MC.DEC/5/11 of 7 December 2011).

Following Vilnius, a list of potential topics and projects of special interest to the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation was compiled in direct co-operation with the Partners. The OSCE Secretariat has since initiated numerous projects, financed through the Partnership Fund, directly addressing the suggested focus areas in all three dimensions.

The Joint Workplan of Switzerland and Serbia for 2014 and 2015 emphasizes that “interaction with the Part-



H.E. Ambassador Claude Giordan, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the OSCE, and H.E. Mr. José Badia, Conseiller pour les Relations Extérieures et la Coopération, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Monaco. (Micky Kröll)



H.E. Mr. Ivica Dačić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, and H.E. Ambassador Vuk Žugić, Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE, at the OSCE Permanent Council, Vienna, 15 July 2014. (Micky Kröll)

ners should become more concrete and project-oriented”. The two successive Chairmanships

... aim to deepen the dialogue and co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners, particularly by implementing measures identified at the Partners meetings and conferences, as well as by promoting Track II initiatives.

The year 2014 has also seen two Mediterranean Chairs of the Forum for Security Co-operation (Malta and Monaco) increasing the emphasis on the Mediterranean region, as H.E. Mr. José Badia, Conseiller pour les Relations Extérieures et la Coopération, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Monaco, stated in his address to the FSC in September 2014:

For obvious reasons, Monaco will endeavour to strengthen the Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE in continuation of the work carried out during the Moldovan and Maltese Chairmanships. The principles of the indivisibility and comprehensiveness



Swiss Foreign Minister, Didier Burkhalter and OSCE Secretary General, Lamberto Zannier, at the Ministerial Council, Basel, 4-5 December 2014. (Jonathan Perfect)

of security make it necessary to give more sustained attention to the events that occur in places directly neighbouring the OSCE area.

All these efforts and initiatives have coalesced towards the adoption of the Basel Ministerial Declaration on Co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners, which will chart our way to the next level of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership and will continue to contribute to the Helsinki+40 Process on the level of our relationship with our Partners.

In this context, and also in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Mediterranean Contact Group that we will commemorate at the end of the year, this brochure comes at a very timely moment. After some thought-provoking words of introduction by the Ambassadors of all six Mediterranean Partner countries, this publication contains a comprehensive overview of the relationship between the OSCE and its Partners from the very beginning, inclusive of all the procedural texts and arrangements concerning the Partnership, the updated list of co-operation activities with the Mediterranean Partners, and a compilation of key findings stemming from important OSCE events that have taken place since Vilnius 2011. Attention is further dedicated to the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in fostering OSCE-Mediterranean dialogue, the New-Med Track II Network launched in Rome on 18 September 2014, and to the Helsinki+40 Process insofar as it affects the Mediterranean Partnership. Finally, a selection of OSCE publications of interest to the Mediterranean Partners is also included in the brochure.

As we move forward in intensifying our partnership, also in the framework of the Helsinki+40 Process, we expect the OSCE-Mediterranean dialogue to be even more strongly geared towards achieving concrete out-

comes and results. We are pleased and encouraged by the growing level of engagement. It is now time for a greater effort to make full use of existing mechanisms for co-operation and to ensure better follow-up to recommendations made in our regular dialogue and at the annual OSCE Mediterranean Conference. This booklet is intended to provide a useful tool for strengthening the endeavour of further enhancing our Mediterranean Partnership for Co-operation.

Thomas Greminger

Chairperson of the
Permanent Council

Yuk Zugić

Chairperson of the Contact Group with
the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Claude Giordan

Chairperson of the Forum
for Security Co-operation

Lamberto Zannier

OSCE Secretary General

Algeria | Making best use of the Partnership's potential

Since the creation of the Mediterranean Contact Group by the OSCE Budapest Summit in 1994, the Mediterranean dimension has grown and flourished, despite the fact that the evolutionary process has not always been linear and has sometimes fluctuated under the impact of events and crises erupting here and there.

Two decades later, the Mediterranean Partnership has gained in maturity to become a prominent platform for dialogue and co-operation in the quest for peace and stability in the Euro-Mediterranean region and beyond.

The Partnership's record is certainly positive. Its political dialogue is helping to shape a mutual understanding. The areas and subjects being dealt with are increasing in all three OSCE dimensions of security, and the actors in the Partnership – both from Track I and from Track II – are enlarging and raising the quality of their participation. Through their common participation in Partnership and OSCE activities and projects, representatives of government, civil society, experts and academics from participating and Partner States are brought together to exchange experiences and learn from one another. For the Partners it is important that we are able to benefit from the “OSCE tool box” and make best use of it where appropriate.

In this context, we highly value the support given by the OSCE to the Partners, in particular Algeria, in the training field. One notable example is the continued participation of officers in the courses on border and security management delivered by the Academy of Dushanbe. This is just the kind of successful action that we would like to have extended to other fields of the OSCE's activities.

This fortunate evolution has been possible thanks to an increasing awareness, especially among the participating States, that to be successful the Partnership dialogue has to focus on issues of mutual interest, and that co-operation should take due account of the needs and priorities of the Partners – hence the Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11 on the Partners for Co-operation was adopted in Vilnius in 2011.

Beside these achievements, there are also some shortcomings, some of which are not specific to the OSCE



Mediterranean Partnership. This is particularly true with respect to the protracted conflicts in the region, the most emblematic being the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Beyond the need to make all necessary efforts to put an end to these in a fair and lasting manner, it is important that some positive measures are taken in the methods of work to improve interaction with the Partners in the political dialogue, in order to make best use of the Partnership's potential. In this connection, the format of participation of the Partners in the OSCE decision-making bodies, especially the Ministerial Council, could be adapted to give the Partners a higher level of representation.

It is also necessary to build bridges between the Mediterranean Contact Group, the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation, in order to address issues of common concern or of particular interest to the Mediterranean Partners. Furthermore, there is a need to establish a follow-up mechanism to the work of the Contact Group and the annual OSCE Mediterranean Conference. While welcoming the fact that in its outreach and supporting activities the OSCE is taking into account the spirit of the Vilnius Decision mentioned above, we believe that it is important to jettison the “one size fits all” approach and to tailor our co-operation to the realities of each country and subregion.

Last but not least, the Partners should be fully and effectively involved in the process of drafting decisions and declarations pertaining to them.

The future of the Mediterranean Partnership is promising. It has a capacity to truly contribute to addressing common challenges, provided that the Partners are

seen as equal collaborators with the capacity to bring their own added value to the relationship.

**H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Benhocine,
Permanent Representative of Algeria
to the OSCE**

Egypt | Looking forward to a more dynamic and project based Partnership

The twentieth anniversary of the Mediterranean Contact Group comes at an important juncture when recent events are reminding us yet again of the inextricable link between the security and well-being of the two sides of the Mediterranean, and of the important role the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership could play in bringing comprehensive security to the Mediterranean region through regular dialogue and strengthened mutual co-operation.

Egypt sees the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership as a key instrument for further enhancing co-operative ties between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean. With its vast membership and unique geopolitical stature, the OSCE represents an invaluable platform for exchanging ideas and sharing knowledge and experience in the various fields covered by its mandate. In this regard, we welcome initiatives by the Serbian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group to expand dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners, and likewise the important initiatives presented by the OSCE Secretary General on his last visit to Cairo, which aim to launch co-operation with Mediterranean Partners in new areas, and to tap the possibility of further co-operation with other regional organizations from the southern shores of the Mediterranean such as the League of Arab States.

We also believe that the upcoming fortieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and its associated security and co-operation process is an opportune moment to discuss new ideas for further improving the Mediterranean Partnership. This we can do by expanding and invigorating dialogue both on recurrent issues and also on issues that have been gaining increasing importance lately such as countering terrorism and the question of



how best to deal with challenges common to the OSCE participating States and its Mediterranean Partners. Responsibility for rising to this challenge should be shared equally by both sides.

Egypt is looking forward to a more dynamic and project-based partnership with the OSCE in the coming years, one that will be beneficial for both shores of the Mediterranean and will contribute effectively to achieving the goal of comprehensive security through dialogue and co-operation.

**H.E. Ambassador Khaled Shamaa,
Permanent Representative of Egypt to the OSCE**

Israel | Co-operation between the Mediterranean Partners and the OSCE: not a one-way street



The 20th anniversary of the Mediterranean Partners Contact Group is a testimony to the growth and success of the OSCE. Its unique approach to a comprehensive security policy across three dimensions – political/military, economic/environmental and human – enables the six Mediterranean Partners to work together on common issues facing our region. There is no other international or regional organization in the world that encourages such an open and constructive dialogue between countries in a region beset with conflicts and turmoil.

Since 1994, the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation forum has developed into a strong and collaborative group of countries with a dynamic agenda aimed at regional co-operation.

The Mediterranean Partners Contact Group has made significant strides over the past 20 years, becoming more involved in the development of the OSCE's security policies. We have proven that we are an invaluable partner in realizing the organization's mandate and in carrying out its desired goals. Our involvement is reflected in the contribution of leading experts from the MENA region in working groups, expert meetings, and in initiating results-oriented programs and projects for the benefit of our people.

Co-operation between the Mediterranean Partners and the OSCE is not a one-way street. It is a real partnership, wherein new initiatives resulting from shared regional concerns are welcomed, and the voice of the Partners is heard.

Israel remains committed to supporting the fundamental principles of the OSCE, and seeks a positive agenda of co-operation based on an exchange of ideas and experiences.

Three years ago a milestone was reached in relations between Israel and the OSCE. For the first time an international conference on *The Critical Role of the Judiciary in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings* was held in Haifa, in collaboration with Israel, the OSCE and International Organization for Migration (IOM). In 2014, the conference took place for the third time and in the presence of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Encouraged by the success of this conference, Israel, the OSCE, UNODC and UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) recently collaborated and joined efforts on an international conference on *The Use of Legal Instruments in Countering Terrorism* held in Tel Aviv. We hope this will become an annual event.

The future success of the Mediterranean Partners Contact Group depends on developing an agenda based on the concerns of the region, and its realization through shared commitments.

In 2015, combating terrorism will remain a central issue in the work of the OSCE. The changes in the nature of terrorist threats demand that we prepare ourselves by providing adequate responses to the challenges developing today, which will inevitably impact our future security environment.

The geopolitical processes taking place in the MENA region and in the global arena do not afford us the luxury of remaining stagnant. It is crucial that the Mediterranean Partners be included in the process and develop-

ment of the OSCE's security policy as mandated by the Helsinki Final Act.

Israel looks forward to continuing and strengthening its involvement in the OSCE in the years to come as a Partner for Co-operation.

"Mazal Tov" (congratulations) to the Mediterranean Contact Group on its 20th anniversary!

**H.E. Ambassador Zvi Heifetz,
Permanent Representative of Israel to the OSCE**

Jordan | Our security cannot be separated



After 40 years, the Helsinki Final Act remains relevant as a defining document on how countries can, through equality, partnership, co-operation, inclusiveness, transparency and collective effort, fully realize and establish the "security community".

Today the world is facing a rise in new and evolving threats and challenges to its security that are beyond the capacity of any one participating State to deal with on its own. Without co-operation, such threats and challenges will never be overcome. They vary from development and basic needs to those relating to hard security, but the key words in the pursuit of a solution

for any of them have always been, and always will be, co-operation and partnership. Dialogue and a better understanding of each other's concerns will contribute to better and more sustainable solutions to our problems.

The OSCE's platform for such a dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners has not only contributed to a better understanding of the challenges facing the Partners, but has also helped to identify the common areas shared with them. It is now evident that the security of the Mediterranean is a neighbourhood issue that cannot be separated from the security of the OSCE area as a whole.

The historical and cultural ties that have always connected the two areas have shaped the concept of collective security in both Europe and the Mediterranean. From that perspective it is clear that a prosperous, stable and secure Mediterranean region, enjoying close economic and political relations with Europe is in the best interest of all.

Jordan attaches great importance to its partnership with the OSCE. It will remain committed to continuing to expand our dialogue, and to intensifying our co-operation with the OSCE on political and security matters.

**H.E. Ambassador Hussam Al Hussein,
Permanent Representative of
Jordan to the OSCE**

Morocco | Reflecting on the present and future of a fruitful Partnership



Located a mere fourteen kilometres away from Europe, Morocco is deeply committed to enhancing its ties with the OSCE in all areas of mutual interest. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its strong attachment to the Mediterranean Partnership and to commend the progress achieved in this regard.

Our country follows with great interest the implementation of comprehensive security by the OSCE, an Organization that promotes the values of dialogue, co-operation and mutual understanding among its participating and Partner States from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

We sincerely believe that the political dialogue between the OSCE and its Partners has been improved since the launching of the Helsinki Process. This dialogue provides evidence that the security of the OSCE area and the security of its neighbourhood, particularly the Mediterranean region, are inextricably linked, as stated in the Helsinki Final Act and reaffirmed in the 2010 Astana Declaration.

Since the early stages of the Helsinki Process, Morocco has contributed to the political dialogue by proposing actions and initiatives aimed at fostering regional security and strengthening the capacity of the OSCE participating and Partner States to effectively and durably face the threats to peace and security in the broad OSCE area and beyond.

In today's interdependent world, the fruitful co-operation between the OSCE and its Partners fortunately en-

compasses all the main aspects of the Organization's activities. This allows our country to benefit from specific forms of co-operation and from the OSCE's best practices in tackling the root causes of the most pressing global threats and the new cross-border challenges that our region is facing, in particular: terrorism, transnational organized crime, degradation of the environment, illegal migration, drugs and arms trafficking, and radical extremism.

The current political situation in the Middle East has hampered the Mediterranean Partnership in fully exploiting its potential. Despite this situation, Morocco believes that the OSCE is, now more than ever, an important pillar for fruitful dialogue and a necessary forum for sharing norms and principles on issues of common interest, in the framework of the indivisible and comprehensive concept of security.

In this connection, we believe that the concept of comprehensive security requires the inclusion amongst the Mediterranean Partners of countries such as Libya and Palestine, and that Morocco's appeal in this regard bears repeating here. It is of great importance to reinforce the partnership between the OSCE and all Mediterranean countries, without exclusion, with the aim of building mutual confidence in order to effectively respond to transnational threats and challenges in our region.

Morocco is confident that co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners can only be reinforced in the future. My delegation will, as in the past, continue co-operating with the OSCE by presenting concrete proposals in areas of common interest.

We firmly believe that the OSCE can contribute to a deeper integration between the two shores of the Mediterranean. It can only be beneficial, both for the OSCE participating States and for its Partner States, to further enhance existing co-operation and take it to a higher level.

**H.E. Ambassador Ali El Mhamdi,
Permanent Representative
of Morocco to the OSCE**

Tunisia | The OSCE Mediterranean Partnership – Future joint action and Tunisia’s expectations

How do you perceive the current OSCE Mediterranean Partnership?

The OSCE Mediterranean Partnership is a win-win partnership. Besides the geography that makes the OSCE and Tunisia neighbours, we share the common universal values of democracy, political participation, gender equality, freedom of belief and protection of human rights. We also face common challenges in terms of security reinforcement, protection and preservation of the environment, and mutual understanding between our cultures. Since 2011 Tunisia has been more active in its relations with the Organization and now aims to diversify its co-operation and reinforce its capacity-building process.

What in your opinion are the positive aspects of the Partnership?

Tunisia’s partnership with the OSCE is more than just an option: it is a strategic dimension that we have created as a concept. We have decided to combine our efforts in order to address the main issues that are currently on our agenda. The most important and attractive aspect of our partnership is the will of the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners to work together as a team and to engage in open discussion of issues in all three dimensions. Teamwork is an important instrument in this process. Despite our diversity, we believe in our common destiny. We believe that security is not only a national affair: it is a regional, interregional and global challenge that we have to address jointly, taking a comprehensive approach.

What are your suggestions on improving partnership?

I would like, first of all, to express the satisfaction of Tunisia with the new dynamics of our partnership with the OSCE. We are determined to deploy all possible efforts and means to encourage and reinforce the process of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership. It is our particular hope that the Mediterranean Partners will collaborate more on needs assessments. We also believe that the Partnership deserves more dynamic leadership.



How do you see the future of your partnership with the OSCE?

I hope and trust that it will be fruitful. Bearing in mind the transnational challenge of international security, we have no choice but to work together and to increase our exchanges of views and perspectives on how to make our region and the whole world safer, more peaceful, and more prosperous.

**H.E. Ambassador Ghazi Jomaa,
Permanent Representative
of Tunisia to the OSCE**

I. The OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation: A long history

“Morocco’s relationship with the OSCE goes back to the early stages of the Helsinki process. Since then, we have been actively engaged in proposing measures to improve the quality of our partnership.”

Ambassador Omar Zniber of Morocco, 2007

The relationship between the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (MPC) dates back to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in the 1970s. The Helsinki Final Act 1975 recognized that “security in Europe is to be considered in the broader context of world security and is closely linked with security in the Mediterranean as a whole, and that accordingly the process of improving security should not be confined to Europe but should extend to other parts of the world, and in particular to the Mediterranean area”. In Helsinki, the CSCE participating States also declared their intention to “further improve their relations with the non-participating Mediterranean States”,¹ and to foster co-operation, especially in the economic and environmental fields and to expand their dialogue “to include all States of the Mediterranean, with the purpose of contributing to peace and strengthening security”. Immediately as part of a follow up to Helsinki, the non-participating Mediterranean States were invited to participate in a number of specific meetings held on Mediterranean issues mostly relating to the economic, social, environmental, scientific, and cultural fields (Valletta 1979; Venice 1984; Palma de Mallorca 1990; and Valletta 1993).

Since then, the importance of the Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE has been reiterated in virtually every final CSCE/OSCE Summit or Ministerial Council document, often with references to the importance of strengthening security in “adjacent areas” as an important factor for stability in the OSCE area. In the 1990 Charter of Paris, the participating States maintained that they would “continue efforts to strengthen security

and co-operation in the Mediterranean as an important factor for stability in Europe”. In the 1992 Helsinki Summit Document it was stated that the “non-participating Mediterranean States would continue to be invited to contribute to CSCE activities”.

Further institutionalizing the partnership

In the early 1990s, as the CSCE became more institutionalized (eventually transforming itself from a “conference” into an “organization” at the Budapest Summit in 1994), relations between the OSCE and the States of the southern Mediterranean also changed.

At the Rome Ministerial Council in 1993, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, and Tunisia (Jordan became an MPC in May 1998) requested a closer relationship with the CSCE, which resulted in a decision by the 25th Committee of Senior Officials meeting in Prague in March 1994 to invite the Mediterranean countries to a series of CSCE activities in order to forge a closer relationship (Ministerial Council meetings, review conferences, regular meetings with the Troika and, on a case-by-case basis, seminars and other *ad hoc* meetings in which they had a special interest). Mediterranean States were given access to all CSCE official documents and the right to submit views to the Chairman-in-Office.

A significant development in the relationship between the OSCE and its MPC took place with the decision on the Mediterranean, adopted at the Budapest Summit in December 1994, which included the establishment of “an informal, open-ended contact group, at the lev-

¹ The term “Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation” was only introduced with PC Decision No. 94 (1995).

el of experts...within the framework of the Permanent Council” in order to conduct a dialogue with the MPC and facilitate the exchange of information of mutual interest and the generation of ideas. The deliberations of the Contact Group, which started to operate in 1995, provide the opportunity for participating States and the MPC to maintain dialogue by gathering around the same table, in order to discuss and exchange ideas on a number of issues pertinent to both sides of the Mediterranean.

The 1996 *Lisbon Summit Declaration* further welcomed and supported the deepening of dialogue and co-operation with the Mediterranean countries. Participating States also pledged to consider “*extending upon request and within existing resources, the FSC’s experience to partner States in the adjacent Mediterranean area*”.

In adopting the *Charter for European Security* at the 1999 Istanbul Summit, participating States expressed their willingness to develop the Partnership further, by stating their readiness to “*work more closely with the Partners for Co-operation to promote OSCE norms and principles*”. They also specifically encouraged the MPC to draw on OSCE expertise “*in setting up structures and mechanisms in the Mediterranean for early warning, preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention*”.

The importance of relations with the Partners for Co-operation was also emphasized in the context of several meetings of the Ministerial Council in the 1990s: Prague 1992, Rome 1993, Copenhagen 1997 and Oslo 1998.

In 2003, the *Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century* pointed out that threats originating in adjacent regions were of increasing importance, and that therefore co-operation with the MPC should be intensified through “*early identification of areas of common interest*” and by inviting the Partners “*to participate on a more frequent basis as observers in the PC and FSC meetings*”. The strategy also encouraged the MPC to take part in existing information exchanges in the framework of OSCE confidence- and security building measures to address threats from outside the OSCE area.

In 2007, with the *Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation*, participating States expressed further support for “*the efforts of the Partners for Co-operation to promote the OSCE norms,*

“We especially commend the Organization’s sharpened focus on issues relating to tolerance and non-discrimination. The OSCE is a key instrument for promoting initiatives in this area of common concern.”

Ambassador Ehab Fawzy of Egypt, 2007

principles and commitments in their regions” and encouraged them to “*take further steps towards their voluntary implementation*”, also calling on the Partners “*to report on their implementation in appropriate OSCE meetings*”.

A broad political framework

Today, the main elements of the OSCE-Mediterranean Partnership are the following: the Contact Group, the annual OSCE Mediterranean Conference, the weekly meetings of the Permanent Council and of the Forum for Security Co-operation, the annual meeting of the Ministerial Council, certain annual OSCE events, the annual Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean, and visits by the Secretary General or Chairperson-in-Office.

- For further detail on the Contact Group, see Chapter III of this brochure.
- The annual OSCE Mediterranean Conference provides an opportunity for a high level exchange of views, and for generating ideas and exploring ways to enhance relations between the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. These conferences are also attended by international organizations, parliamentarians, academics, and NGOs. The first side event at an OSCE Mediterranean Seminar (as it was then called) was held in Tel Aviv in 2007, with NGOs, which brought a breath of fresh air to the debate and a wealth of recommendations and ideas on how to promote tolerance and non-discrimination in the participating States and, most importantly, in the countries of the Mediterranean Partners themselves. In 2008 another civil society side event was organized on the margins of the Conference hosted in Amman.



Participants at the 2014 Mediterranean Conference, which took place in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 27-28 October 2014. (Vedran Pribilovic)



Ministerial Council in Basel, 2014. (FDFA Presence)

The 20th OSCE Mediterranean Conference took place on 27–28 October 2014 in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the overarching theme *“Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons and Fight against Terrorism in the Mediterranean Region”*.

- The Mediterranean Partners are invited to take part in the weekly meetings of the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). The 2007 Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE introduced a new seating arrangement at the PC to accommodate the Partners at the main table, and made their invitation to PC meetings a standing one.

In 2014, Malta and Monaco placed the Mediterranean at the core of their Chairmanship of the

“In 2013, we have actively sought to deepen our involvement across the three dimensions of security on issues including anti-terrorism, human trafficking, prevention of violence against women, as well as the political and economic empowerment of women.”

Ambassador Zvi Heifetz of Israel, 2013

FSC. A joint FSC/PC meeting on the fight against transnational threats in the Mediterranean region was held on 27 November 2014.

- The annual meetings of the Ministerial Council (MC), permit the Partners to participate and engage in high-level meetings with the OSCE Ministerial Troika and the OSCE Secretary General on the margins. The meetings of the MC also provide an opportunity for civil society and expert side events, such as the Mediterranean Partner Countries’ Civil Society Conference held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 4–5 December 2011. In 2014, a special plenary session with the Partners was set up by the Swiss Chairmanship-in-Office on the second day of the Ministerial Council in Basel, with a special focus on counter-terrorism.

Furthermore, the Basel MC adopted a Declaration on the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (see p. 40).

- The Mediterranean Partners are also invited to certain yearly events of the OSCE, such as the Annual Security Review Conference, the Economic Forum, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Special side events are organized during those meetings for the Partners.
- Another important element are the annual and winter sessions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as well as the annual Parliamentary Fo-

rum on the Mediterranean (see Chapter VI of this brochure).

- Partners for Co-operation also receive visits from the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office or the Secretary General. In February 2014, Secretary General, Lamberto Zannier had a fruitful visit to Cairo, Egypt, where he held talks with several high-ranking personalities from the Government and representatives of civil society.

In PC Decision No. 233, of June 1998, the MPC were invited to, on a voluntary basis, send observers to electoral missions of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and to make secondments to OSCE field missions. In addition, visits to military facilities can be organized specially for Partners.

Although few MPC have made use of these mechanisms so far, Israel has provided substantive support to a vital OSCE activity in 2014, by giving financial support to the Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

A number of areas of co-operation

In December 2003, the participating States adopted PC Decision No. 571 on *“Further dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others”*, thereby deciding to identify additional fields of co-operation with the Partners, encouraging them to voluntarily implement OSCE commitments, and resolving to work on procedures for future applications for Partnership. The report on the outcome of this process, annexed to the 2004 Sofia Ministerial Council Document, clearly stated that *“co-operation and interaction with partner states should remain voluntary and be driven by demand”*. The report then identified a number of areas in which co-operation could be pursued, such as: counter-terrorism, which the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism adopted at the 2001 MC singled out as a specific area of relevance in relations with the Partners; border issues; economic and environmental activities, which would later receive a considerable impulse with the OSCE/NATO workshop on *“Water scarcity, land degradation and desertification in the Mediterranean Region”* held in Valencia, Spain, on 10-11 December 2007; sus-

“We believe that the path we have embarked on affords promising prospects.”

Ambassador Zvi Heifetz of Israel, 2013

tainable energy, which would receive broad attention in 2012 at the OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Rome; trafficking in human beings; election observation; freedom of the media; and education and training. As a result, from 2005 onwards a growing number of thematic decisions adopted at Ministerial Council meetings contained a reference to the Partners and invited them to *“voluntarily implement the relevant provisions”*.

With the establishment of the Partnership Fund in 2007 a new tool was created to finance activities specifically targeted at the Mediterranean Partners. In 2013 the total pledges received from participating States and Partners for Co-operation since the Fund’s inception have amounted to 1,675,686 Euros. A special placement program for young diplomats from MPC has been put in place with the help of the Partnership Fund.

The Arab uprisings and the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership

The wave of transition that has occurred in the Southern Mediterranean since 2011 has strengthened the significance of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership, and confirmed the need to reinforce and adapt the existing Partnership to facilitate the Partners’ process of moving towards democracy and stability. On 28 May 2012 an international conference was held in Rome, which explored ideas on how effective co-operation in the Mediterranean could be built in the wake of the Arab Spring, and the role of the OSCE in this respect. The event was organized by the International Affairs Institute (IAI), the Institute for Relations between Italy and the Countries of Africa, Latin America, the Middle and Far East (IPALMO), and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and took place upon the suggestion of the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs during the Vilnius MC. The dramatic events of 2011 in several Mediterranean Partner States and current transition processes in the region offered unique



The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, greets Ambassador Mohamed Samir Koubaa of Tunisia, at the 18th OSCE Ministerial Council, Vilnius, 6 December 2011. (ELTA)

opportunities for the OSCE Mediterranean Partners to make use of the tools provided by the OSCE in all of its three dimensions.

Building on the Astana Commemorative Declaration of 2010, in which OSCE heads of State or Government noted the need to *“enhance the level of our interaction with our Partners for Co-operation”*, the Vilnius Ministerial Council of 2011, convinced of the inextricable link

between the security of the OSCE area and security in the regions of the Partners for Co-operation, decided to *“further enhance the Partnership by broadening dialogue, intensifying political consultations, strengthening practical co-operation and further sharing best practices and experience gained in the development of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security in the three OSCE dimensions according to the needs and priorities identified by the Partners”* (MC.DEC/5/11).

In response to the “Arab Spring”, the OSCE clearly and repeatedly stated its readiness to share its experience in facilitating democratic transitions with the MPC. Supporting democratic transition and political reforms through economic co-operation in the Southern Mediterranean region was the topic of the 2012 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Rome, Italy. Awareness raising and outreach of the OSCE Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security, security sector governance and the role of armed forces in democratic societies also became higher on the agenda.

The very successful observation mission mounted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for the 23 October 2011 Tunisian parliamentary elections provided a clear example of the parliamentarians’ contribution to democratic progress in the region. That overall potential, however, has yet to be realized in more concrete ways.

After the Vilnius Civil Society Conference jointly organized between the ODIHR and the Chairman in Office, the ODIHR developed a programme for the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation entitled *“Increasing Understanding in the Human Dimension”*. It focused on increasing engagement with the OSCE’s Mediterranean Partners, which enabled the ODIHR to further increase and formalize mechanisms of engagement by OSCE participating States with Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (see the box on page 19).

“The report by this observation mission bears witness to the exemplary success of these elections in Tunisia. The success of this completely new experience confirms the appropriateness and credibility of the OSCE/MPC co-operation at several levels. (...) [It] has also shown that the best way of preventing conflicts and of establishing a climate of peace in the Mediterranean is to strengthen democratic initiatives and to promote and protect human rights in the region in accordance with the principles of inclusive security advocated by the Organization.”

Ambassador Mohamed Samir Koubaa of Tunisia, 2011



Participants at the OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Budva, Montenegro, 10-11 October 2011.

Recent changes and events in the Arab world could give new momentum to the OSCE-Mediterranean Partnership. Ongoing regional crises raise the pertinent question of whether the CSCE/Helsinki process might be used as a model or a source of inspiration for pro-

moting security, democracy, and development in North Africa and the Middle East.²

² See "The OSCE-Mediterranean Partnership and the Arab Uprisings", report of the workshop held by the International Peace Institute (IPI) in Vienna on 25 Oct. 2011 (CIO.GAL/252/11).

The ODIHR and the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Based on the decision in Vilnius to further enhance the OSCE's co-operation with its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (MPC), the ODIHR has increased its engagement with the Partners, in accordance with its mandate.

As the OSCE's main institution for the human dimension, the ODIHR aims to assist the OSCE MPC by sharing its own experience and that of OSCE participating States with relevant partners in those countries, including governmental structures and civil society. The ODIHR supports the efforts of participating States to further enhance co-operation with Mediterranean Partners by engaging in action-oriented co-operation. Upon request, the Office also supports the MPC through specifically tailored projects in the fields of elections, democratization, human rights and tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as dialogue, the exchange of good practice and knowledge transfer between OSCE participating States and the MPC.

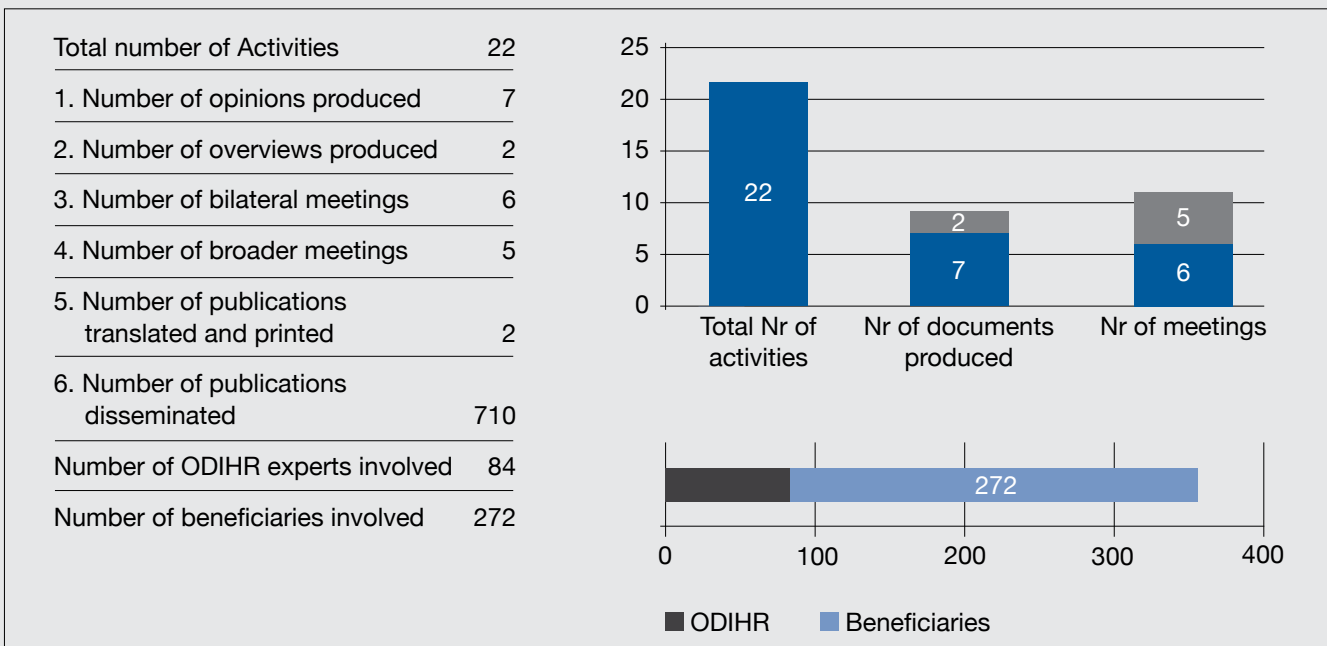
The ODIHR provides legislative support in the human dimension in the form of comprehensive legislative reviews of individual pieces of legislation upon request. Each review is followed up with consultative meetings

with key state authorities, including relevant ministries and parliaments, as well as with representatives of civil society, to discuss the recommendations and practical implications of the ODIHR legal reviews.

The ODIHR’s legislative assistance focuses, among others, on reviewing legislation in the fields of elections, freedom of peaceful assembly, independence of the judiciary, national human rights institutions, political parties and combating terrorism and domestic violence. As a result, the ODIHR provides legal opinions, including concrete sets of recommendations upon request, to legislators and other relevant stakeholders from OSCE Mediterranean Partner countries. In certain areas, such as freedom of assembly, political party regulation and freedom of religion or belief, the ODIHR co-operates with the Council of Europe Venice Commission in the conduct of joint legal opinions. The recommendations enable MPC to develop and implement legislative changes guided by OSCE human dimension commitments and other international human rights standards applicable in their countries.

On the basis of the programme “*Increasing Understanding in the Human Dimension*” launched after Vilnius, and at a request from the Tunisian authorities, the ODIHR implemented the project: “*Promoting democratic structures among OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Phase I)*” from July 2012 to July 2013. Two further projects were also carried out under this specific programme of the ODIHR. Within the framework of these projects, the ODIHR focused on supporting Tunisia in undertaking key electoral and legislative reforms, consolidating democratic institutions, and increasing the participation of women in political and public life. Since 2012, the ODIHR has reviewed numerous pieces of Tunisian legislation, and has held consultative meetings with representatives of the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Human Rights and Transitional Justice, as well as the Election Management Body and the National Constituent Assembly (see the list of the ODIHR Opinions p. 71).

The Office has also contributed to conferences, training activities and expert workshops in Tunisia and other Mediterranean Partner countries organized by national authorities and international and local organizations, including the UNDP, UN Women, the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and the Tunisian School of Politics.





Participants from Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia at a four-day training event on good practices in election observation organized by the ODIHR in Budva, Montenegro, 14 October 2011. (Carlo Accame)

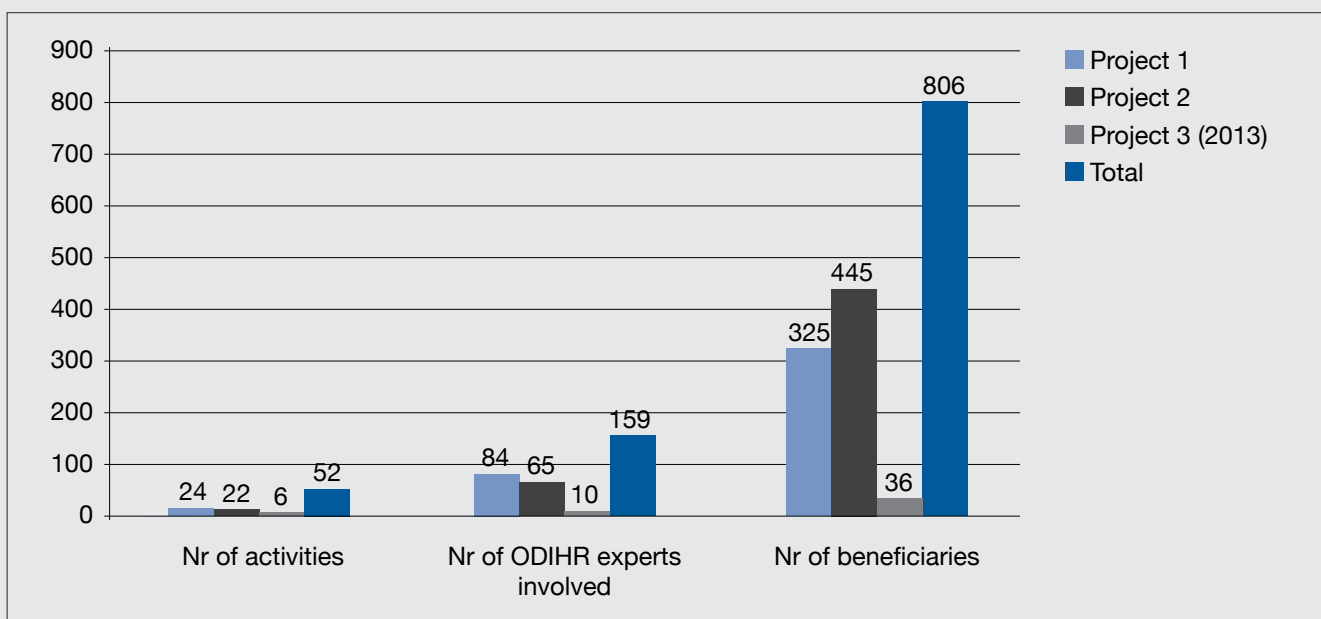


ODIHR has translated a number of publications into Arabic to serve as a basis for the exchange of good practices and transfer of knowledge from the OSCE region to the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. (Bartłomiej Muracki)

As a basis for the exchange of good practices and transfer of knowledge from the OSCE region, the ODIHR has also had a number of its key publications translated into Arabic and has disseminated them widely, notably on the ODIHR website.³

The second phase of the project commenced in July 2013 and will run until December 2015, aiming to further expand the ODIHR's engagement with MPC in the fields of elections, parliamentary strengthening, women's political participation, rule of law, human rights, and tolerance and non-discrimination.

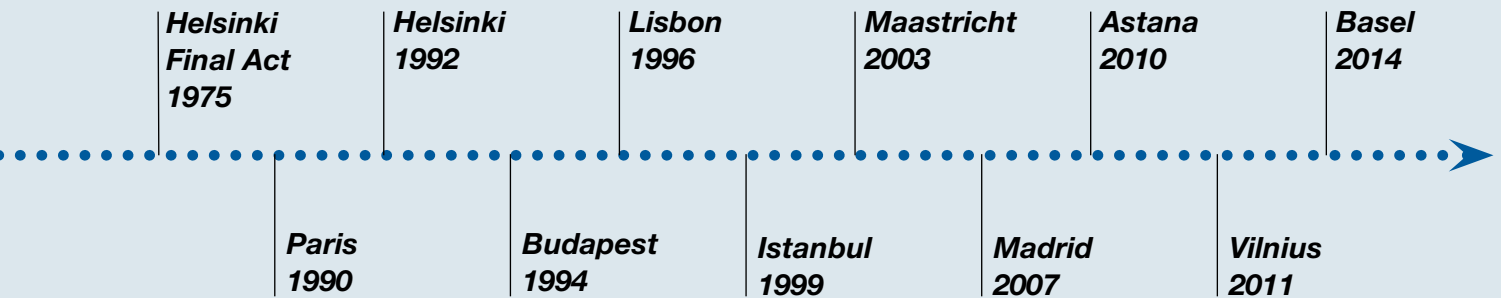
The total number of activities implemented since July 2012, with Tunisian stakeholders, amounts to 52. In this line, 159 ODIHR experts were actively involved in the developments and/or implementation of activities. Within this framework, 806 Mediterranean stakeholders benefited directly from the ODIHR tools and expertise.



³ Including the 6th edition of the *Election Observation Handbook*, which provides a detailed description of the OSCE/ODIHR observation methodology (see <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/68439> and the list of publications p. 67 of this brochure).

II. Founding Documents

Timeline of the key Founding Documents



Helsinki Final Act 1975

Questions relating to security and co-operation in the Mediterranean

The participating States,

Conscious of the geographical, historical, cultural, economic and political aspects of their relationship with the non-participating Mediterranean States,

Convinced that security in Europe is to be considered in the broader context of world security and is closely linked with security in the Mediterranean area as a whole, and that accordingly the process of improving security should not be confined to Europe but should extend to other parts of the world, and in particular to the Mediterranean area,

Believing that the strengthening of security and the intensification of co-operation in Europe would stimulate positive processes in the Mediterranean region, and expressing their intention to contribute towards peace, security and justice in the region, in which ends the participating States and the non-participating Mediterranean States have a common interest,

Recognizing the importance of their mutual economic relations with the non-participating Mediterranean States, and conscious of their common interest in the further development of co-operation,

Noting with appreciation the interest expressed by the non-participating Mediterranean States in the Conference since its inception, and having duly taken their contributions into account,



Declare their intention:

- to promote the development of good-neighbourly relations with the non-participating Mediterranean States in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, on which their relations are based, and with the United Nations Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States and accordingly, in this context, to conduct their relations with the non-participating Mediterranean States in the spirit of the principles set forth in the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States;
- to seek, by further improving their relations with the non-participating Mediterranean States, to increase mutual confidence, so as to promote security and stability in the Mediterranean area as a whole;
- to encourage with the non-participating Mediterranean States the development of mutually beneficial co-operation in the various fields of economic activity, especially by expanding commercial exchanges, on the basis of a common awareness of the necessity for stability and progress in trade relations, of their mutual economic interests, and of differences in the levels of economic development, thereby promoting their economic advancement and well-being;
- to contribute to a diversified development of the economies of the non-participating Mediterranean countries, whilst taking due account of their national development objectives, and to co-operate with them, especially in the sectors of industry, science and technology, in their efforts to achieve a better utilization of their resources, thus promoting a more harmonious development of economic relations;
- to intensify their efforts and their co-operation on a bilateral and multilateral basis with the non-participating Mediterranean States directed towards the improvement of the environment of the Mediterranean, especially the safeguarding of the biological resources and ecological balance of the sea, by appropriate measures including the prevention and control of pollution; to this end, and in view of the present situation, to co-operate through competent international organizations and in particular within the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

- to promote further contacts and co-operation with the non-participating Mediterranean States in other relevant fields.

In order to advance the objectives set forth above, the participating States also declare their intention of maintaining and amplifying the contacts and dialogue as initiated by the CSCE with the non-participating Mediterranean States to include all the States of the Mediterranean, with the purpose of contributing to peace, reducing armed forces in the region, strengthening security, lessening tensions in the region, and widening the scope of co-operation, ends in which all share a common interest, as well as with the purpose of defining further common objectives.

The participating States would seek, in the framework of their multilateral efforts, to encourage progress and appropriate initiatives and to proceed to an exchange of views on the attainment of the above purposes.

Charter of Paris for a New Europe 1990

Guidelines for the future

(...)

Mediterranean

We consider that the fundamental political changes that have occurred in Europe have a positive relevance to the Mediterranean region. Thus, we will continue efforts to strengthen security and co-operation in the Mediterranean as an important factor for stability in Europe.

We welcome the Report of the Palma de Mallorca Meeting on the Mediterranean, the results of which we all support.

We are concerned with the continuing tensions in the region, and renew our determination to intensify efforts towards finding just, viable and lasting solutions, through peaceful means, to outstanding crucial problems, based on respect for the principles of the Final Act.

We wish to promote favourable conditions for a harmonious development and diversification of relations with the non-participating Mediterranean States. Enhanced co-operation with these States will be pursued with the aim of promoting economic and social development and thereby enhancing stability in the region. To this end, we will strive together with these countries towards a substantial narrowing of the prosperity gap between Europe and its Mediterranean neighbours.

CSCE Helsinki Document 1992: The Challenges of Change

X: Mediterranean

(1) The participating States recognize that the changes which have taken place in Europe are relevant to the Mediterranean region and that, conversely, economic, social, political and security developments in that region can have a bearing on Europe. In this context, the CSO⁴ will seek to relate issues regarding co-operation in the Mediterranean to the goals of the CSCE process and will examine, as appropriate, practical modalities for possible contributions to the CSCE by non-participating Mediterranean States.

(2) The Chairman-in-Office of the CSO is encouraged to foster contacts with non-participating Mediterranean States in order to establish an effective information exchange.

⁴ Committee of Senior Officials.

(3) Non-participating Mediterranean States will be invited to future review conferences to make contributions concerning security and co-operation in the Mediterranean.

(4) A CSCE Mediterranean Seminar will be convened under the auspices of the CSO in the course of the year following this Follow-up Meeting. It will meet for a duration of no more than five working days. The date, location and agenda will be decided upon by the CSO.

(5) The Seminar can be attended by non-participating Mediterranean States, to which invitations will be extended.

(6) The agenda of the Seminar may comprise topics such as the environment, demographic trends or economic development and other areas of bilateral and multilateral co-operation between CSCE participating States and non-participating Mediterranean States reflecting the general framework of principles of co-operation in the Mediterranean region as provided for in the Final Act and other CSCE documents. The Seminar will not produce a document with commitments binding on CSCE participating States.

25th Committee of Senior Officials 1994

Prague, 3 March 1994

The Committee of Senior Officials,

- having examined the requests of five non-participating Mediterranean States (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Tunisia), which share CSCE principles and objectives, for a closer and more structured association with the activities of the CSCE; (...)

- committed to the further development of relations between the CSCE and the above-mentioned non-participating Mediterranean States; took the following decision:

1. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Tunisia will be regularly invited to meetings of the CSCE Council of Ministers, as well as to Review Conferences. They will not take part in the preparation or adoption of decisions, but will be allowed to make contributions on matters pertaining to security and co-operation in the Mediterranean.

2. They will be invited to regular meetings with the CSCE Troika both to facilitate a more structured dialogue on developments within the CSCE and to clarify issues of common interest which may be developed further. In this context the Troika may make proposals with respect to invitations on a case-by-case basis to the above States to meetings of the CSCE bodies and the organization of *ad hoc* seminars in order to discuss Mediterranean issues.

3. They may also be invited on a case-by-case basis to seminars and other *ad hoc* meetings on subjects in which they have a special interest.

4. They will have access to all CSCE official documents, under the responsibility of the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE assisted by the Secretary General of the CSCE.

5. They will have the right to submit their views, on issues of mutual interest, to the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE, who will circulate them to all participating States.

The CSO will review the above decision on a regular basis in the light of experience, bearing in mind the extent to which the States concerned continue to share CSCE principles and objectives.

CSCE Budapest Document 1994: Towards a genuine partnership in a new era

X: Mediterranean

1. The non-participating Mediterranean States have had a long-standing relationship with, and have shown keen interest in the work of, the CSCE since its beginning. Reaffirming their conviction that strengthening security and co-operation in the Mediterranean is important for stability in the CSCE region, the participating States welcome the agreements recently concluded in the Middle East peace process.

(...)

(a) An informal, open-ended contact group, at the level of experts, will be established within the framework of the Permanent Council in Vienna. This group will meet periodically to conduct a dialogue with these non-participating Mediterranean States in order to facilitate the interchange of information of mutual interest and the generation of ideas. (...)

(c) The Chairman-in-Office will conduct during his/her term in office high-level consultations between the CSCE, represented by the Troika and the Secretary General, and the non-participating Mediterranean States.

(d) In order to consider the proposals that originate in the contact group, seminars and high-level consultations, the Chairman-in-Office will invite during the course of the year representatives of these non-participating Mediterranean States, as appropriate, to any meetings of the Permanent Council solely devoted to "Mediterranean Issues", or to the Senior Council when "Mediterranean Issues" are placed on the agenda. The Chairman of the Forum for Security Co-operation, with the consensus of the participating States, may also invite representatives of these non-participating Mediterranean States to meetings devoted to "Mediterranean Issues".

49th Plenary Meeting of the Permanent Council 1995

PC.DEC/94, 5 December 1995

Decision No. 94

The Permanent Council,

Decides that the term "partners for co-operation" will henceforth be used to refer to Japan and the Republic of Korea, and the term "Mediterranean partners for co-operation" to Algeria, Egypt, Israel, [Jordan], Morocco and Tunisia. These changes in name do not alter the specific relationships between these States and the OSCE set out in previous OSCE decisions.

Lisbon Document 1996: Lisbon Summit Declaration

24. We are committed to further developing the dialogue with our Mediterranean partners for co-operation (...). In this context, strengthening security and co-operation in the Mediterranean is important for stability in the OSCE region. We welcome the continued interest displayed by the Mediterranean partners for co-operation (...) in the OSCE, and the deepening of dialogue and co-operation with them. We invite them to participate in our activities, including meetings as appropriate.(...)

IV. Enhancing agreed measures and developing new ones

(...)

The participating States will consider:

(...)

-extending, upon request and within existing resources, the FSC's experience to Partner States in the adjacent Mediterranean area.

169th Plenary Meeting of the Permanent Council 1998

PC.DEC/227, 22 May 1998

Decision No. 227

The Permanent Council,

Having considered the request of the Jordanian Government submitted to the Chairman-in-Office on 13 May 1998,

- Welcomes Jordan as a Mediterranean partner for co-operation as of the date of this decision.



**Opening Session of the
OSCE-Mediterranean Conference
in Monaco, 28-29 October 2013.**

172nd Plenary Meeting of the Permanent Council 1998

PC.DEC/233, 11 June 1998

Decision No. 233

The Permanent Council,

In view of the discussions in the framework of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean partners for co-operation, and

In the light of the continued interest shown by the Mediterranean partners in becoming better acquainted with OSCE activities and the desire of participating States to improve the quality of the interaction between the Mediterranean partners for co-operation and the work of our Organization;

Decides that

- OSCE Missions will, on a case-by-case basis, and in accordance with modalities to be established by the Missions and the Secretariat, receive representatives sent by partners for co-operation for short-term visits;
- the ODIHR will make arrangements for inclusion of observers sent by partners for co-operation in election monitoring or supervision operations organized by the OSCE, and will establish appropriate modalities for such participation.

176th Plenary Meeting of the Permanent Council 1998

PC.DEC/241, 9 July 1998

Decision No. 241

(...)

7. The partners for co-operation and the Mediterranean partners for co-operation will be invited to attend such meetings. They will be invited to contribute to meetings with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the relevant field of the Human Dimension.

(...)

III. General issues

(...)

2. Partners for co-operation, Mediterranean partners for co-operation, international organizations and institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations are invited to ensure appropriate participation in OSCE meetings devoted to Human Dimension issues.

OSCE Charter for European Security, Istanbul 1999

48. We recognize the interdependence between the security of the OSCE area and that of Partners for Co-operation, as well as our commitment to the relationship and the dialogue with them. We emphasize in particular the long-standing relations with our Mediterranean partners, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. We recognize the increased involvement in and support for the work of the OSCE by our Partners for Co-operation. (...) We welcome their wish to promote the realization of the Organization's norms and principles, including the fundamental principle of resolving conflicts through peaceful means. To this end, we will invite the Partners for Co-operation on a more regular basis to increased participation in the work of the OSCE as the dialogue develops.

49. The potential of the Contact Group and the Mediterranean seminars must be fully explored and exploited. Drawing on the Budapest mandate, the Permanent Council will examine the recommendations emerging from the Contact Group and the Mediterranean seminars. We will encourage the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to draw on our expertise in setting up structures and mechanisms in the Mediterranean for early warning, preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention.

307th Plenary Meeting of the Permanent Council 2000

PC.DEC/379, 9 November 2000

Decision No. 379

Developing Recommendations regarding Applications for Future Partnership

The Permanent Council,

In view of the growing interest in partnership status with the OSCE, tasks an informal open ended working group with developing recommendations by June of next year on the basis for considering future applications for partnership.⁵

Bucharest Ministerial Declaration 2001

IV. Action under the Platform for Cooperative Security with other organizations

(...)

28. Participating States/Secretariat: (...) Will broaden dialogue with partners outside the OSCE area, such as the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (...) the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Arab League, the African Union, and those States bordering on the OSCE area to exchange best practices and lessons learned in counter-terrorism efforts for application within the OSCE area.

⁵ The resulting document, known as the *Ladsous report* (PC.DEL.344/01/Rev.3, 28 June 2001) highlighted the idea of "affinity" that should govern any decision on the subject, opting for an open and flexible approach rather than defining strict criteria for partnership. Possible new applications should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

484th Plenary Meeting of the Permanent Council 2003

PC.DEC/571/Corr.1, 2 December 2003

Further Dialogue and Co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE Norms, Principles and Commitments with Others

(...)

Decides:

- To identify additional fields of co-operation and interaction with the OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation for the purpose of enhancing mutual security;
- To encourage Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement OSCE norms, principles and commitments, including as a means to further interaction with the OSCE;
- To explore the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with adjacent areas;
- To pursue its work on procedures for future applications for partnership;
- To prepare a report on the outcome of this work to be submitted to the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in 2004.

The Permanent Council also requests the Forum for Security Co-operation to make its own contribution to this work, within its competencies and mandate (...).

Maastricht Ministerial Council 2003

OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century 2003

(...)

The OSCE response

(...)

23. As threats originating or evolving in adjacent regions are of increasing importance, the OSCE will intensify its co-operation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, by early identification of areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for further coordinated action. We will encourage them to voluntarily implement the principles and commitments of the OSCE and will cooperate with them in this as appropriate. As a first step towards increased dialogue, we will invite all our Partners for Co-operation to participate on a more frequent basis as observers in Permanent Council and Forum for Security Co-operation meetings. The OSCE will also consider ways in which OSCE norms, principles, commitments and values could be shared with other regions, in particular neighbouring areas. Contacts with organizations in those areas will be further developed.

(...)

Addressing specific threats of a politico-military nature

(...)

51. One way of dealing with threats from outside the OSCE region is to seek possibilities for expanding the relevant principles, norms and measures contained in a number of OSCE politicomilitary documents to adjacent regions. The OSCE is particularly interested in encouraging its Partners for Co-operation and its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to take part in a number of existing information exchanges and other endeavours in the framework of the OSCE confidence and security building measures. Mutual early warning exchanges will be encouraged.

Ministerial Council Madrid 2007

Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, welcome the increased engagement by the Partners for Co-operation in the OSCE, noting that, over the years, a solid foundation has been laid for a strengthened partnership. We should build further on the Helsinki Final Act 1975, Helsinki Document 1992, the Budapest Document 1994, the Charter for European Security 1999, the 2003 OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04 on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation, and other relevant documents and decisions, which underlined the importance of dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation, exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with them.

2. We remain concerned about threats to security and stability within and around the OSCE area. We reiterate the interdependence between the security of the OSCE area and that of the Partners for Co-operation, and we encourage further efforts to strengthen the relationship between the Partners for Co-operation and the participating States in order to increase our ability to respond to new and traditional threats to security.

3. We support the efforts of the Partners for Co-operation to promote the OSCE's norms, principles and commitments in their regions, and encourage them to take further steps towards their voluntary implementation. We call on the Partners for Co-operation to report on their implementation in appropriate OSCE meetings. We advocate the development of the annual Mediterranean Seminars and Conferences with the Asian Partners for Co-operation into effective channels of communication between countries in different regions. We encourage the Partners to continue engaging on issues of common relevance to the OSCE and their regions. We also advocate increased sharing of the OSCE's experience in preventive diplomacy and confidence-building measures as well as further interaction with relevant regional organizations.

4. We encourage the OSCE Chairmanship to make full use of the possibility to invite Partners for Co-operation to attend meetings of the decision-making bodies, as well as of relevant informal subsidiary bodies on a case-by-case basis, and to make oral and/or written contributions, in accordance with the OSCE Rules of Procedure. In this respect, we commend the efforts undertaken by the Chairmanships of the Permanent Council and of the Forum for Security Co-operation to facilitate regular attendance by the Partners for Co-operation in the meetings of the two bodies.

5. We will, through the respective Contact Groups, keep the Partners for Co-operation regularly informed on discussions on relevant Ministerial Council decisions. We invite the Chairpersons of the Contact Groups to inform the Permanent Council about topical matters and to submit yearly reports to the Ministerial Council. In the spirit of paragraph 49 of the Charter for European Security, we also encourage the Permanent Council to examine the recommendations emerging from the Contact Groups and the Mediterranean Seminars and the OSCE Conferences with the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

6. We proceed from the understanding that further OSCE engagement with the Partners for Co-operation will be carried out within available resources and avoid duplication of efforts by other international organizations.

7. We take note with appreciation of the outcome of the 2007 OSCE-Mongolia Conference on Strengthening the Co-operative Security between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation. We call for examination of the wider applicability of the recommendations and suggestions stemming from this Conference. We look forward to the next OSCE conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

8. We equally look forward to the 2007 Mediterranean Seminar on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, to take place in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 18 and 19 December 2007.

9. We welcome the initiative taken by the Chairmanships of the Contact Groups in organizing the first Joint Meeting of the Contact Groups to assess the state of co-operation between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation.

10. We encourage the Partners for Co-operation to increase their interaction with the participating States and the OSCE executive structures in all three dimensions. In this context, the exchange of information on best practices and lessons learned could be further enhanced, in particular, by creating opportunities to involve experts from the Partners for Co-operation in OSCE activities. We stand ready to examine requests from the Partners for Co-operation for assistance in areas where the OSCE has particular expertise.

11. We welcome the decision by the Permanent Council on the establishment of a Partnership Fund, which will facilitate further promotion of the engagement of the Partners for Co-operation. We encourage the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to contribute to it.



Heads of Delegations from the Mediterranean Partners at a meeting with the OSCE Troika, at the OSCE MC in Madrid, 30 November 2007. (Felix Corchado)

12. Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 233 of 11 June 1998, we invite the Partners for Co-operation to send observers to participate in election observation missions, and call on the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to make arrangements to include them in election monitoring organized by the OSCE.

13. We welcome the initiative by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to hold an annual Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean, and encourage it to consider holding Asian Forums as well. We also encourage the Partners for Co-operation to participate in these events.

14. We encourage the OSCE Chairmanship and the chairpersons of the Contact Groups, together with the Secretary General, to continue supporting the dialogue with the Partners for Co-operation and to facilitate their contacts with OSCE executive structures in order to address common threats to security and stability and to promote the voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments.

15. Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 430 of 19 July 2001, we remain open to considering future applications for partnership from interested countries.

Decision No. 812: Establishment of a Partnership Fund 2007

PC.DEC/812, 30 November 2007

The Permanent Council,

Recognizing the increasing importance of the well-established co-operation between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 571/Corr.1, on further dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others,

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04, of 7 December 2004, on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation, underlining the importance of the report PC.DEL/366/04/Rev.4,

Wishing to promote the engagement of the Partners for Co-operation,

Decides to:

1. Establish a specific fund exclusively financed through extrabudgetary contributions, hereinafter referred to as the Partnership Fund, to foster deeper relations with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation and aimed at financing:

- After consultation with the Partners for Co-operation, participation by representatives from the Partners for Co-operation in such activities related to existing OSCE programmes as OSCE conferences, seminars, workshops and other meetings, or OSCE-related conferences, seminars, workshops and other meetings held by the Chairmanship, the FSC Chairmanship or an executive structure, as well as internships, visits, briefings and training courses, organized in accordance with the OSCE rules of procedure (MC.DOC/1/06);

- Such activities related to existing OSCE programmes as OSCE conferences, seminars, workshops and other meetings or OSCE-related conferences, seminars, workshops and other meetings held by the Chairmanship, the FSC Chairmanship or an executive structure in the territory of a participating State that are designed to encourage the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement OSCE norms, principles, commitments and best practices, as well as internships, visits, briefings and training courses, organized in accordance with the OSCE rules of procedure (MC.DOC/1/06);
 - Contribution toward the costs of the OSCE Mediterranean seminar and the OSCE conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation;
2. Further decides that this Fund shall be set up and managed in accordance with the OSCE's Financial Regulations and its Common Regulatory Management System (CRMS). In accordance with the principles of fund accounting applied by the OSCE, this Fund will be a multi-year fund, with balances carried forward from one year to the next, subject to agreement by the donor(s) and duration of the activity;
3. Requests the Secretary General:
- As Fund Manager, to administer the Fund in accordance with the Financial Regulations;
 - To report to the Permanent Council on the operation of this Fund once a year or at the request of the Permanent Council;
 - To establish the operational modalities of the Partnership Fund, and to inform the participating States and the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation of these modalities by means of a circular note;
4. The Partnership Fund will not be used to finance the organization of OSCE-related conferences, seminars, workshops, other meetings and activities outside of the OSCE region without an appropriate decision by an OSCE decision-making body;
5. Encourages the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to contribute to the Partnership Fund.

“We appreciate the OSCE’s interest in developing the scope of its political and technical co-operation with its Mediterranean Partners with the aim of building mutual confidence. This trend can only bode well for the future of both the European and the Mediterranean regions.”

Ambassador Shehab A. Madi of Jordan, 2007

Operational modalities of the Partnership Fund 2008

SEC.GAL/20/08, 31 January 2008

1. The Fund will be used exclusively for the purposes stipulated in PC.DEC/812 and be financed exclusively through extrabudgetary contributions. The Secretary General shall ensure that funds are utilized in strict compliance with the provisions of that decision.
2. A new Fund and a Master Project has been created and set-up in IRMA. All pledges should be made against the project number 1100689 “Master Project – Partnership Fund”.
3. The Master Project Manager, designated by the Secretary General, is Mr. Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Officer, who will be responsible for the Master Project and will communicate with the Donors in regard to fund raising and reporting. The Master Project Manager will be the main contact point for individual Project Managers who are responsible for specific projects under the Fund.
4. Specific projects will be proposed and submitted to the Master Project Manager by the Secretariat, Institutions and Field Operations. Upon approval of the specific project by the Master Project Manager, who will ensure compliance with PC.DEC/812, it will be uploaded in IRMA and will receive a unique project number. Information about such projects will also be made available to the Partners for Co-operation, once they are uploaded into the project database. The individual Project Managers will be fully responsible for the day-to-day management of their projects. The individual Project Managers will be responsible for preparing interim and final financial and narrative reports for distribution to the Donors by the Master Project Manager.
5. Donors
 - (a) can make contributions that are not restricted to any specific activities and are aimed at financing activities stipulated in PC.DEC/812; or
 - (b) can earmark contributions to a specific project(s) to be financed through the Fund.
6. As stipulated in PC.DEC/812, the Secretary General will report to the Permanent Council on the operation of this Fund once a year or at the request of the Permanent Council.

“We (...) reiterate our appeal to give new dynamism to the Partnership Fund and to involve it in the implementation of specific projects to support civil society, which is the main guarantor of freedoms and human rights, through the organization in interested Mediterranean countries of workshops, seminars and training courses while speeding up and simplifying the decision-making process for the holding of these events.”

Ambassador Mohamed Samir Koubaa of Tunisia, 2011

Ministerial Council Athens 2009

Decision No. 1/09, Furthering the Corfu Process

4. (...)

The Chairmanship, after close consultation with participating States, will invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation, international, regional and subregional organizations and institutions, as well as representatives of the academic and NGO communities to contribute to the discussions, on an *ad hoc* basis.

Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community 2010

10. We recognize that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent areas, notably in the Mediterranean and in Asia. We must therefore enhance the level of our interaction with our Partners for Co-operation.



Sherif Abdel Azim, Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement, presents the final recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR Mediterranean Partner Countries' Conference for Civil Society to Audronius Ažubalis, Lithuanian Minister for Foreign Affairs and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Vilnius, Lithuania, 5 December 2011. (Shiv Sharma)

Ministerial Council Vilnius 2011

Decision No. 5/11, Partners For Co-operation

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, which recognizes the close link between peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole,

Recalling the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted in 2003 at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Maastricht, which states that the OSCE will intensify its co-operation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, by early identification of areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for further co-ordinated action,

Fully convinced that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked with security in the regions of the Partners for Co-operation, and reaffirming our commitment to intensifying our dialogue and co-operation with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation and to strengthening our capacity to respond to the needs and priorities identified by the Partners and on the basis of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Recognizing the democratic transition processes, political, economic and social changes that have taken place in some Mediterranean Partners in 2011,

Commending the voluntary reform processes undertaken by some Mediterranean Partner countries,

Recognizing that each country is different and has the right to develop its own political model, with respect for the universal values of human rights and dignity,

Agreeing that the OSCE's experience in different areas can be of interest and potential benefit to the Partners, while taking into full account their prime responsibility for making national political choices as well as their specific political, social, cultural and religious heritage and in accordance with their needs, goals and national priorities,

Reaffirming the readiness of the OSCE, through its executive structures, within their respective mandates in accordance with established procedures and when requested, to assist the Partners for Co-operation, as appropriate, in their voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Recognizing the important role played by civil society in Partners for Co-operation, in promoting democracy, the rule of law, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years through dialogue and co-operation with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, including their enhanced participation in OSCE meetings and activities including the implementation of concrete mutual projects,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 571 on further dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04 on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation, as well as the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration of 2010, which underlined the importance of enhancing the level of interaction with the Partners for Co-operation,

Reiterating support for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's co-operation with the Partners including through the holding of its annual Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean, and taking note of the work done by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in this respect,

1. Decides to enhance further the Partnership for Co-operation by broadening dialogue, intensifying political consultations, strengthening practical co-operation and further sharing best practices and experience gained in the development of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, in the three OSCE dimensions, according to the needs and priorities identified by the Partners;"

2. Encourages the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their mandates and established procedures, to engage in action oriented co-operation with the Partner countries in all three dimensions, taking also into account the annual conferences of Partners, by providing expert advice and exchange of information on best practices and experiences upon request of the Partners based on relevant OSCE decisions when required and invites the Partners to increase the level of their participation in the OSCE activities;

3. Decides, in the context of the Partnership, to increase the efforts to promote OSCE norms, principles and commitments through the contacts in co-ordination with other relevant regional and international organizations, particularly the United Nations notably through the sharing of best practices and experiences and through joint projects and activities in all three dimensions, as appropriate;
4. Calls upon the OSCE Chairmanship and the Contact Groups, together with the Secretary General, to strengthen and further develop regular high-level dialogue with the Partners for Co-operation, in order to enhance mutual understanding and ensure high-level political support and assistance for the Partners for Co-operation, taking into account their needs and priorities;
5. Calls upon the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to facilitate a broader participation of officials and civil society representatives of Partners for Co-operation in relevant OSCE events, as well as through the use of the Partnership Fund as appropriate;
6. Tasks the Secretary General, in consultation with the OSCE Chairmanship, with exploring possible options for action oriented and results based co-operation with Partners, in co-ordination with the United Nations and other relevant regional and international organizations and institutions, and with making proposals, as appropriate, for further action by the Permanent Council;
7. Requests the Permanent Council to remain seized of the matter and to consider options for future engagement with the Partners for Co-operation at their request;
8. Encourages the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to share their experiences and contribute to the OSCE activities in all three dimensions, including through contributions to the Partnership Fund, as appropriate, in order to promote further engagement with the Partners for Co-operation;
9. Reconfirms its openness to considering future potential applications for partnership from interested countries, in line with Permanent Council Decision No. 430 of 19 July 2001.

List of Potential Projects and Topics of Potential Co-operation with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, Annex to the Ministerial Council Vilnius 2011

Projects not requiring a Permanent Council decision

1. Study Visits on Renewable Energy [OCEEA]
2. Roundtable on Sustainable Energy [OCEEA]
3. Participatory Workshops on Environment and Security Issues in the Southern Mediterranean Region (Valencia Project) [OCEEA]
4. OSCE/UNODC Regional Workshop on Implementation of Universal Antiterrorism Instruments [TNTD/ATU]
5. OSCE/UNODC Regional Workshop on Enhancing Implementation of Universal Anti-terrorism Instruments on Terrorist Use of Explosive Substances [TNTD/ATU]
6. Travel Document Security Study Trip [TNTD/ATU]
7. OSCE/UNODA Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004), for the Mediterranean Region [CPC/FSC]

8. Elements for an Effective Export Control Regime for SALW, including MANPADS [CPC/FSC]
9. Co-operation to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings in the Mediterranean Region [OSR/CTHB]
10. Translation into Arabic of OSR/CTHB Occasional Paper no. 4: “Unprotected Work, Invisible Exploitation: Trafficking for the Purpose of Domestic Servitude” [OSR/CTHB]
11. Needs Assessment Conference [TNTD/SPMU]
12. Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Programmes [TNTD/SPMU]
13. Participation to Events Offered by the Border Management Staff College [TNTD/Borders Unit]
14. Development of a Self-Assessment Tool for Nations to Increase Preparedness for Cross-Border Implications of Crisis [TNTD/Borders Unit]
15. Follow-on Event to the 2011 Border Delimitation/Demarcation Expert Workshop [TNTD/Borders Unit]
16. Strategies for Women Activists to Enter National Politics [Gender Section]
17. Study Trip to Learn about Tools to Battle Domestic Violence [Gender Section]
18. Women, Peace and Security: Implementing UNSC Resolution 1325 [Gender Section]
19. Creating Opportunities for Women’s Economic Empowerment [Gender Section]
20. Expert Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming Journalism in Post-conflict Societies [Gender Section]
21. Networking Events between Women’s Rights Organizations [Gender Section]

Projects that require a Permanent Council decision

22. Conference on the OSCE Code of Conduct for the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation + Launch of the Arabic Translation [CPC/FSC]
23. Review of Police and Criminal Justice Legislation [TNTD/SPMU]
24. Reinforcement of Democratic Policing through the Community Policing Model [TNTD/SPMU]
25. Development of Police Education for Strategic Police Reform [TNTD/SPMU]



Participants at a working session on raising political participation including the engagement of women and the youth during the ODIHR-OSCE-Mediterranean Partner Countries’ Conference for Civil Society, Vilnius, Lithuania, 4 December 2011.
(Velimir Alić)

Declaration on the Co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners, adopted at the Ministerial Council 2014 in Basel

MC.DOC/9/14

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, recognize that recent and ongoing international developments provide ample evidence that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent areas, including the Mediterranean as a whole, as already acknowledged in the Helsinki Final Act and reaffirmed in the 2010 Astana Declaration. The fortieth anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act will also mark the fortieth anniversary of the recognition in 1975 of the Mediterranean dimension and its relevance for security and stability in Europe.
2. We note that the changes unfolding in the Mediterranean region reflect a profound and complex process that may have enormous consequences for security and human rights in the OSCE region and beyond. We also note that these changes open up opportunities for development and co-operation and also increase the range of diverse and complex challenges, many of which are transnational in nature.
3. In this context, we reaffirm our strong belief in the relevance and the value of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership, and in the need to further strengthen and tailor the existing dialogue to address common challenges such as terrorism, illicit traffic in narcotics, organized crime, money-laundering, trafficking in human beings, illegal migration, gender equality, energy security, environment and security, and other issues, in a manner consistent with the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.
4. We also call for strengthened dialogue and co-operation with Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation with regard to ensuring the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, preventing intolerance, xenophobia, violence and discrimination on the basis of religion or belief, including against Christians, Muslims, Jews and members of other religions, as well as against non-believers, promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue, combating intolerance and discrimination against individuals or religious or belief communities, and promoting respect and protection for places of worship and religious sites, religious monuments, cemeteries and shrines, against vandalism and destruction.
5. We welcome the twentieth anniversary of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners, which serves as the main forum for regular dialogue between the OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation within the work of the organization and should be more proactively used. We consider that having this dialogue is of value in itself and must be an essential part of our relations with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.
6. We reaffirm the OSCE's readiness, through its executive structures, as well as through the activities of its Parliamentary Assembly, within their respective mandates and available resources, in line with established procedures and when so requested, to support the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by them, as stated in Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11 on Partners for Co-operation.
7. In this regard, we welcome the wide range of concrete and results oriented co-operation initiated between the OSCE Secretariat and the Mediterranean Partners, across all three dimensions of security and we call for their continuation and potential expansion and diversification, if necessary and within available resources.
8. We reaffirm our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and our firm rejection of the identification of terrorism with any race, ethnicity, nationality or religion. We reiterate our resolve to combat it, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and is incompatible with the fundamental values and principles shared by the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation alike. We welcome the dialogue on the efforts to

prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and develop and implement prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, in full implementation of UNSCR 2170 and 2178, and in particular foreign terrorist fighters identified therein, to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice, as well as to ensure that no funds, financial assets or economic resources are made directly or indirectly available to fund the terrorist activities. We reiterate our commitment to prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls of issuance identity papers and travel documents. We welcome the opportunity to address the topic of the fight against terrorism during the Twenty-First Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

9. We encourage the Mediterranean Partners to voluntarily make concrete and greater use of existing opportunities for further co-operation, and to continue to make the best use, where appropriate, of the OSCE principles, norms and commitments, as well as its relevant tools.

10. The Helsinki+40 process provides an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. We encourage the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to contribute actively to the Helsinki+40 process on the issues which are relevant to the Partners, and especially to consider additional options for further enhancing the OSCE's relations with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

11. We take note of the initiatives by academia, non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society, which provide additional channels to support and expand the existing dialogue and co-operation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

12. We stress the importance of OSCE co ordination and co-operation with other relevant international organizations in accordance with the 1999 Platform for Co operative Security and in the spirit of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership.



Plenary meeting at the Ministerial Council in Basel, 2014. (OSCE)

III. The Twentieth Anniversary of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation



The Contact Group serves as the main venue for regular dialogue with the Partners. It meets on average seven times a year at the ambassadorial level and is chaired by the incoming Chair of the OSCE (Serbia in 2014 and Germany in 2015). Beside the regular briefings by the Chairmanship, the agendas of its meetings usually include presentations by representatives of OSCE executive structures on OSCE activities, presentations of relevant work by partner organizations with a Mediterranean dimension, and preparations for or follow-up to main events and activities. The day-to-day dialogue between Contact Group meetings is maintained through technical meetings at the level of contact points in Vienna, allowing for informal consultations on concrete activities or on preparations for meetings.

Since 2012, the Mediterranean Contact Group has discussed many topics of importance to the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners in all three dimensions. In the first (politico-military) dimension, topics have included the politico-military aspects of security, challenges in the fight against terrorism, particularly kidnapping for ransom, and exchanging experiences on dialogue and

mediation in a regional context. Topics in the second (economic and environmental) dimension have focused particularly on the fight against corruption and stolen assets recovery, sustainable energy and water management. In the third (human) dimension the Contact Group has considered the effects of the Arab Spring on Algeria and Morocco, the democratic transition in Tunisia, good governance, tolerance and non-discrimination, and the co-operation between the ODIHR and the Mediterranean Partners. Prominent amongst the key areas addressed have been irregular migration and trafficking in human beings in the Mediterranean region, and in May 2014 the Group had the opportunity to hear at length about the plight of Syrian refugees and the challenges faced by their host countries.

In recent years, the work of the Mediterranean Contact Group has also involved follow-up discussions to the 2011 Vilnius Ministerial Decision on Partners for Co-operation, the Mediterranean Track II initiative *New-Med*, and the role of the Mediterranean Partners in the Helsinki+40 process.

Budapest 1994


CSCE Budapest Document 1994


Chapter X: Mediterranean

2. a) An informal, open-ended contact group, at the level of experts, will be established within the framework of the Permanent Council in Vienna. This group will meet periodically to conduct a dialogue with these non-participating Mediterranean States in order to facilitate the interchange of information of mutual interest and the generation of ideas.


IV. Defining the scope for co-operation

Table of Topics and Extra-budgetary Projects with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Cross-dimensional issues	
Topics of co-operation	Projects of co-operation
<p>Trafficking in Human Beings</p>  <p>Human trafficking affects virtually all OSCE States as well as its Partners, either as countries of origin or destination. (iStockphoto)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Seminar on Co-operation to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings in the Mediterranean Region Project No. 1101229 <i>Completed in 2013:</i> The event was held in Rome on 8 February 2013. The seminar highlighted areas for possible enhanced co-operation between the participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in the field of human trafficking and victim protection. Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) compiled the key issues and challenges drawn from the interventions and discussions of the conference participation in a publication. The report is available on the OSCE website under the following link: http://www.osce.org/secretariat/108481.</p> <p>A follow-up expert meeting on “Human trafficking in the Mediterranean: promoting access to justice”, was held in Vienna on 10 May 2013.</p> <p>Further follow-up expert meeting on “Co-operation to Enhance the Prevention of Human Trafficking and Labour Exploitation in the Mediterranean Region” Project No. 1101389 <i>Completed in 2013:</i> This further meeting was held on 7 October 2013.</p> <p>Trafficking in Human Beings: a Unique Visual Arts Interactive Training Tool for Border, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Officials <i>To be further developed subject to donors’ support</i></p>

Cross-dimensional issues	
Topics of co-operation	Projects of co-operation
<p>Freedom of the Media</p>  <p>(iStockphoto)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Visiting Diplomat from a Partner for Co-operation Project No. 1101184 <i>Completed in 2012:</i> Undertaken at the request of Israel, this project allowed for an Israeli diplomat to visit the OSCE Secretariat and the Office of the Representative of Freedom of the Media from 19 February until 31 May 2012 to deepen the visiting diplomat's knowledge of OSCE work.</p>
<p>Track II: New-Med Network</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>OSCE-Med Track II Initiative This project aims to facilitate and foster Track II interaction between OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. By involving Track II actors in the identification of outstanding challenges and innovative approaches, it aims to reinforce and expand the OSCE Mediterranean dialogue. The implementation of this project started in November 2013. Project No. 1101401 <i>Ongoing:</i> A launching workshop has been held in Turin on 4-5 June 2014 and a conference in Rome on 18 September 2014.</p>


Politico-Military Dimension	
Topics of co-operation	Projects of co-operation
<p>Code of Conduct</p>  <p>(Curtis Budden)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Regional Conference on the OSCE Code of Conduct for Politico-Military Aspects of Security for the Mediterranean Region Project No. 1101386 <i>Completed 2013:</i> The event was held in Malta on 11-13 September 2013. Security sector governance and the role of armed forces in democratic societies have been the topics of a three-day OSCE conference on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, which brought together high-ranking armed forces officials, senior representatives of foreign ministries as well as of the League of Arab States, academia, and representatives of national parliaments from 21 States to share regional experiences of international humanitarian law, security sector reform, the rights of armed forces personnel and parliamentary oversight of security forces.</p>

Politico-Military Dimension	
Topics of co-operation	Projects of co-operation
<p>Transnational Threats in general</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Tackling Emerging Transnational Threats in the Mediterranean Region through Information Sharing and Co-operation</p> <p><i>To be further developed subject to donors' support</i></p>
<p>Combating Terrorism</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Alexey Lyzhenkov, the OSCE's Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, at the publication launch of 'Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: A Community-Policing Approach', Vienna, 17 March 2014. (Also available in Arabic). (Micky Kröll)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Sub-regional Expert Workshop on Enhancing Counter Terrorism Co-operation in the Mediterranean Basin while Implementing the Universal Legal Instruments against Terrorism</p> <p>Project No. 1101242</p> <p><i>Completed in 2013:</i> The event was held in Malaga on 17-18 September 2013. The workshop contributed to increased dialogue and co-operation on the exchange of information on terrorists and terrorist networks, the sharing of expertise and best practices on countering terrorism and strengths and weaknesses in capacity building in relation to criminal justice legal regimes, and the mechanism and structures to fight terrorism.</p> <p>OSCE/UNODC Mediterranean Regional Counter Terrorism Expert Workshop on Kidnapping for Ransom: Enhancing the Implementation of the International Legal Framework against Terrorism</p> <p>Project No. 1101494</p> <p><i>Completed in 2013:</i> The event was held by the OSCE and the UNODC in Valletta, Malta on 16-17 September 2014. The primary goal of the workshop was to exchange information and good practices, and to strengthen co-operation in order to better prevent and thwart kidnappings committed by terrorists in the region, while implementing relevant Universal Anti-Terrorism Instruments. Experts discussed and proposed a number of initiatives and suggestions on how to put into practice the mandates contained in the Universal Instruments, which together with the UN Security Council Resolutions, particularly Res. 2133 (2014), provide the basis to address the Kidnapping for Ransom issue.</p> <p>Development of an e-learning Module on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes for the Benefit of the OSCE Participating States and Partners for Co-operation in 2015-2017</p> <p>The project will provide education about all the most relevant aspects of countering terrorist use of the Internet such as recruitment, radicalization and training new members, collection and transfer of funds, organization of terrorist acts and inciting terrorist violence.</p> <p><i>To be further developed subject to donors' support</i></p>


Politico-Military Dimension

Topics of co-operation	Projects of co-operation
<p>Border Security and Police Training</p>  <p>Tunisian participant gives a presentation at the Border Management Staff College (BMSC). (Ilona Kazaryan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Seminar on Development of a Self-Assessment Tool for Nations to Increase Preparedness for Cross-Border Implications of Disasters and Crises Project No. 1101344 <i>Completed in 2013:</i> The seminar was held in Vienna on 13-14 June 2013. The Self-Assessment Tool was published as a brochure on 25 November 2013. The publication also exists in French.</p> <p>• Workshop on Border Security and Counter Cross Border Criminal Activities in the Mediterranean Region Project No. 1101536 <i>To be further developed subject to donors' support</i></p> <p>• Awareness Raising Training Seminar on International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Public Key Directory (PKD) <i>To be further developed subject to donors' support</i></p> <p>• Cross-Border Critical Incident Rapid Responses in the Marine Environment <i>To be further developed subject to donors' support</i></p>
<p>Fight against Trafficking in Illicit Drugs</p>  <p>OSCE border security training, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 5 October 2007.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Training of Algerian Law Enforcement Officers on Combating Illicit Drugs Project No. 1101354 The project foresees a two-week training on combating drug trafficking to a selected group of 12 Algerian Law Enforcement Officers from operational departments, with the purpose of delivering advanced knowledge and developing planning skills and tools to enhance their professional level to execute drug-searching operations, including in residential premises, airport terminals, vehicles, and other means of transportation. <i>To be further developed subject to donors' support</i></p>

Politico-Military Dimension	
Topics of co-operation	Projects of co-operation
<p>Fight against Trafficking in Arms</p>  <p>(shutterstock)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Participation in the OSCE/UN Conference on International Tracing Instruments for illicit SALW, and subsequent regional Workshop Project No. 1101268 <i>Ongoing:</i> An OSCE-wide conference on tracing was held in Vienna on 22-23 May 2013. A workshop for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was conducted in Istanbul, Turkey on 12-13 May 2014.</p> <p>National Training for Tunisia on Elements for an Effective Export Control Regime for SALW, including MANPADS Project No. 1101509 <i>Ongoing:</i> A national roundtable on SALW took place in Tunis on 20-21 October 2014 to assess the needs of Tunisia in this area.</p> <p>OSCE/UNODA Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004), for the Mediterranean Region <i>To be further developed subject to donors' support</i></p>

Economic and Environmental Dimension	
Topics of co-operation	Projects of co-operation
<p>Economic Security</p>  <p>The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Halil Yurdakul Yigitguden. (Micky Kröll)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Gender-sensitive Labour Migration Policies: Awareness Raising in the Mediterranean Region and Eastern Europe Project No. 1101513 <i>To be further developed subject to donors' support</i></p>

Economic and Environmental Dimension	
Topics of co-operation	Projects of co-operation
<p>Renewable Energy & Energy Security</p>  <p>OSCE Study Trip to Gemasolar Concentrated Solar Power plant in Fuentes de Andalucía, 28 September 2011. (OSCE/Iryna Iarema)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert Workshop on Sustainable Energy Issues in the Southern Mediterranean Project No. 1101266 <i>Completed in 2013:</i> The workshop was held in Vienna on 29 April 2013. It aimed at promoting dialogue on issues related to sustainable energy in the southern Mediterranean region, with a view towards exploring and identifying potential areas where the OSCE executive structures could engage in action orientated co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners on energy issues. • Study Visit on Sustainable Energy Strategies <i>To be further developed subject to donors' support</i>
<p>Environment and Security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory Workshops on Environment and Security Issues in the Southern Mediterranean Region “Valencia Follow-up” Project No. 1101102 <i>Ongoing:</i> The first workshop was held in Amman, Jordan on 18-22 June 2012; and a second meeting took place in Vienna on 11 December 2014.

Human Dimension	
Topics of co-operation	Projects of co-operation
<p>Democracy building</p>  <p>Participants at the ODIHR-OSCE-Mediterranean Partner Countries' Conference for Civil Society, Vilnius, Lithuania, 4 December 2011. (Velimir Alic)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSCE/ODIHR Programme: Consolidating and Promoting democratic structures in Tunisia and among OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Phase I-II Programme: No. 1300609 <i>Ongoing:</i> Since 2012, 52 activities have been implemented benefiting 806 beneficiaries; Phase II targets: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decision and policy makers, legislators, local experts, representatives of political parties, regular agencies and civil society (think tanks, NGOs and academia) from OSCE Mediterranean Partner States; 2. Representatives of national election administration and other official bodies involved in elections and civil society organizations, including non-party domestic observer groups from Mediterranean Partner countries.

In addition, a special project under the Partnership Fund, named “Travel project” (Project No. 1101491 in 2014), is uploaded every year to support the participation of representatives from the Partners for Co-operation to the events listed in PC.DEC/812 (see page 33).

The OSCE Border College and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

The OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) was inaugurated on 27 May 2009 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. It works to strengthen co-operation and capacities by ensuring and promoting open and secure borders to tackle multiple border-related threats of an increasingly transnational nature. These threats include terrorism, organized crime, trafficking in human beings, weapons, and narcotics, and challenges related to migration. Since 2009, the BMSC has conducted 80 specialized training courses and thematic events, and 11 Border Management Staff Courses.

Ever since the College first opened its doors, the Partners have been able to send nationals to the BMSC for training. To date, the BMSC has taught five Algerian, 11 Egyptian, four Israeli, six Jordanian, one Moroccan, and 24 Tunisian nationals. The most recent training course with nationals from Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia, was completed on 24 October 2014. Moreover, a Tunisian national is currently the voice over on an online video presentation, providing information about the College.



Mediterranean Partners participate in a training course at the BMSC, Dushanbe, Tajikistan. (Ilona Kazaryan)

V. List of key findings expressed at OSCE conferences, workshops and seminars dedicated to the Mediterranean region since Vilnius 2011

General

- Take the OSCE-Mediterranean Partnership to the next level by, if necessary, revising and reforming some of the existing instruments for co-operation.
- The new approach of international organisations should build on “inspiring” rather than “exporting” external models.
- A key aspect of any new external approach to the region would be the recognition that local ownership is not only a necessary ingredient, but often a prerequisite to any co-operation initiative. Dialogue should first start among local actors and build on a progress that could initially be achieved at a more limited sub-regional level. Any revival of Mediterranean-wide integrationist/regionalist schemes will have to be anchored to the local realities of the Southern Mediterranean.
- While it does not currently appear viable to put forward new multilateral frameworks based on the CSCE/OSCE model for the Mediterranean, it would be useful as a minimum to restate the value of the trust-building, peace-fostering process that led to the Helsinki Final Act during the Cold War and explore whether similar initiatives could in the future take place, perhaps at the sub-regional/local levels, under the leadership of Southern Mediterranean countries, and with an external supporting role played by OSCE participating States.
- There seems to be a strong need to make the dialogue less “Euro-centric” and more balanced by ensuring ownership of the Partner States in the process of co-operation, for example by reforming the role and modus operandi of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group, assigning chairing or co-chairing roles to Mediterranean Partners in some aspects

of the dialogue and possibly assigning some limited possibilities for them to have a role in decision-making, for example when the MPC and the Contact Group are directly concerned.

- The dialogue must be made more operational and relevant by simplifying the rules on activities in Partner States.
- There should be better follow-up to Contact Group meetings and Mediterranean conferences within the Organisation, for example in the context of Permanent Council meetings, in order to make these events the launching pad for concrete co-operation projects that could be then developed and executed by the OSCE Secretariat and the OSCE institutions.

Expressed at

[Track II International Seminar: Towards Helsinki+40: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean and the Future of Co-operative Security](#)
Rome, 18 September 2014

Cross-Dimensional Issues

Trafficking in Human Beings

- A better understanding of the root causes of human trafficking in the region is needed to prevent practices that facilitate the phenomenon.
- The persistence of well-known forms of exploitation, particularly in the sex market, has combined with other emerging forms of exploitation - labour exploitation in various sectors, including domestic work, forced begging, forced marriage, forced criminal activities – which calls for further reflection and in-depth analysis.

- Explore the role of the private sector to prevent labour exploitation, through e.g. establishing codes of conduct and State-led initiatives particularly in the field of public procurement.

Expressed at

[OSCE Mediterranean Conference 2013:
Monaco, 28-29 October 2013](#)

-
- Enhance regional and bilateral co-operation for the identification of victims of trafficking, including children, and provide for appropriate social inclusion and labour integration opportunities, both in countries of destination and origin.
 - Regional and bilateral police and judicial co-operation should be enhanced to detect perpetrators and ensure their prosecution. This should involve promoting the use of financial investigations at an early stage of criminal proceedings and sharing information on trafficking in human beings and money laundering cases.
 - The respective duties of countries of origin and destination should be kept in mind, and measures should be set up to enable trafficked and exploited migrants to claim their rights through easy and quick procedures, before and after return.
 - There should be clear formulation and attentive enforcement of provisions related to the accountability of employers, including complaint mechanisms and remedial actions for workers, to prevent impunity of final users of exploited and trafficked workforce.
 - Enhanced co-operation would be needed in order to facilitate freezing and, confiscation of profits deriving from human trafficking and labour exploitation of migrant workers, as well as the dissemination of good practices on the freezing of assets, and non-conviction-based confiscation, anti-money laundering measures, and the use of confiscated assets to pay compensation to victims.

Expressed at

[Seminar on Co-operation to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings in the Mediterranean Region
Rome, 8 February 2013](#)

Co-operation with other Regional Organizations

- The Platform for Co-operative Security could be the basis for calling one or a series of conferences with partner organisations aimed at reviewing both the needs in the Mediterranean region and the various responses to them, should partner organisations be interested in such a co-ordination.
- The reach of the OSCE dialogue with the Mediterranean could also be extended by working more closely with other multilateral and regional organisations – a development which should be prioritised in the future especially with a view to avoid duplication of efforts while maximising much-needed synergies at a time of scarce resources.

Expressed at

[Track II International Seminar: Towards Helsinki+40: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean and the Future of Co-operative Security
Rome, 18 September 2014](#)

-
- Need to broaden the EU perspectives towards the Mediterranean.

Expressed at

[OSCE Mediterranean Conference
Rome, 30-31 October 2012](#)

-
- OSCE and the League of Arab States (LAS) to enhance co-operation, should hold a series of workshops and functions, possibly on an annual basis, in addition to the participation of both sides in each other's functions.
 - Capacity building of LAS staff – including possibly renewing the visits that had been organised before for young diplomats from LAS to the premises of the OSCE, ODIHR and field operations (the last such visit was in 2008). The same kind of visit can be made for young diplomats from the OSCE to the Headquarters of LAS to be introduced to the activities of the League.
 - OSCE-LAS co-operation on women's rights: Experts expressed the will to co-operate for the preservation of the rights of women within a variety of sectors.

- OSCE-LAS co-operation on SALW: Increasing awareness and building capacity in the field of handling SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunitions with particular focus on the collection and disposal of weapons. Translation of relevant documents was appreciated: adding that the translation of the OSCE Best practice Guide on SCA and perhaps the OSCE Vienna Document 2011 could be beneficial for further capacity building.
- OSCE-LAS co-operation on labour migration: the need for capacity building in this field was highlighted, as well as an interest to continue discussions and experience sharing, including expert consultations on available government programs that encourage domestic investments of remittances.
- OSCE-LAS co-operation on Elections: continued interest in discussions with ODIHR on both the methodology of observation and the possible training of observers.

Expressed at

[The OSCE-League of Arab States' Workshop for the presentation of OSCE handbooks and Publications available in Arabic](#)
LAS Headquarters, Cairo, 4 February 2014

- The OSCE added value could be to work out a closer relationship with the UfM and other multilateral organisations operating in the region, based on complementary efforts as well as a division of responsibilities.

Expressed at

[Track II International Seminar: Towards Helsinki+40: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean and the Future of Co-operative Security](#)
Rome, 18 September 2014

Track II

- Academics, researchers, and other civil society representatives can stimulate and complement the ongoing diplomatic dialogue on how to strengthen Euro-Mediterranean co-operation. They may be more conveniently placed to address politically-sensitive or complex issues, and helping to promote a truly

open, “two-way dialogue” on Mediterranean co-operation.

Expressed at

[Track II International Seminar: Towards Helsinki+40: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean and the Future of Co-operative Security](#)
Rome, 18 September 2014

Politico-Military Dimension Code of Conduct

- The OSCE Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security, as a landmark document governing the role of armed forces in democratic societies, should be seen as a guideline in democratic transitions at the disposal of States and as a platform for dialogue on its principles and commitments.
- Each country's unique approach to the OSCE Code of Conduct should be tailored to its needs and requirements.
- Duplication of efforts vis-à-vis other actors such as DCAF, NATO and the EU, should be avoided.

Expressed at

[Conference on the role of armed forces in democratic societies](#)
St. Julian's, Malta, 11 September 2013

Counter-terrorism

- To launch a new regional dialogue on key issues, focused on limited but fundamental objectives, such as containing the spread of violence and neutralizing terrorist actors in the Mediterranean region, such as terrorist groups currently operating in Iraq and Syria, among other countries.

Expressed at

[Track II International Seminar: Towards Helsinki+40: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean and the Future of Co-operative Security](#)
Rome, 18 September 2014

- To strengthen the national legal systems to counter terrorism, in full compliance with international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. Activities in this respect could include, inter alia:
 - a) To introduce in national legislation preventive criminal offences such as glorification of terrorism, incitement to, recruitment, and training for terrorism; as well as other criminal offences related to preparation of terrorist acts.
 - b) To review legislation with an aim to identify and address emerging issues and possible loopholes;
 - c) To ensure that such legislation enables an effective and human rights compliant investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related cases, including on issues such as the use of undercover officers, the use of modern technologies and special techniques in the investigation of terrorism, as well as international co-operation and the exchange of information.
- To intensify operational co-operation and timely exchange of information, intelligence and evidence, including on issues such as violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, countering terrorism financing, the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, and preventing the preparation of terrorist attacks (e.g., acquisition of false documents, weapons, explosives). Activities in this respect could include, inter alia:
 - Strengthening inter-institutional co-ordination and co-operation between all actors involved in countering terrorism at the national level, including intelligence agencies and law enforcement bodies, and ensuring a better interaction between these services and the prosecution, to achieve complementarity of action;
 - Participating in expert discussions to exchange good practices in the establishment of national co-ordinating bodies that oversee national counter-terrorism efforts and develop comprehensive national strategies and action plans;
 - Strengthening the specialized skills of criminal justice officials to ensure effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related cases.
- To convene regular meetings between practitioners from law enforcement, prosecution and the judiciary from countries north and south of the Mediterranean, as an excellent forum to pursue such co-operation in the fight against terrorism.
- To ratify and to strengthen the implementation of the Universal Anti-Terrorism Instruments.
- To institute and/or implement regional and international agreements in order to facilitate requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition, as well as to establish central authorities and informal networks to facilitate international co-operation on jurisdictional issues in terrorism-related cases.
- To strengthen OSCE and UNODC counter-terrorism collaboration and enhance synergies, through the organization of workshops, study tours and trainings.

Expressed at

OSCE-UNODC Regional Expert Workshop on the Implementation of the Universal Legal Instruments against Terrorism as a Way to Enhance Counter-Terrorism Co-operation in the Mediterranean Basin Malaga, Spain, 17-18 September 2013

Kidnapping for ransom

- Efforts should concentrate on prevention, and this could be central in the planning of OSCE regional co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners in 2014.
- It is necessary to involve the public, private businesses and NGOs that operate in dangerous territories in a dialogue to increase the chances of getting hostages released without paying a ransom.
- A specific instrument to prohibit payment of ransoms should be adopted under the auspices of the United Nations.
- The OSCE may consider adopting a political declaration calling for the criminalization of the payment of ransoms to terrorists, in support of other international and regional efforts to promote a “no ransom” policy and the possible elaboration of international instruments against kidnapping for ransom.
- The Global Counterterrorism Forum Algiers Memo-

randum on Good Practices contains practical recommendations that could guide action of the OSCE.

- The Algiers Memorandum contained practical recommendations that could guide OSCE action.
- The OSCE should focus on the added value of its work on this subject, in relation to other international efforts.
- The issue of trafficking and kidnapping for ransom addressed during the Conference should be given further attention in future OSCE co-operation with its Mediterranean Partners.
- The practice of providing weapons to non-State actors must be stopped as it would not help to solve the problem.

Expressed at

*OSCE Mediterranean Conference
Monaco, 28-29 October 2013*

-
- To consider ways and means to reduce financial flows from ransom payments, notably through the inclusion of a financial component in terrorism-related investigations, and by envisaging potential linkages with the investigations of other types of crime, which could reveal an intent to finance terrorism.
 - To strengthen inter-institutional co-operation and co-ordination mechanisms and the exchange of operational information at national, regional and international levels about operations to rescue/release hostages.
 - Financial flows should be traced not only in illegal markets, but also in legal markets, including formal and informal banking systems such as “hawala”, and also considering the potential abuse of the non-profit sector, or the increasing use of cash couriers.
 - To share initiatives and experiences to assist victims of terrorism and their families.
 - To share initiatives contributing to the prevention of kidnapping, including training of government officials and other exposed personnel to understand this threat, public awareness campaigns and travel warn-

ings. Involve relevant NGOs and the private sector, including insurance companies and the media.

- To provide specialized training and exercises for investigators, negotiators and staff of special units.

Expressed at

*Counterterrorism Expert Workshop on “Kidnapping for Ransom: Enhancing the Implementation of the International Legal Framework against Terrorism”
Valletta, Malta, 16-17 September 2014*

Economic and Environmental Dimension

General

- Enhanced co-operation at the political, economic and environmental level is necessary to secure sustainable development of the Mediterranean region as a whole.
- Mediterranean Partners could be invited as observers to OSCE events, in particular those related to the Aarhus Convention and to Aarhus Centers, in order to learn about the Convention and to consider its relevance for countries of the Southern Mediterranean region.

Expressed at

*Valencia follow-up process: Workshop on “Water Scarcity, Land Degradation and Desertification in the Mediterranean Region – Environment and Security Aspects”
Valencia, Spain, 10-11 December 2007;*

Follow-up workshop on Participatory Assessment of Environment and Security issues in the Southern Mediterranean Region

*Barcelona, Spain, 25-27 March 2009;
Participatory Workshop on Environment and Security Issues in the Southern Mediterranean Region
Amman, Jordan, 18-22 June 2012.*

- On the role of civil society, enhanced stakeholder dialogue and concerted action should lead to a shared vision between local communities and governments, so they both understand their respective roles and responsibilities concerning the management of natural resources.
- NGOs would greatly benefit from enhanced training, in particular on fund raising and management.

Expressed at

Valencia follow-up process

Climate change

- On the environmental implications of climate change, need for enhanced collaboration and co-operation. North-South but also South-South co-operation, especially in enhancing climate change adaptation policies and programs.

Expressed at

Valencia follow-up process

Water challenges and land degradation

- With regard to water scarcity and land degradation, the OSCE's experiences, best practices and lessons learned on promoting trans-boundary co-operation could serve as an example for the region and be used as a case study in eventual future meetings.
- The OSCE's experience in transboundary water management could be shared with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, particularly in the areas of legal instruments and institutional arrangements, such as river basin commissions.
- Water saving methods present a large potential and would be highly beneficial to many countries in the region, in particular regarding the capture, treatment and re-use of waste water for agriculture. Those countries which have longstanding experience in this regard should further exchange views and lessons learned from their national policies, experiences and information and awareness raising campaigns.

Expressed at

Valencia follow-up process

Sustainable Energy

- Regional and interregional co-operation on the subject of promoting dialogue and developing co-operation on sustainable energy should be reinforced, particularly between States in the East and in the Southern Mediterranean.

Expressed at

OSCE Mediterranean Conference
Rome, 30-31 October 2012

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- Intensified co-operation on energy issues will contribute to enhanced energy security in the region, since all Mediterranean Partners have a solid interest in this topic.
 - Energy distribution and storage systems will be essential topics for any future exchange of best practices and lessons learnt.
 - Residential, commercial, and industrial buildings account for approximately 70 % of all electricity used and should be the primary target for reductions. Capacity building is essential for dissemination of knowledge in this area.
 - OCEEA will plan as a first follow-up activity a study visit on sustainable energy for representatives from Mediterranean Partner countries, to raise awareness of relevant policy makers of the benefits of promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, with a special focus on its integration into the built-environment.

Expressed at

Expert Workshop on Sustainable
Energy in the Southern Mediterranean
Vienna, 29 April 2013

-
- Solutions in the field of solar power are a promising for future power generation in the Mediterranean region.
 - Regarding environmental implications of energy and security policies, there is need for incorporating the issue of energy security into national security concepts.
 - The organization of study visits on renewable energy legal frameworks, operation and technology for the

Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation is to be encouraged.

Expressed at

[Valencia follow-up process](#)

Economic and social challenges

- Need for a strong framework of co-operation, with a support structure and specific format and modalities.
- The OSCE should be explicit as to how it could provide assistance.
- Improving the framework for economic development in Mediterranean Partner countries, learning from the transition experienced by many EU countries following the end of the Cold War.
- Triple transition, including political, economic and social layers, is important.

Expressed at

[OSCE Mediterranean Conference
Rome, 30-31 October 2012](#)

Human Dimension

General

- Mechanisms of engagement by OSCE participating States with Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to be increased and formalized, including through support programmes, expertise and training.

Expressed at

[OSCE/ODIHR -Mediterranean Partner Countries' Civil Society Conference
Vilnius, 4-5 December 2011](#)

-
- Possibility to launch an information-sharing platform on good practices, with the OSCE playing an enhanced role in this field.

- Considering the specificities of local contexts, responses must be tailored according to cultural, social and economic features, based on the common denominator of international standards and taking into account specific resistances and difficulties.

Expressed at

[OSCE Mediterranean Conference
Monaco, 28-29 October 2013](#)

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- Promoting linkages between democracy development and any international donor support.
 - Encouraging Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to further invest in promotion of democracy in their respective countries.
 - Promoting linkages between democracy development and any international donor support.

Expressed at

[OSCE/ODIHR – Mediterranean Partner Countries' Civil Society Conference
Vilnius, 4-5 December 2011](#)

Linking Civil Society and Political Society

- Civil society to have a stronger role in tackling challenges in democratic transitions, including in the field of elections, equal participation in public life, legal reform, and ensuring women's rights as well as tolerance for minorities.
- OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to promote conducive and secure environments for civil society organizations to work effectively.
- Establishment of international, regional and domestic networks of civil society groups coming from OSCE participating States and the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, for mutual solidarity and support, but also to exchange ideas and learn from each other, should be encouraged.
- The OSCE participating States to provide for greater involvement of the ODIHR in the Mediterranean OSCE

Partners for Co-operation countries. This involvement should include a range of support programmes, such as providing expertise, consultancy, trainings, and other activities aimed at increasing the capacity of civil society organizations observing elections.

- OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to create a conducive and secure environment for political interaction for civil society organizations to work effectively on promoting and protecting human rights.
- ODIHR to facilitate the development of networks between representatives of civil society from the OSCE and the Mediterranean regions, including the exchange of good practices.
- Supporting civil society actors to assume a more active role in guiding civil society actions.

Expressed at

OSCE/ODIHR – Mediterranean Partner Countries' Civil Society Conference
Vilnius, 4-5 December 2011

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- The new OSCE-Mediterranean dialogue should include not only governmental and inter-governmental actors, but also academics, journalists, parliamentarians, youth, teachers and civil society representatives thus providing for more ownership and visibility, making the Organization better known and its potential contribution more appreciated.
 - The OSCE can also play an important role in fostering the establishment of private-public partnerships and promoting the role of civil society organisations in Mediterranean dialogue.

Expressed at

Track II International Seminar: Towards Helsinki+40: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean and the Future of Co-operative Security
Rome, 18 September 2014

Elections

- More efforts to be taken to harmonize all aspects of electoral process with international commitments and standards for democratic elections.

Expressed at

OSCE/ODIHR – Mediterranean Partner Countries' Civil Society Conference
Vilnius, 4-5 December 2011

Justice and Legal Reform

- ODIHR to keep on supporting the process of constitutional and legal reform in the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation countries.
- OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation countries to base legal reforms on a participatory, inclusive and transparent approach.
- ODIHR to create a platform to promote an independent judiciary through the dissemination of existing documents, recommendations and related training events and to encourage the integration of professional legal communities including existing associations of lawyers.
- ODIHR to support capacity building activities on international human rights standards, including translation into Arabic of key ODIHR publications and delivery of roundtables, seminars and other events for the exchange of good practices.
- ODIHR to organize discussions and training to promote international human rights standards within law enforcement bodies.
- ODIHR to provide trainings on international human rights standards, including on trial monitoring.

Expressed at

OSCE/ODIHR – Mediterranean Partner Countries' Civil Society Conference
Vilnius, 4-5 December 2011

National Minorities

- OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation countries to base legislative frameworks on respect for minority rights, including religious and cultural rights.
- The ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious minorities to be protected and persons belonging to national minorities to be equally guaranteed fundamental human rights and freedoms, freely express, consolidate and develop identity without any discrimination and in full equality before the law.
- Creating mechanisms for the empowerment of oppressed and disadvantaged groups, including minorities, in respective countries.

Expressed at

OSCE/ODIHR – Mediterranean Partner Countries' Civil Society Conference
Vilnius, 4-5 December 2011

Women's Empowerment

- Women's equal participation in politics, as well as full respect for women's rights, are critical to the proper functioning of society at all levels.
- Development of innovative tools to mobilize women as political actors, using social media to build awareness of women's political rights, women's parliaments to support the articulation of women's needs and interests, and socio-economic development as a platform for women's political empowerment.
- Establishment of sustainable platforms for dialogue linking grassroots women's organizations and political actors, focusing on continuous civic education for both women and men, as citizens, voters and political actors.
- Think tanks to act as intermediaries between civil society and political actors, and engage legal and policy experts, to fully assess the impact of electoral and political legislation on women as political actors.

Expressed at

OSCE/ODIHR – Mediterranean Partner Countries' Civil Society Conference
Vilnius, 4-5 December 2011

- Focus should lie on issues within the mandate of the OSCE – for example, on the role of women in conflict prevention and mediation or, more generally, on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security.
- Need to give concrete expression to internationally recognized women's rights in national regulations.
- There should be measures to allow women to combine family with professional life. In relation to this, child care services should be expanded and more balance established between the roles of fathers and mothers introducing, e.g. mandatory fathers' leave in line with the experience of some of Europe's Nordic countries.
- Need for better networking among women, to facilitate access to financial resources, to education, to the public sphere and fairer protection by the judicial system.
- There is a need for an election system that allows more female participation, such as a proportional voting system, as opposed to quotas.
- Need for more systematic professional training for non-qualified women.

Expressed at

OSCE Mediterranean Conference
Monaco, 28-29 October 2013

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- Equal access to schooling for girls and boys should be ensured.
 - The role that religion played in shaping the image and role of women should also be addressed.

Expressed at

OSCE Mediterranean Conference
Rome, 30-31 October 2012

Youth

- The OSCE to support youth programs addressing social and political issues.
- OSCE participating States to encourage their Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to establish

transparent and effective dialogue with youth representatives and taking into account the needs of youth.

Expressed at

OSCE/ODIHR – Mediterranean Partner Countries' Civil Society Conference
Vilnius, 4-5 December 2011

Social and Online Media

- OSCE participating states to foster an open and secure access to Internet and seek technological solutions for countering Internet censorship.
- Trainings for journalists on electoral coverage and trainings of civil society organizations in media monitoring, to promote the freedom of expression, should be used to tackle the issue of media bias.

Expressed at

OSCE/ODIHR – Mediterranean Partner Countries' Civil Society Conference
Vilnius, 4-5 December 2011

Migration

- The issue of migration should be seen as an opportunity for enhanced co-operation in the region, as a tool for economic development and growth, not just as a threat or a challenge.

Expressed at

Track II International Seminar: Towards Helsinki+40: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean and the Future of Co-operative Security
Rome, 18 September 2014

- The collection of reliable quantitative and qualitative data on the flows of irregular migrants across the Mediterranean Sea could help a proper understanding of the magnitude of the problem in the Mediterranean region, as well as its specific features, with a view to elaborating tailored responses.
- Enhance co-operation, not only between countries of origin, transit and destination or between the private and public sectors, but also to complement the ongoing efforts at regional level, such as the EU



OSCE Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Lamberto Zannier and OIC Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Iyad Ameen Madani Meeting in the margins of the 69th UN General Assembly, 2014.

summit, and support further regional mechanisms like the Mediterranean Union, the League of Arab States and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

- Ways to enhance legal channels for labour migration need to be pursued in the dialogue with countries of destination.
- The United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and the Members of their Families is an important tool for effective strategies to prevent trafficking, although this international instrument still suffers from a limited number of ratifications, particularly in the west.
- Enhance co-operation between origin and destination countries in order to facilitate access to justice for irregular migrants, particularly to claim compensation, including unpaid salaries.
- Enhance the involvement of civil society in assisting migrant workers-both regular and irregular-, exploring further the role of trade unions, employers' associations and the diaspora.
- Enhance regulation and licensing of recruitment and job placement agencies, particularly of migrant labour force, and promote the analysis of the use of social media and the internet for fraudulent recruitment and job placement, particularly of foreigners.

Expressed at

OSCE Mediterranean Conference 2013
Monaco, 28-29 October 2013

VI. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

The **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)** supports the OSCE's Mediterranean dimension from a parliamentary perspective, enhancing relations both between the participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and amongst the Partners themselves. Parliamentarians from Partner States are officially admitted as observers to the Assembly's activities.

OSCE PA initiatives relating to the Mediterranean Partners include:

- The post of Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, which is held by a prominent member of the Assembly who acts as the President's special envoy and contact person for activities concerning the Mediterranean Partners;
- The Partners are invited to participate in all OSCE PA conferences, which affords them a key opportunity for networking and exchanging ideas with colleagues from the entire OSCE area;
- The annual Mediterranean Forum mounted in the framework of the PA's Autumn Meeting is organized specially for members of parliament from Mediterranean countries to debate issues of di-

rect concern to them. The Forum, which is addressed by the Chair of the Contract Group, has been praised by participating States in several Ministerial-level OSCE documents;

- The involvement of members of parliament from Mediterranean Partner countries in election observation missions offers them opportunities to study best practices and democratic processes in OSCE States. This activity has been encouraged by several Ministerial and Permanent Council decisions;
- In regular conjunction with the PA's Winter Meeting held in Vienna every February, meetings are organized between the Chairmanship of the OSCE Contact Group and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. Side meetings on the Mediterranean involving parliamentarians and experts from the Partner States are regularly organized on the margins of the Assembly's Annual Session.

The "Arab Spring" offered an opportunity to re-examine the PA's work with the Mediterranean Partners and on the Mediterranean region. Since the adoption of a resolution on Mediterranean political transition at the PA's



The 2014 Mediterranean Forum, held on the opening day of the OSCE PA's Autumn Meeting in Geneva, 3 October.



A crowd queues at a polling station in Tunis, October 2011.

2011 Annual Session in Belgrade, the Partners have been further integrated into the PA's work. They now sit placed in alphabetical order amongst the delegations of participating States and may participate in meetings with few limitations (principally, they cannot take part in voting). The PA has seen an increase in requests from Partners for Co-operation for interaction with member States, to which it responds with efforts to reinforce collaboration with those countries. The PA has expressed its support for an inclusive and enlarged Partnership. Libya and the Palestinian Authority have occasionally participated in OSCE PA meetings as observers.

In exceptional circumstances, and when resources have permitted, the OSCE PA has also engaged in election observation in Partner countries. In 2004 the Assembly sent a special delegation consisting of three senior members to observe the 2004 presidential election in Algeria, who visited numerous polling stations in Algiers and surrounding cities. In 2011 more than seventy OSCE PA observers from 21 OSCE participating States and Algeria observed the first democratic elections to the

National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia. After monitoring the vote in Djerba, Gafsa, Hammamet, Kairouan, Nabeul, Sidi Bouzid, Sousse, Tozeur, and Tunis, the observers concluded that the elections had given voters a chance to make a genuine choice from the large number of party lists including more than 11,000 candidates.

Most recently, on 3 October 2014 the OSCE PA's Mediterranean Forum considered the theme "Facing Current Challenges to Security in the Mediterranean Region: the OSCE Model". It featured debates on topics including the threat of ISIS in the region, the crises in Iraq, Libya and Syria, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and irregular migration.

VII. The *New-Med* Track II Network

Launching the *New-Med* Network at the Rome International Seminar: “Towards Helsinki +40: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean, and the Future of Co-operative Security”

On 18 September 2014, on the occasion of the international seminar “Towards Helsinki +40: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean, and the Future of Co-operative Security” (Rome, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), a new OSCE-related track II network of Mediterranean researchers and experts was launched under the name *New-Med*, standing for “New Mediterranean”.

New-Med owes its conception to the Italian-initiated extrabudgetary OSCE-MED Initiative and has leveraged on a co-operation with the Compagnia di San Paolo of Turin, an independent foundation, and the Institute of International Affairs (IAI) in Rome, a think tank. *New-Med* aims to promote a truly two-way dialogue with countries of the Southern Mediterranean. It is the first ever track II network devoted to Mediterranean affairs to be linked to the OSCE, which as a broad-based group of countries practising and promoting an inclusive type of multilateralism offers a unique opportunity to develop an inclusive type of Mediterranean dialogue with a wide range of countries and actors, including States that are not members of the EU and/or NATO. As the largest regional



organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE is well-fitted to acting as the platform for co-operation between other regional, subregional, and multilateral organizations in the Euro-Mediterranean space.

New-Med will promote the sharing of best practices and experiences in accordance with priorities identified by the participating States and the OSCE Mediterranean Partners. The network puts particular emphasis on the need to feature perspectives from the South, with a view to ensuring co-ownership of future co-operation initia-



Opening Session of the Seminar in Rome: “Towards Helsinki +40: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean, and the Future of Co-operative Security” in 2014, Dr. Emiliano Alessandri (OSCE), OSCE Secretary General Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, and Italian Under Secretary of State Dr. Mario Giro.



Ambassador Fred Tanner, Senior Advisor to the OSCE Secretary General and Liaison for the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship 2014, at the Rome Seminar 2014.

tives. The network will promote an understanding of comprehensive security issues based on the recognition that the Mediterranean is increasingly a “global region” marked by economic interdependence and populated by a plurality of governmental and non-governmental actors from the Mediterranean basin and adjacent areas. The network will discuss how the reality of the “global Mediterranean” affects the content, direction, and means of Mediterranean co-operation in specific policy areas.

Although the track II nature of this new initiative implies that *New-Med* will operate outside and beyond diplomatic channels, it will also receive strong inputs from governments, so as to ensure that the track II and track I diplomatic dialogue will complement and reinforce one another. The national focal points of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners will play a particularly important role in this regard. In the future, individual countries and/or institutions will be able to activate the network in order to draw attention to specific subjects and priorities. *New-Med* will also seek to identify areas in which new practical co-operation projects could be developed between the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners. Among the latter, migration and inter-faith/inter-religious dialogue have already attracted interest. The issue of ungoverned territories and failing states in the Mediterranean region is also a possible target of future research activities.

A key element of originality in *New-Med* is the promising example of “public-private partnership” (PPP) that it provides by featuring the involvement of national governments, an international organization, research institutes, and foundations, all joining forces towards the common goal of promoting dialogue and co-operation in the Mediterranean region.

As the most recent one in a long series of similar initiatives, *New-Med* aims at interacting and establishing ties with other networks such as the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions and the Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission EuroMeSCo. In terms of membership, *New-Med* aims at creating a pool of distinguished scholars and practitioners from the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa) and the OSCE area who share an interest in security dialogue and co-operation in the Mediterranean region. The network’s inclusiveness is ensured not only by the number of countries represented but also by the plurality of backgrounds. *New-Med* is above all a network of people rather than an association of institutions. Its attractiveness lies in its loose institutional structure and the informality of the expert discussions that can take place in this format.⁶

⁶ For more information, please consult the *New-Med* page on the OSCE website: <http://www.osce.org/node/124279>



The third session of the Rome Seminar 2014:
Dr. Nadia Arbatova, H.E. Ambassador Assia Ben Salah Alaoui, Dr. Eduard Soler i Lecha, Dr. Ian Lesser, H.E. Ambassador Gabriel Busquets.

VIII. Selection of OSCE publications relevant to the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership

Documents directly related to the Mediterranean region



Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies, Mediterranean edition, 6 December 2007, also available in Arabic and French: <http://www.osce.org/eea/29630>



Enhancing Co-operation to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings in the Mediterranean Region, 18 November 2013: <http://www.osce.org/secretariat/108481>



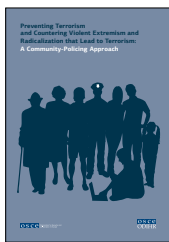
Factsheet: ODIHR – Enhancing co-operation with the OSCE’s Mediterranean Partners in the Human Dimension, 20 May 2014: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/118755>



OSCE – Mediterranean Partner Countries’ Civil Society Conference Ahead of the 2011 Vilnius Ministerial Council: Final Report, 5 December 2011, also available in Arabic: <http://www.osce.org/ar/odihr/87928>

Politico- Military Dimension

OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD)



Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: A Community-Policing Approach, 17 March 2014, also available in Arabic: <http://www.osce.org/atu/111438>



Guidebook on Democratic Policing, 24 January 2007, also available in French: <http://www.osce.org/spmu/23804>



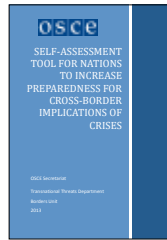
OSCE Resource Police Training Guide: Trafficking in Human Beings, TNTD/SPMU Publication Series, 10 July 2013: <http://www.osce.org/secretariat/109935>



Police Reform within the Framework of Criminal Justice System Reform, 1 July 2013: <http://www.osce.org/secretariat/109917>



Trafficking in Human Beings: Identification of Potential and Presumed Victims. A Community Policing Approach,
21 June 2011:
<http://www.osce.org/node/78849>



Self-Assessment Tool for nations to increase preparedness for cross-border implications of crisis,
25 November 2013:
<http://www.osce.org/borders/104490>

OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)



Protection Checklist,
18 February 2014:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/111464>



OSCE Guide on Non-military Confidence-Building Measures,
30 April 2013:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/91082>

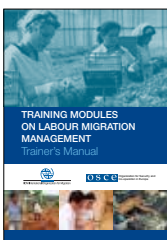


Operational Guidelines for Working in a Potentially Hazardous Environment,
7 July 2010:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/74739>



Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security,
3 December 1994,
also available in Arabic:
<http://www.osce.org/ar/fsc/99216>

Economic and Environmental Dimension



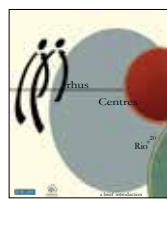
Training Modules on Labour Migration Management - Trainer's Manual,
2 August 2012:
<http://www.osce.org/eea/92572>



Strengthening Migration Governance,
1 November 2009:
<http://www.osce.org/eea/72021>



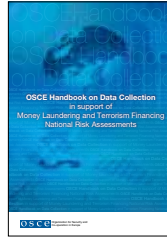
ENVSEC 10-years publication, 2013:
<http://www.envsec.org/publications/ENVSECTransformingRisks.FINAL.web.pdf>



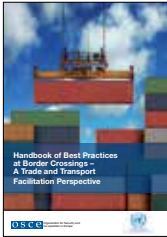
Aarhus Centres publication, 2012:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/89067?download=true>



Leveraging Anti-Money Laundering Regimes to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, 11 July 2014:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/121125>



OSCE Handbook on Data Collection in Support of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, National Risk Assessments, 16 October 2012:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/96398>



Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective, 22 February 2012:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/88238>



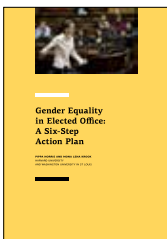
Gender and Labour Migration Trainer's Manual, 2 August 2012:
<http://www.osce.org/eea/67967>



Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies, 18 May 2009,
also available in Spanish:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/37228>

Human Dimension

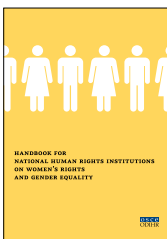
OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights



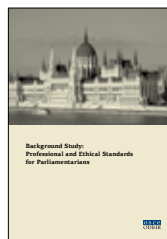
Gender Equality in Elected Office: A Six-Step Action Plan, 9 September 2011,
also available in Arabic:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/78432>



Guidelines on Political Party Regulations, 19 May 2011,
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<http://www.osce.org/odihr/77812>



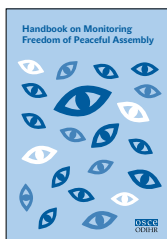
Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, 4 December 2012,
also available in Arabic:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/97756>



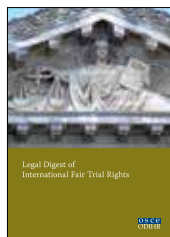
Background Study: Professional and Ethical Standards for Parliamentarians, 25 January 2013,
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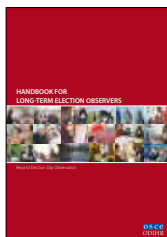
Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly, 25 October 2010,
also available in Arabic and French:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/73405>



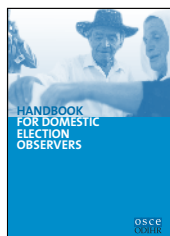
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<http://www.osce.org/odihr/82979>



Legal Digest of International Fair Trial Rights, 26 September 2012,
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<http://www.osce.org/odihr/94214>



Handbook for Long-Term Observers,
20 April 2007,
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<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/24678>



Handbook for Domestic Election Observers, 1 October 2003,
also available in Arabic:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/70289>



Handbook for Monitoring Women's Participation in Elections,
13 July 2004, also available in Arabic:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/13938>



Handbook for the Observation of Voter Registration,
13 July 2012, also available in Arabic:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/92058>



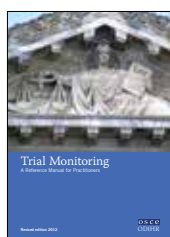
Election Observation Handbook: Sixth Edition, 11 June 2010,
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<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/68439>



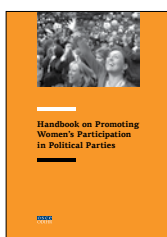
Handbook for Media Monitoring for Election Observation, 13 July 2012,
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<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/92057>



Guidelines for Review of Legislation Pertaining to Religion or Belief,
28 September 2004,
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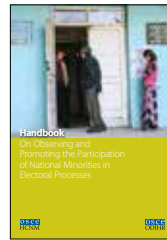
Trial Monitoring: A Referenced Manual for Practitioners, 26 September 2012,
also available in French:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/94216>



Handbook on Promoting Women's Participation in Political Parties,
7 July 2014:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/120877>



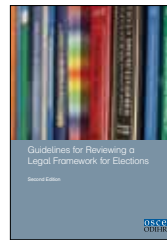
Baseline Study on Cross-Border Mobility in the OSCE Region,
15 May 2014:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/118506>



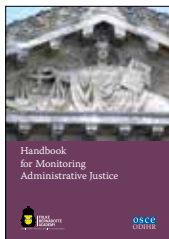
Handbook On Observing and Promoting the Participation of National Minorities in Electoral Processes, 22 September 2014:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/124067>



Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders,
10 June 2014:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/119633>



Guidelines for Reviewing a Legal Framework for Elections, Second Edition, 1 October 2013:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/104573>



Handbook for Monitoring Administrative Justice,
20 September 2013:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/105271>



OSCE Human Dimension Commitments: Volume 1, Thematic Compilation (third edition),
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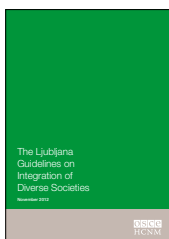


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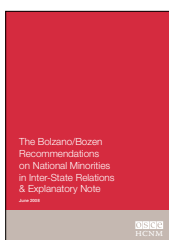
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)



Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies, 7 November 2012:
<http://www.osce.org/hcnm/96883>



HCNM thematic recommendations 1996-2008, 1 December 2010:
<http://www.osce.org/hcnm/74509>

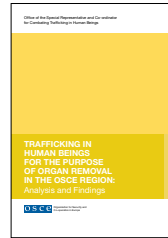


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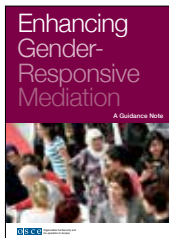


Trafficking in Human Beings Amounting to Torture and other Forms of Ill-treatment, 25 June 2013:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/103085>



Trafficking in Human Beings for the Purpose of Organ Removal in the OSCE Region: Analysis and Findings, 9 July 2013:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/103393>

OSCE Gender Section

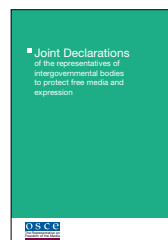


Enhancing Gender-Responsive Mediation, 28 October 2013:
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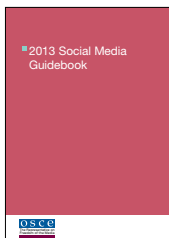
Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media



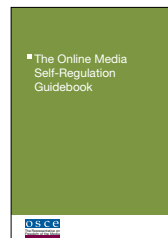
Commitments: Freedom of the Media, Freedom of Expression, Free Flow of Information, 1975-2012 (2nd edition), 13 February 2013:
<http://www.osce.org/fom/99565>



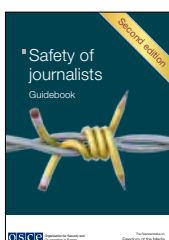
Joint declarations of the representatives of intergovernmental bodies to protect free media and expression, 13 February 2013:
<http://www.osce.org/fom/99558>



2013 Social Media Guidebook, 13 February 2013:
<http://www.osce.org/fom/99563>



The Online Media Self-Regulation Guidebook, 13 February 2013:
<http://www.osce.org/fom/99560>



Safety of Journalists Guidebook, 2nd Edition, 2 May 2014:
<http://www.osce.org/fom/118052>



Safety of journalists - why it matters, 5 December 2011:
<http://www.osce.org/fom/101983>



Internet Freedom – Why it matters,
11 January 2012:
<http://www.osce.org/fom/86003>



New-Med Network



Towards “Helsinki +40”: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean, and the Future of Cooperative Security, 4 November 2014:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/126351>



The Future of Multilateral Security Dialogue in the Mediterranean: Lessons Learnt, Opportunities and Choices,
3 September 2014: <http://www.iai.it/content.asp?langid=2&contentid=1164>



Competitive Multipolarity in the Middle East,
12 September 2014:
<http://www.iai.it/content.asp?langid=2&contentid=1166>

OSCE/ODIHR Opinions on Tunisia's legislation:

ODIHR provides legislative assistance to OSCE participating States and OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation upon request for draft or existing legislation in the human dimension, often in co-operation with the Council of Europe European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission). Since 2012, ODIHR has compiled seven Opinions for Tunisia as outlined below, and encourages other OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to seek ODIHR's expertise in the human dimension.

- **Tunisia, Joint OSCE/ODIHR-CoE Venice Commission Opinion on the Law relating to the Higher Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**, 17 June 2013, also available in Arabic: <http://www.osce.org/ar/odihhr/103286>
- **Tunisia, Opinion on the Act on the Regulation of Public Meetings, Marches, Rallies, Demonstrations and Assemblies**, 21 December 2012, also available in Arabic: <http://www.osce.org/ar/odihhr/99831>
- **Tunisia, Opinion on the Decree Law of the Republic on the Regulation of Political Parties**, 21 December 2012, also available in Arabic: <http://www.osce.org/ar/odihhr/99834>
- **Tunisia, Opinion on the Draft Law On Establishing an Independent Election Management Body of the Republic**, 4 December 2012, also available in Arabic: <http://www.osce.org/ar/odihhr/elections/97777>
- **Tunisia, Opinion on the Draft Law Related to the Fight against Terrorism and Prevention of Money Laundering**, 9 December 2013, also available in Arabic: <http://www.osce.org/ar/odihhr/109541>
- **Tunisia, Opinion on the Draft Organic Law on the Right to Peaceful Assembly**, 14 May 2013 also available in Arabic: <http://www.osce.org/ar/odihhr/103649>
- **Tunisia, Opinion on the Law 29/1967 concerning the Judicial System, the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, and the Status of Judges**, 21 December 2012, also available in Arabic: <http://www.osce.org/ar/odihhr/99828>

IX. The OSCE Mediterranean Partnership and the Helsinki+40 Process



Ambassador Gunaajav Batjargal, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the OSCE and Co-ordinator for Partners for Co-operation, speaking at the seminar “Towards Helsinki+40”, Rome, 18 September 2014. (Leonardo Puccini)

With the upcoming fortieth anniversary of the CSCE Helsinki Final Act in 2015, the future of the Mediterranean Partnership has become a subject of lively and constructive debate here at the OSCE in the past year. As Co-ordinator for Cluster VIII of the Helsinki+40 process I have been entrusted with increasing the OSCE’s interaction with the Partners for Co-operation and also with international and regional organizations working in similar fields.

Close consultations between the participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation have taken place at all major turning points in the history of the OSCE, with the Mediterranean Partners contributing to all the important steps that have charted the Organization’s way forward over the years. For example, they were invited to make contributions to the Preparatory Committee of the 1990 CSCE summit meeting in Paris. And as Switzerland has reported as Chair of the

Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners, they made contributions to the so-called “Security Model” at the 1996 Lisbon Summit and in 1999 were invited to participate in one of the meetings of its main framework for negotiations, the Security Model Committee. In 2005, the six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation followed the work of the Panel of Eminent Persons closely with a view to making their own contribution to guiding the Organization into the future; and subsequently, in September of the same year, they submitted a joint set of proposals at the closing session of the High-Level Consultations on OSCE reform, which were delivered by Algeria on behalf of the group. Furthermore, throughout 2009 Greece, then holder of the Chairmanship-in-Office, did all it could to keep the Partners for Co-operation informed on developments in the Corfu Process through a series of informal briefings.

It therefore comes as no surprise to find the Partners genuinely expecting to contribute actively to the Helsinki+40 process and thus to take an active part in an interactive discussion that will aim at re-founding and strengthening the OSCE. The fortieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act clearly represents an opportunity to join forces on reviewing the continuing relevance of what is the third of the Act’s three major sections, “*Questions relating to Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean*”.

In the context of what should be an open, two-way discussion, I am also a strong supporter of the *New-Med* network, which was launched as a track II initiative for the Mediterranean Partners on 18 September 2014 in Rome during the seminar “*Towards Helsinki+40: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean and the Future of Co-operative Security*”. Seminar participants from participating States and from Mediterranean Partner States were asked to identify promising new areas of co-operation and innovative approaches to dialogue. I am pleased to note that suggestions floated during the Rome seminar attracted interest and attention in

Vienna. They can now be found summarized on the OSCE website and in the chapter on recommendations in this brochure.⁸

I also welcome the statements made by the Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships in their Joint Work Plan highlighting the need to engage in “*more concrete and project-oriented*” co-operation and to “*deepen the dialogue*” with the Partners. I am confident that the Serbian Chairmanship will continue to implement the Joint Work Plan by focusing on the suggestions and outcomes of meetings and conferences with the Partners and “*by promoting track II initiatives*”.

I must also make positive mention of the progress made most recently at the Basel Ministerial Council on 4–5 December 2014 through the adoption of the ambitious Declaration on Co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners. This document can help us chart our way towards the adoption of new decisions and the launching of new projects with our Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in 2015 and beyond.

To conclude, I am confident that 2015 will be an important year for the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership. In my role as Co-ordinator of Cluster VIII of the Helsinki+40 process, I will continue to actively support efforts to strengthen these relations.



H.E. Ambassador Gunaajav Batjargal, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the International Organizations in Vienna

⁸ The recommendations can be found on the *New-Med* page of the OSCE Website in the report of the Rome Conference Towards “Helsinki +40”: The OSCE, the Global Mediterranean, and the Future of Cooperative Security” under the following link: <http://www.osce.org/secretariat/126351?download=true>

■ The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe works for **stability, prosperity and democracy** in 57 States through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.

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