



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Secretariat

Department for Chairman-in-Office Support

Consolidated Summary

OSCE Mediterranean Seminar

on

**THE OSCE AS A PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE AND
THE FOSTERING OF NORMS OF BEHAVIOUR**

Tel Aviv, 2-4 June 1996



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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. The venue

The seminar took place at the Hotel "Hilton", Tel Aviv

1.2. Timetable and other organisational modalities

- ★ The seminar opened on Sunday, 2 June and ended on Tuesday, 4 June.
- ★ The opening and closing sessions were chaired by a representative of the Chairman-in-Office.
- ★ The opening ceremony took place at the Tel Aviv University. Workshops were conducted at Hotel "Hilton".
- ★ Each workshop had a moderator and rapporteur appointed by the Chair.
- ★ The working language was English. At the request of several States interpretation was provided from and into French.

ITINERARY

Sunday, 2 June

...	Delegations (as per registration forms) arrive Tel Aviv
10.00-17.00	Registration of Delegates (Hotel "Hilton")
17.00	Press Briefing (Hotel "Hilton")
17.30	Transfer from the hotels to the Tel Aviv University
18.00	Opening Ceremony (Tel Aviv University)
19.00-21.00	Reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel (Tel Aviv University)
21.00	Bus transfer to the hotels

Monday, 3 June

09.00	Opening of the Morning Session (Hotel "Hilton")
12.00	Closing of the Morning Session, Lunch break
14.00	Opening of the Afternoon Session
17.00	Closing of the Afternoon Session
20.00	Concert of the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra (Sibelius "En Saga", Stravinsky "Violin Concerto", Beethoven "Symphony No. 7").

Tuesday, 4 June

09.00	Opening of the Morning Session (Hotel "Hilton")
12.00	Closing of the Morning Session, Lunch break
14.00	Opening of the Afternoon Session
17.00	Round-up of the Seminar, Discussion
17.30	Closing Press-Conference (Hotel "Hilton")
19.00-21.00	Reception hosted by the Swiss Chairmanship (Hotel "Hilton")

Wednesday, 5 June

08.30	Leave for sightseeing Jerusalem
10.00	Tour of the Old City of Jerusalem, visit Holy Places
11.45	Visit of the Church of Nativity at Bethlehem (t.b.c.)
13.00	Lunch
14.30	Visit the Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls)
16.00	Return to Tel Aviv via the Ben Gurion International Airport

AGENDA

Sunday, 2 June

Opening Ceremony

1. Opening Address by the Foreign Minister of Israel, Mr. Ehud Barak
2. Address by the President of the Tel Aviv University, Professor Yoram Dinstein
3. Address by Ambassador Benedict von Tscharner, Chairman of the Permanent Council, on behalf of the OSCE
4. Address by Ambassador Mahmoud Karem, Director, Disarmament Dept., MFA, Egypt

Monday, 3 June

Session 1

Workshop: "The Reinforcing Institutions and the Mediterranean Dialogue"

Moderator: Mr. Hasan Gögüs, Deputy Head, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE

1. Presentation: "The OSCE and the Mediterranean Dialogue - Experience and Prospects", Professor Giuseppe Nesi, Legal Adviser, MFA, Italy

2. Mediterranean dimension of dialogue: Presentations on the experience of the European Union (Barcelona Conference), NATO, the Western European Union, the Mediterranean Forum and the Council of Europe.
3. Discussion

Session 2

Workshop: “The OSCE Experience in Conducting Dialogue”

Moderator: Ambassador Antonio Cosano, Head, Spanish OSCE Delegation

1. Presentation: “The OSCE and dialogue among Governments (experience of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation)”, Ambassador Márton Krasznai, Head, Hungarian OSCE Delegation
2. Presentation: “The OSCE and dialogue at a regional level (experience with the Pact on Stability in Europe)”, Mr. Jean Noel Bouillane de Lacoste, Ambassador of France to Israel
3. Presentation: “The OSCE and dialogue between conflicting parties”, Ambassador Réne Nyberg, Co-Chairman, Minsk Group
4. Presentation: “The OSCE and dialogue between a Government and population groups (the experience of the High Commissioner on National Minorities)”, Mr. Frans Timmermans, Adviser to the HCNM
5. Discussion

Tuesday, 4 June

Session 3

Workshop: “The OSCE as a System of Norms of Behaviour and Efforts to Ensure their Full Implementation”

Moderator: Mr. Alexander Cornelissen, Netherlands OSCE Delegation

1. Presentation: “The OSCE and norms of behaviour among States: from the Helsinki Decalogue to the Code of Conduct”, Dr. Adam Daniel Rotfeld (Poland), Director, Stockholm International and Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
2. Presentation: “The OSCE's work on the Security Model and the principles of security relationships (comprehensive, indivisible, co-operative security)”, Ms. Alyson Bailes (UK), Institute of East-West Studies
co-speaker - Professor Emanuel Adler (Israel), Hebrew University, Jerusalem
3. Presentation: “The OSCE and the relationship between Governments and their citizens: Principle VII of the Helsinki Final Act”, Mr. Harris Nielsen, Special Adviser, MFA, Denmark
4. Discussion

Session 4

Workshop: “Mediterranean Efforts”

Moderator: Ms. Thalia Petrides, Director for European Affairs, MFA, Cyprus

1. Presentation: “Efforts to build confidence and develop relations in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, in particular, experience gained so far on the applicability of OSCE patterns”, Ambassador Maurice Abela, Head, Maltese OSCE Delegation
co-speakers - Professor Yari Evron, Tel Aviv University, Israel, and Ambassador Mahmoud Karem, Director, Disarmament Dept., MFA, Egypt
2. Presentation “The OSCE and the Mediterranean States: areas of common interest and opportunities for co-operation”, Mr. Haralambos Manesis, Counsellor, MFA, Greece
3. Discussion

Immediately followed by

Session 5

Closure

1. Reports from the workshops
2. Summary by the Chair
3. Closing statement by a representative of the host Country

PARTICIPATION

1. The Mediterranean partners for co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia) were invited to attend all the sessions and make contributions to all the meetings.
2. Japan and the Republic of Korea were invited to participate in and contribute to the seminar.
3. The following international organizations and institutions were invited to participate in and contribute to the seminar: Organization of African Unity; United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; Council of Europe; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Western European Union; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; the Black Sea Economic Co-operation as well as the Commonwealth of Independent States.
4. Representatives of non-governmental organizations were able to attend and contribute to the seminar in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices.
5. Other countries and organizations were invited by the host country.

France

Mr. Jean Noel BOUILLANE DE LACOSTE Ambassador of France to Israel
Mr. Helene LEGAL First Secretary, Embassy of France to Israel

Finland

Mr. René NYBERG Ambassador, Co-Chairman of the Minsk
Group
Ms. Heli KANERVA First Secretary, MFA

United Kingdom

Ms. Alyson BAILES Counsellor, on loan to Institute for East
West Studies
Mr. Martin HARRIS Second Secretary, UK Delegation to the
OSCE

Greece

Mr. Haralambos MANESIS First Counsellor, MFA, Athens

Hungary

Mr. Márton KRASZNAI Ambassador, Head of Delegation

Ireland

Mr. John SHAW OSCE Desk, Dept. of Foreign Affairs

Italy/European Union

Mr. Giuseppe NESI Legal Advisor, MFA
Mrs. Carla SINIBALDI OSCE Expert, MFA
Mr. Fabio GORRA LAZZARINI DO
MORROVALLE Colonel, Italian OSCE Delegation
Mr. Claus Dieter von SCHUMANN European Commission
Mr. Keith John SANGWAY European Commission

Latvia

Mr. Ivars SILARS Ambassador of Latvia to Israel

Malta

Mr. Maurice ABELA Ambassador, Head of Delegation
Mr. Alfred FARRUGIA Deputy Head of Delegation
Mr. John Paul GRECH

Switzerland/OSCE Chairmanship

Mr. Benedikt VON TSCHARNER	Ambassador, Permanent Representative to OSCE
Mr. Linus VON CASTELMUR	Deputy Head of OSCE Section
Mr. Denis FELDMAYER	Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Switzerland to Israel

Turkey

Mr. Hasan GÖGÜS	Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE
Mr. Yönet Can TEZEL	Vice Council, Acting Deputy Consul General of the Turkish General Consulate in Jerusalem

Ukraine

Mr. Sergei KORSUNSKY	First Secretary, Embassy of Ukraine to Israel
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Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Egypt

Mr. Mahmoud KAREM	Ambassador, Director, Disarmament Department, MFA
Mr. Ashraf MOHSEN	First Secretary, Embassy of Egypt to Israel

Israel

Mr. Hanan BAR-ON	Former Senior Deputy Director General, MFA
Mr. Michael BAVLY	Deputy Director General, European Affairs, MFA
Mr. Yoram DINSTEIN	President, Tel Aviv University
Mr. Emanuel ADLER	Professor, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Mr. Yair EVRON	Professor, Tel Aviv University
Mr. Ran CURIEL	Director, Multilateral European Institutions Division, MFA
Mr. Gabby LEVY	Director, Official Guest Divisions, MFA
Mr. Michael RONEN	Counsellor, European Division, MFA
Mr. Giora BECHER	Director, Disarmament Division, MFA
Mr. Yehoshua KRITH-MAN	Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Israel to Austria
Mr. Gerald M. STEINBERG	Senior Research Associate, BESA Center for Strategic Studies

Morocco

Mr. Talal GHOUFRANI Head, Liaison Office in Tel Aviv

Tunisia

Mr. Khemaies JHINAOUI Head, Liaison Office in Tel Aviv
Mr. Tarek LADEB

Host Country's Guests

China

Mr. Du HONGBIN Counsellor, Embassy of China to Israel
Mr. Lu JIAN Attaché, Embassy of China to Israel

Jordan

Mr. Marouf BAKHIT-NADER Major-General, Vice President of the Mutah University

Mauritania

Mr. Ahmedou Ould ABDALLAH
Mr. Ahmed Ould TEGUEDI Head of the Interests' Section of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

OSCE Secretariat

Mr. Piotr SWITALSKI Head of Department
Mr. Vladimir DRONOV Diplomatic Adviser
Ms. Alice NEMCOVA Officer for documentation and information
Mrs. Aldona SZYMANSKI Secretary

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Mr. Frans TIMMERMANS Adviser

International and Intergovernmental Organizations

Council of Europe

Ms. Jutta GÜTZKOV Administrator, Directorate of Political Affairs

Western European Union

Mr. Carlos ECHEVERRIA-JESUS Specialist on Mediterranean Issues

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Mrs. Jette NORDAM Head, Multilateral and Regional Affairs
Section, Political Affairs Division
Mr. C.R. Gordon DAVIS Lt. Col., Arms Control Section

Organization of African Unity

Mr. Emad AWWAD Co-ordinator in the Conflict Management
Division

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Mr. Stephen CALLEYA Lecturer in International Relations,
Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic
Studies (Malta)
Mr. Laurence WEINBAUM Senior Research and Editorial Officer, World
Jewish Congress, Israel

Interpreters

Ms. Anette DULZIN
Ms. Rosie HESS-RACHLIN
Ms. Ruth MORRIS
Ms. Fanny NOSKOWICZ

III. Summaries by Workshop Rapporteurs

Session 1

"The Reinforcing Institutions and the Mediterranean Dialogue"

Report by Mr. Sven Jurschewsky

At the beginning of the first session it was pointed out that while, Mediterranean Security was part of the Helsinki Final Act, the CSCE and its successor, the OSCE, focused most of its attention on Europe. In the period after 1989, when the fall-out of the collapse of communism resulted in a series of European crises, the Mediterranean became peripheral to the OSCE's concerns. Since then, beginning with the Rome Ministerial Council, and in a series of subsequent meetings, the situation has been progressively redressed. At the Budapest Summit, input by Mediterranean states served to strengthen co-operation and to institute a Contact Group in Vienna. The agenda of the Contact Group has provided for more structured and active dialogue. The Cairo Seminar recognized the general usefulness of the OSCE methods, but also pointed out substantial differences in European and Mediterranean circumstances. The dialogue has been intensified in its regularity and substantiality. There has also been a shift in focus from North Africa to the Middle East. It was underlined that the OSCE can play an important pedagogical role through the definition of common principles and in conceptual work on the root causes of instability. It will also be important for the OSCE to forge closer links with more operationally oriented organizations.

Details of the Barcelona Declaration were provided. A step-by-step approach has been adopted with respect of the Chapters on Political and Security Partnership and Partnership in Social, Cultural and Human Affairs; details of the second Chapter on Economic and Financial Partnership will be worked out by the European Commission. The gradual establishment of an EU/Mediterranean free trade area is intended to help promote the goals of faster economic and social development, improved living conditions, and greater co-operation and regional integration. Additional financial assistance – ECU 4,685 billion – will be provided in the period 1995-99 as well as EIB loans and bilateral flows.

One delegate characterised the shift in the OSCE's focus as marginal in scope when compared with the trail-blazing accomplishments of the Barcelona Declaration. The OSCE's ongoing work on Security Model for the 21st Century would be incomplete without the full integration of the Mediterranean dimension of European security. Towards the institutionalisation of political dialogue among Mediterranean states and to provide a mechanism for arms control and confidence building, one suggestion was made to create of a forum for political and security dialogue. Such a forum might enjoy a link to the OSCE, which would provide a structure for dialogue and co-operation at the regional level and constitute a more effective problem-solving instrument. The proposal was reiterated for a Stability Pact for the Mediterranean, encouraging responses have been received from a number of quarters. With specific reference to the OSCE, a number of other proposals was made:

- A) More intensified dialogue in the Permanent Council and in the Parliamentary Assembly;
- B) The creation of an information system – MEDGATE;
- C) The utilisation of the OSCE's expertise to establish structures in the Mediterranean analogous to those the OSCE has set up for conflict prevention, early warning, preventive diplomacy as well as its other activities and mechanisms.

The ongoing meeting was characterized as a continuation of the dialogue that has taken place at the Cairo Seminar. The proposals that has been made would help orient the OSCE toward the Mediterranean.

The meeting then turned to presentations by the reinforcing institutions.

As for the NATO, participants were informed that the organization has been engaged in dialogue with Mediterranean states for the last year, part of the NATO's transformation to face new risks or the old risks in new guises. In that context the Alliance's strategy refers to the Mediterranean and the 1994 Brussels Summit has linked European and Mediterranean security. Dialogue with Mediterranean states has a purely political character. This modest initiative had received a positive response. Its further development would proceed on a step-by-step basis.

WEU's dialogue with the countries of the Maghreb had been in train since 1992. It was based on seven principles: dialogue, transparency, confidence-building measures, conflict prevention, sufficiency of force levels and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Since 1994 Egypt and Israel have been added to the dialogue and consideration is being given to a further expansion. Dialogue has been consisted of two parts: First a trilateral portion comprised of the WEU secretariat, the Presidency and individual dialogue partners to apprise them of WEU developments; second individual bilateral experts sessions that consist of the WEU and national representatives. The first series of meetings emphasised exchanges on the seven principles, preparing lists of point of contact and exchanges of views on peace-keeping experiences. During the UK Presidency it was decided to shift from a bilateral to a multilateral format.

A presentation was made of the Council of Europe's role and structure. Pluralist democracy, human rights and the rule of law form the substance of the Council's principles and the European Convention on Human rights is the main instrument at its disposal. Though the Mediterranean states are not eligible for membership, the Council has developed inter-governmental cooperation in the legal, cultural, economic and social fields. The Council has been much concerned about Cyprus and to promote the Middle East Peace Process. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council will hold a general debate on co-operation within the Mediterranean basin in September, 1996. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly have organized four Mediterranean conferences on such topics as the environment, the promotion of dialogue, tourism, communication and transportation. Future areas for co-operation include the promotion of democratic institutions, human rights and the rule of law; actions against xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance, a youth campaign, migration, as well as drug abuse and drug smuggling. Worthy of particular note is the European Centre for Global Inter-dependence and Solidarity which might foster co-operation with and among Mediterranean States.

The discussion was lively and focused on a proper division of labour among organizations fostering dialogue with the states of the Mediterranean. It was suggested that co-ordination and synergy might be accomplished by the states comprising the organizations in question, as opposed to formal arrangements among Secretaries General. It was suggested that the Mediterranean states have a certain responsibility to organize themselves and enunciate their common priorities. The meeting saw the process as encouraging – the Mediterranean was becoming part of the European reality. A gradual, pragmatic approach was best. Delegates asked for feed-back from the Mediterranean Partner states. Emphasis was laid on the need of closer co-operation among international organizations. There is a need to determine the minimum common denominator in the field of action. This might be better exchanges of information. It was noted that international organizations have specific aims and strengths; the OSCE should act on its strengths in security and co-operation, being a forum open to all on security, economic co-operation and the Human Dimension.

Session 2

"The OSCE's Experience in Conducting Dialogue"

Report by Mr. Thomas Price

The first half of the session dealt with permanent OSCE institutions and their attempts to promote dialogue (the Permanent Council, the Senior Council, the FSC, the HCNM, etc.) and the second half dealt with actual cases of attempts to promote dialogue around specific subjects (the Stability Pact, the Minsk Group, and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina). In the introduction particular reference was made to the OSCE's devotion, from its inception, to promoting dialogue; in the course of its history, it has added new fora and institutions designed to enhance and facilitate the dialogue to which it has always been dedicated.

A presentation of the institutions of the OSCE was made, especially as they have evolved since the Charter of Paris in the organization's attempts to upgrade and deepen the dialogue among its members. *Inter alia*, the CPC, the long-term Missions, the FSC, the HCNM, the Permanent Council, and the Senior Council, were mentioned and also it was noted that the consensus rule often makes the OSCE more (rather than less) efficient than organizations which make decisions on a majority basis. A detailed exposé about the functions of the HCNM was given, especially as they pertain to promoting dialogue. In this connection it was pointed out that conflict often arises because of inadequate opportunities for dialogue among the parties, and that a real or perceived lack of effective participation in the decision-making process is often one of the root causes of conflict.

In the second half of the session some of the objectives, mechanisms, and achievements of the Stability Pact were presented. It was noted that one of the main objectives, and certainly one of the main achievements, of the Stability Pact had been the promotion of dialogue through, *inter alia*, the regional roundtables. After that a presentation followed of the Minsk Group's attempts to foster dialogue among the parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as an example of the promotion of dialogue as a means of conflict resolution. Finally, the audience gained an insight into the OSCE's biggest single operation – its Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina – and its efforts to initiate dialogue among the parties who are ultimately responsible both for organizing elections and for concluding arms control agreements, building democratic institutions, and ensuring respect for human rights. It was underlined that the OSCE can facilitate the efforts of the parties in all of these areas; indeed, the Dayton Accords specifically mandate it to do so. But the ultimate responsibility for achieving these objectives lies with the parties themselves.

Lively discussions followed both sets of presentations. In the first half, the question of language education for national minorities was under discussion. One delegate offered some of his thoughts on why the OSCE, which is relatively uninstitutionalized and very leanly staffed, is more successful in some situations than those organizations which are more fully staffed. Another representative raised the question of migrant workers in Europe, many of whom are from Mediterranean countries and have problems similar to those of national minorities. A discussion was initiated on the definition of "integration" as applied to national minorities, and one representative asked for a fuller exchange on the role of the OSCE's Senior Council.

In the second half, participants in the discussion included representatives of the European Commission, Denmark, Israel, the United States, Poland, and Egypt, in addition to those who had made the presentations. One representative noted that the Stability Pact's achievements had far surpassed the initial modest expectations for it and "... that the political will expressed by all participating States to abide by existing norms and work for good neighbourly relations contributing continually to European peace and stability. Participants in the regional Round Tables are supporting efforts to carry forward Pact objectives. The EU initiative for a Process for Stability and Good Neighbourliness in South East Europe strikes for integration into the OSCE tasks". An MPC representative asked what lessons the OSCE has learned in the field of conflict resolution, and what lessons it might be able to learn from the Oslo process. Attention was also drawn to lessons not learned: some of these conflicts had been neglected for far too long, and might have been easier to resolve had we been more active at earlier stages. One representative made several observations about the nature of dialogue: it is the essence of co-operation; it requires honest and sustained communication; it becomes even more important when there is disagreement, even if it does not always lead to the short-term resolution of the disagreement; and real dialogue requires taking risks, putting ideas forward and really listening to others, maintaining the possibility of changing one's own ideas and positions, etc. In this context, he regretted the absence of one of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation from the seminar. It was noted that learning to conduct a dialogue takes place at different rhythms for different players.

Session 3

The OSCE as a System of Norms of Behaviour and Efforts to ensure their Full Implementation

Report by Mr. Vladimir Dronov

- Session 3 of the Seminar offered an insight into the academic and operative perspectives of the OSCE process and its current agenda.
- An elaborate and comprehensive overview of the OSCE as a standard-setter was presented.
- Special emphasis was made on the co-ordination of politically versus legally binding commitments and a conclusion was made that the nature of commitments had hardly any effect on how meaningful norms and standards are. What really matters is that deterrence has been replaced with reassurance.
- It was noted that democratic control of the military establishment is of particular relevance to those states that have only recently started to shape their democratic procedures and mechanisms.
- Emphasis was laid on the need to build co-operative security, the one that is based on agreement rather than coercion.
- strengthening civil societies and promoting the respect for existing norms was cited as a principle means of preventing conflicts that, of late, are essentially internal and are largely a product of the erosion of state authority.
- A detailed exposé was offered on the OSCE work in the framework of discussions on a common and comprehensive security model for Europe for the XXI century.
- In particular, the audience was briefed on the identification of risks and challenges and on the understanding reached that caution was to be exercised so as not to create new divides in Europe avoiding a situation where some states could feel marginalized.
- It was underscored that the participating States agreed that the OSCE was, indeed, the right place to discuss the new security model and that they reiterated their belief that security should be indivisible, comprehensive and co-operative.
- The meeting was informed about the difficulties confronting participating States at the present stage of discussion. Details of some national positions on how to proceed further were articulated.
- It was noted that the applicability relevant OSCE experience for the region was dependent upon political and security realities. The need for vision and a modular approach to support that vision was emphasised.
- Participants were warned against a mechanical transplantation of OSCE solutions to the region, where the notion of co-operative security is yet to take hold. In this connection, introduction of CSBMs could be regarded as a useful first step.

- Participants were further warned against overlooking their respective agendas. They were advised to exercise a gradualistic approach, making incremental progress towards the ultimate goal. In particular, they were encouraged to work towards identifying common values and raising public awareness of those values.
- The CoE has signalled its readiness to make a contribution to the elaboration of security model.
- Special reference was made to the ongoing debate on the correlation and perceived conflict between the principles of the right to self-determination and that of territorial integrity. The capability of an external authority to regulate that correlation was put into question.
- A presentation was made on building a pluralistic security community that is only emerging now on vast expanses from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Tribute was paid to the OSCE inclusive approach to membership. The OSCE practice was cited as an alternative to the balance of powers.
- Utility of seminar diplomacy was noted.
- An overview was made of the development of OSCE commitments in the Human Dimension. It was underscored that existing HD standards are adequate and it is compliance that is the order of the day. In this connection, it was mentioned that the OSCE does not provide for enforcement, neither does the OSCE entertain complaints by individuals.
- A Mediterranean guest of the Host Country shared with the audience an insight into that country's view on peace and security. The need for security co-operation was emphasised as was the need to move from the military security agenda to the more complex human security agenda. Information was provided on that country's co-operation with Europe and Transatlantic Institutions.

Session 4

"Mediterranean Efforts"

Report by Mr. Joao Pedro Fins do Lago

The overall result of the presentations and debate that took place in Working Session 4 gave perspective of what have been the major recent steps on the path for security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region.

Specific mention was made to the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, and its Chapter dedicated to "Questions Related to Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean", as well as to the Euro-Arab Dialogue launched in 1974, the Barcelona Convention of 1976, and the 1970's Association Agreements between the European Community and countries in the Mediterranean region.

The end of the East-West divide brought to the fore the imbalance existing between the North-South divide, and acted as a catalyst for a new historical phase, marked by important milestones on the co-operation in the Mediterranean. One of this milestones is undoubtedly the Middle East Process launched in 1991, with a multilateral leg designed to complement and help the complex bilateral negotiations between the various parties. In this context it was mentioned that the concept of grouping areas under consideration into baskets developed, indirectly, as a fine resemblance to the OSCE.

Specific mention was equally made about the importance of other initiatives, such as :

- the proposal made by Egypt for a Mediterranean Forum, aimed at developing co-operation at the regional level, characterised by flexibility and pragmatism, and once again, recognising the merits to the OSCE "basket model",
- the Economic Summits of the Middle East and North Africa, intended to create the basis for an economic community in this region, based on the principles of free trade;
- the proposal made by Malta, in Paris, 1995, on the creation of a Stability Pact for the Mediterranean , in order to enable States to agree and apply Confidence Building Measures in their relation;
- the Barcelona meeting, in November 1995, aiming at the intensification of dialogue among the various cultures of the Mediterranean, so as to develop economic co-operation, to create a zone of peace and security, and to endure basic principles, such as the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal rights of peoples to self-determination, non interference in internal affairs, settlement of disputes by peaceful means, co-operation in the fight against terrorism, enhancing regional security and a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction.

During Working Session 4 some specific problems of the Mediterranean area were identified, when compared with the OSCE region. These questions arise discrepancies between the two situations, including mainly the strategic balance, as well as the prevailing cultures and social value systems. Direct reference was made to the need to agree on arms control issues, in order to

get acquainted with the position of others, and mutually understanding the various security interests.

Nevertheless, important areas of common interest were identified where relevant co-operation has been developed. Some crucial steps were mentioned, like: the Charter of Paris of 1990, the Budapest 1994 Summit Declaration, paving the way for the creation of the open-ended Contact Group, in Vienna; and most recently, the Cairo Seminar, last September.

Some of these subjects of shared interest deal namely with common risks and challenges such as arms control, xenophobia, ecological damage, terrorism, and international crime. Due to their importance, these subjects are currently being discussed in the Committee on the Security Model, in view of the Lisbon Summit, next December.

The debate on Working Session 4 showed that the existing common interest between the OSCE and the MPCs call for sharing of experience and development of co-operation in order to make the relation between these two regions a more substantive one. In this context, discussion showed that there seems to be room for sharing OSCE experience, namely, in the following fields:

- conflict prevention, early warning and crisis management;
- confidence and security building measures, nevertheless without over-lapping with similar activities developed by other organisations. Here, a concrete suggestion was made on the development of a mutual security system and the creation of conflict and crisis management centres for the Middle East and Gulf countries areas;
- the development of good neighbourliness relations, possibly through the creation of regional round tables;
- Human Rights, and the establishment of standards of compliance. In this field it was mentioned that both the experience of the ODIHR and HCNM could prove useful;
- in the area of the Economic Dimension it was indicated that experience on the development of established lines of co-operation could also be shared for the profit of both the OSCE and the MPCs.

Finally, the debate in Working Session 4 globally showed that, despite the different characteristics between the OSCE and the MPCs, and regardless of the difficulties and unbalances in the heterogeneous region of the Mediterranean, the existing common interests seem to call for a general increase of experience exchange, as well as for a higher degree of co-operation and participation of the OSCE in the Mediterranean efforts on developing relations and building confidence in the region.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED DURING THE OSCE MEDITERRANEAN SEMINAR
The OSCE as a Platform for Dialogue and the Fostering of Norms of Behaviour
Tel Aviv 2 - 4 June 1996

No.	Date	Title	Author/Origin
SEM.MED/TA/1	03.06.96	Session & Workshop Programme	Secretariat
SEM.MED/TA/2	02.06.96	Provisional list of participants	Secretariat
SEM.MED/TA/2/ Rev.1	04.06.96	Final list of participants	Secretariat
SEM.MED/TA/3		Withdrawn	
SEM.MED/TA/4	03.06.96	From the Helsinki Decalogue to the Code of Conduct	Mr. A.D.Rotfeld (SIPRI)/ Poland
SEM.MED/TA/5	03.06.96	Notes for talk on the Security Model (...)	Mrs. A. Bailes/ United Kingdom
SEM.MED/TA/6	03.06.96	Statement by the Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt at the Opening Session of the OSCE Seminar (delivered 02.06)	Egypt
SEM.MED/TA/7	03.06.96	Mediation without a big stick	Mr. R. Nyberg/ Co-Chair of the Minsk Group
SEM.MED/TA/8	03.06.96	Contribution to Session 1 - Barcelona Declaration	Mr. C.D. von Schumann/ European Commission
SEM.MED/TA/9	03.06.96	Contribution to Session 1 - (the reinforcing institutions and Mediterranean Dialogue)	Mr. M. Abela Malta
SEM.MED/TA/10	03.06.96	Contribution to Session 1 - the role and work of the Council of Europe	Mrs. J. Gutzkow/ Council of Europe
SEM.MED/TA/11	03.06.96	West European Union	UK Presidency

SEM.MED/TA/12	03.06.96	OSCE and the Dialogue Among Governments	Mr. M. Krasznai Hungary
SEM.MED/TA/13	03.06.96	Presentation on the Human Dimension of the OSCE	Mr. H. Nielsen Denmark
SEM.MED/TA/14	03.06.96	Intervention de Monsier L'Ambassadeur Le Pacte de stabilite en Europe	Jean Noel Bouillane de la Coste/ France
SEM.MED/TA/15	03.06.96	Address of the representative of the Chairman-in-Office	Mr. Benedict von Tscharner/ Switzerland
SEM.MED/TA/16	04.06.96	Seeds of Peaceful Changes: The OSCE as Pluralistic Security-Community-Building Institution	Mr. Emmanuel Adler Hebrew University
SEM.MED/TA/17	04.06.96	Efforts to build confidence and develop relations in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, in particular, experience gained so far on the applicability of OSCE patterns	Mr. Maurice Abela Malta
SEM.MED/TA/18	04.06.96	Contribution to Session 4: "OSCE and the Mediterranean Efforts": areas of common interest and opportunities for co- operation	Mr. Haris Manassis Greece
SEM.MED/TA/19	04.06.96	Notes on the Security Model	Mr. Anatoly Kouznetsov Russian Federation
SEM.MED/TA/20	04.06.96	The OSCE and the Mediterranean Dialogue: experience and Prospects	Mr. Guiseppe Nesi Italy
SEM.MED/TA/21	04.06.96	The OSCE experience in conducting dialogue: Mission to Bosnia Herzegovina	Mr. Benedict van Tscharner Chairman/Switzerland
SEM.MED/TA/22	04.06.96	Contribution to Session 4: Mediterranean Efforts Applicability of the OSCE Patterns in the Middle East	Mr. Mahmoud Karem Egypt
SEM.MED/TA/23	04.06.96	The OSCE and Dialogue among Governments (experience of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co- operation)	Mr. Marton Krasznai Hungary

SEM.MED/TA/24	04.06.96	Mediterranean Dialogue	Jette Nordam NATO
SEM.MED/TA/25	10.06.96	Closing statement by the Chairman	Mr. Benedict von Tscharner Chairman/Switzerland