

# EMS Network

## Euro-Med Seminars Newsletter

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[www.euromed-seminars.org.mt](http://www.euromed-seminars.org.mt)

### A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO A DIALOGUE OF CULTURES AND CIVILISATIONS

By Professor Guido de Marco  
President Emeritus of Malta

Throughout the early 1990s a concerted effort took place to create a regional platform across the Euro-Mediterranean area to nurture a dialogue of culture and civilizations. Prior to the launching of the EMP we also attempted to initiate other trans-Mediterranean security arrangements. We had what was and is still known as the 5+5. The 5+5 sought to establish a co-operative security framework in the Western Mediterranean, which has fewer problems than the Eastern Mediterranean. It we go East, we find ourselves embroiled in the Middle-Eastern problems, while the Western Mediterranean is a geo-strategic area that could be dealt with in a more compact manner, not having the problems that the Eastern part of the Mediterranean is experiencing.

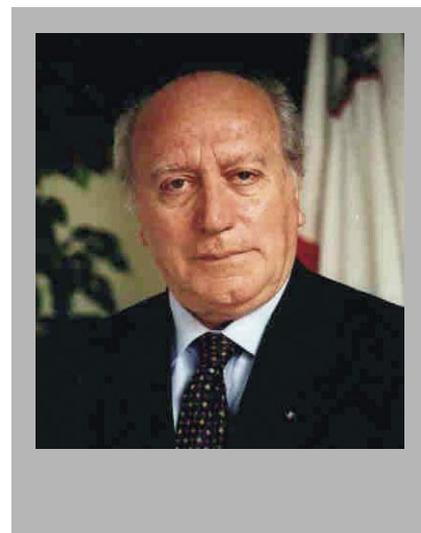


ther together - issues. Optimism sometimes never dies even in the hearts of diplomats. I believe that the Mediterranean should be addressed as a whole and that you cannot bisect development between East and West for political purposes.

With all these events taking place, the EU was realizing that we had a function to play in the Mediterranean region, and I remember the long discussion with colleagues which I used to have in Brussels and elsewhere, trying to raise awareness of issues pertaining to the Mediterranean. At one point we were thinking, why not set up a Council of the Mediterranean on the same pattern of the Council of Europe. There we will get all

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**Professor Guido de Marco**  
President Emeritus of Malta

2 Mediterranean countries and together create a policy for our 'Mare Nostrum'. We realized that the Mediterranean required a measure of positive thinking. The Romans used to speak about a Pax Romana, the British started to think about a Pax Britannica for the Mediterranean. There was also a moment where our trans-Atlantic colleagues were advancing a Pax Americana. We believed that the moment had come to think about a Pax Mediterranea. A Mediterranean awareness considering that the Mediterranean is the place where we have common interests, common concerns and a common heritage. This is how we started building up the Euro-Med idea.

The whole concept was, why not bring in and involve the whole EU in this Mediterranean Process? The reasoning was something to this effect. If we start parceling out Mediterranean Europe from the rest of the EU, we will not have the entire EU engaged in the Mediterranean. As a result, we succeeded in attracting the Baltic countries, the Scandinavians and others to take a larger interest in the Mediterranean. The advantages of such an approach

are evident as highlighted by the Scandinavian connection for example when you speak about the Anna Lindh Centre in Alexandria which is also partly financed by the Scandinavians. Therefore the objective of this policy was to bring in the EU so that we will give more relevance to Europe's presence in the Mediterranean region.

Returning to our Mediterranean policies, and to the Euro-Med Partnership, I think that all of us are putting the question, ten years after the launching of the Euro-Med Partnership, how much have we achieved? I was examining the document published by the EU Commission on the achievements. One must certainly point towards the Anna Lindh Centre for Dialogue of Civilizations, which started in 2005 as a positive measure. We also have a Euro-Med Parliamentary Assembly, which started in 2004 among other achievements. With regards to the second pillar of the EMP we also have a measured progress when it comes to establishing a Euro-Med free-trade area by 2010.

On the dialogue on Human Rights, we have to tread with positive thin-

king but with a measured step. I am a believer in the universality of human rights but I am equally respectful to the sovereignty of nations. If we want a sovereign state to move along, I think this cannot be done as if we have pupils in a class. They have to be regarded and respected as sovereign states. When it comes to human rights we have to avoid the politicization thereof and move through the logic of persuasion. Human rights cannot be transferred by the logic of force but only by the force of logic.

I am saying all this in the light of the future. The future of the Euro-Mediterranean region is still in doubt. I always repeat what I was asked many years ago, whether I am an optimist or a pessimist. I always say, pessimists are bores, optimists are dreamers but dreams are not enough. We ought to be realists and realism demands of ourselves a realistic approach to politics. The dialogue of civilizations demands the respect of the other's point of view, the awareness that there is richness in diversity, and the commitment towards a reaching out to others in a people to people approach demanding a culture of values based on mutual respect. ■

## MAPPING OUT THE NEXT DECISIVE STEPS IN EURO-MED RELATIONS

### The 10th Anniversary Euro-Mediterranean Summit and the Five-Year Work Programme (2006-2010)

By Dr. Stephen C. Calleya

A decade after the launching of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the twenty-five EU states and their ten Mediterranean partner counterparts agreed to start implementing a short-term policy action plan that will build upon the Valencia Action Plan of 2002 and further seek to realise the partnership goals enshrined in the Barcelona Declaration of 1995.

At the tenth anniversary the Euro-Mediterranean countries announced the launching of a five-year work plan that will spur political, economic and socio-cultural relations across the euro-Mediterranean area.



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## MAPPING OUT THE NEXT DECISIVE STEPS IN EURO-MED RELATIONS

The five-year work programme is a very focused plan of action that seeks to raise awareness of the EMP at a grass roots level by addressing civil societal issues such as education, gender equality and human rights. The EMP five-year work plan, together with implementation of the Association agreements and the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans, will be supported through technical and financial assistance provided through the current MEDA programme and the future European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), bilateral contributions from member states, FEMIP, and other relevant financial mechanisms.

The Euro-Med five year work programme focuses on a number of priority areas including the political and security partnership. The main goal in this sector is to foster a region of peace, security, prosperity and opportunity. Policy actions that aim at achieving a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict are to be sought. The Euro-Med states are also committed to continuing implementation of partnership building measures, joint regional projects, sustainable development and strengthened rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights will be sought.

The Euro-Med partner countries have also committed to concentrate their political and economic resources to promoting sustainable socio-economic development and reform. Particular attention will be dedicated towards creating more job opportunities for the increasing numbers of young people

across the Mediterranean, reducing regional poverty rates and closing the prosperity gap and raising GDP growth rates throughout the southern shores of the Mediterranean.

### The five-year work programme seeks to raise awareness of the EMP at a grass roots level by addressing civil societal issues such as education, gender equality and human rights

In an effort to cope with the increasing competitive climate of globalisation the Euro-Mediterranean states have also agreed to develop national capabilities in the field of scientific and technological research and innovation to establish a knowledge based society through increased co-operation with and access to relevant European programmes and institutions.

The EU also reiterated its support to assist in the acceleration of the conclusion of free trade agreements between Mediterranean states and to continue supporting implementation of the Agadir Agreement that seeks to create a free trade area between Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan and Egypt in the shortest time frame possible. By the end of 2006 the EU will also assess the performance of FEMIP and consider the incorporation of an EIB majority owned subsidiary dedicated to the Mediterranean partner countries.

The thirty-five Euro-Mediterranean states also identified the 2006-2010 time-frame as a crucial moment to improve education and

socio-cultural exchanges across the Euro-Mediterranean area. Recognising the important role of education for political, social, and economic development, Euro-Med states have agreed to improve equitable access to

quality education in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All objectives.

The long list of specific targets being sought in this area highlight the high priority being dedicated to this sector by all Euro-Med partners. These include halving the number of illiterate female and male adults and children by 2010; ensuring equality of access to quality education at all levels for girl and boy students by 2015; ensuring that by 2015 all children complete at least primary education; launching a substantial scholarship scheme for university students from Euro-Mediterranean Partner countries and increase mobility grants for Higher Education staff.

The Euro-Mediterranean partners also agreed to adopt a more integrated approach when it comes to addressing the issue of migration, social integration, justice and security. Policy recommendations in this dimension of the partnership include: the promotion of legal migration oppor-

## MAPPING OUT THE NEXT DECISIVE STEPS IN EURO-MED RELATIONS

4 tunities; a reduction of the level of illegal migration trafficking by reinforcing judicial co-operation and cross border collaboration. In the coming years the Euro-Mediterranean states also agreed to hold a ministerial meeting to discuss all issues pertinent to migration and to develop mechanisms for practical co-operation and sharing experience on managing migration flows humanely.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partners have thus agreed to focus their attention during the next five years to ensuring that the EMP has enough of a direct positive impact on the Euro-Mediterranean citizens. Raising awareness of the EMP can be overcome by directing more of future Euro-Mediterranean programmes to the civil societal level, especially educational programmes as

already identified by the European Commission in its work programme for the next five years.

Closer cross-cultural co-operation can only be achieved if a more concerted effort is made to seek a convergence on the basic values that are part and parcel of the civilisations surrounding the Mediterranean area. The establishment of a functioning Euro-Mediterranean Foundation that seeks to promote a dialogue between cultures and civilization around the Mediterranean offers this possibility

In many ways the Barcelona Process is a farsighted and novel initiative. Some scholars believe that the EMP is so ahead of its time that it is unrealistic to achieve the objectives stipulated in the Barcelona Declaration. A major problem with the EMP is that it takes little account of the need for prior resolution of existing disputes in the Mediterranean area that include the Arab-Israeli, Cyprus

and Western Sahara conflicts. It is highly unlikely that protagonists in each of these disputes can enter into co-operative security arrangements without first resolving their antagonisms.

Only the creation of a co-operative Mediterranean region in which the perceptual and prosperity gap is addressed, reduced and gradually eliminated, will ensure that the Mediterranean does not become a zone of indifference and an eventual economic wasteland. Integrating the Mediterranean into the twenty-first century international system through mechanisms such as the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the EU Neighbourhood Policy and a sustainable Middle East Peace Process is the immediate challenge that the international community must confront. Otherwise transnational sources of instability emanating from the Mediterranean will continue to manifest themselves at a regional and international level. ■

#### **Euromed Tenth Anniversary Summit**

Javier Solana, Secretary General of the Council of the EU and High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Spanish Prime Minister, Tony Blair, UK Prime Minister and President in office of the Council of the EU and José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC (from left to right)



## Summary of the XIX Euro-Med Seminar

## ✿ Summary of the XIX Euro-Mediterranean Information & Training Seminar (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005)

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The Nineteenth Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar took place in Malta between December 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2005. The four days of proceedings focused on recent developments in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, particularly the conclusions of the Euro-Mediterranean foreign ministerial meeting held in Luxembourg a few days earlier and preparations currently being conducted in anticipation of the tenth anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in November 2005.

This international gathering brought together diplomats from the majority of the twenty-five European Union member states and the ten Mediterranean Partner countries that are currently members of this multilateral initiative. The Seminar was organized by the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies of the University of Malta under the auspices of the European Commission who assist in co-ordinating this

Euro-Mediterranean confidence building initiative.

In the last nine years the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership has provided the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies a welcome normative framework for expanding its training activities in the Euro-Mediterranean regional setting. The objectives of the Information and Training Seminar are to enhance the understanding of diplomats from the European Union and the Mediterranean partner states about the various aspects and the functioning of the European Union with special reference to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and specific security issues in the Mediterranean.

Throughout the four-day seminar academic specialists and other professionals from both Europe and the Mediterranean presented a series of lectures on developments within each of the three chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean Partner-

ship, namely the political and security, economic and financial, and the cultural and human resources chapters. Particular attention was dedicated to topics that include The EU's Neighbourhood Policy, Euro-Maghreb Relations and the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation. The seminar also examined developments that have taken place in the Euro-Mediterranean area during the Luxembourg EU Presidency.

The Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training meeting also highlights the pivotal role Malta continues to play in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership process. The Hon. Dr. Michael Frendo, Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered the keynote opening address of the Nineteenth Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 2005.

Further information on the Euro-Mediterranean Seminars can be found at: [www.euromed-seminars.org.mt](http://www.euromed-seminars.org.mt)



Panelists at opening of XIX EMS, (L to R): The Hon. Dr. Michael Frendo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, Dr. Stephen Calleya, MEDAC Director, Mr. Eduard Sánchez Monjo, Director Euro Med Programmes Barcelona, Sir Vincent Fean, British High Commissioner to Malta

## Report of the Working Group on Political/Cultural Partnership

XIX EuroMed Information and Training Seminar for Diplomats  
9-12 December 2005

The working Group has started the discussion by making an overall assessment of the various political, security and cultural issues of the Barcelona Process in light of the outcome of the EuroMed Summit.

Several points and proposals have been advanced by the participants to deepen further the Political and cultural Partnership.

### Terrorism:

- Given the importance of this issue, it dominated to a large extent the discussion and the participants were unanimous about the importance of the Code of Conduct in countering terrorism that was approved by the EuroMed Summit,
- There was a large consensus among the participants that it is really difficult to have a common definition of terrorism even though it was agreed that the act in itself is definitely negative,
- The Working Group pointed out the distinction that exists between the threats of terrorism at the global and national levels. In this respect, it was agreed that EuroMed Partners must focus on how to deal in a comprehensive way with this phenomenon by addressing seriously the root causes of terrorism (political, economic, social and so on ),
- It was acknowledged that any efforts to deal with terrorism are confronted with the dilemma of how to manage the safety and security of peoples as well as the protection of human rights,
- The participants raised a very controversial issue, which is how to distinguish between terrorism and resistance as guaranteed by the international law,
- Within this debate on terrorism, the role of civil society was highlighted and there was

an exchange of views on the financial aid that is given to Islamic NGOs to carry out their charitable activities.

### EuroMed Partnership:

- The Working Group stressed the urgent need for the Partnership to be more visible to the peoples of the EuroMed region and pointed out the importance of the principle of co-ownership that should govern the relations among EuroMed Partners instead of having an unbalanced North-South relationship,
- The participants also raised the question of financing the EuroMed Partnership,
- There was an agreement that problems among southern partners themselves hinder any efforts to reinforce the Partnership,
- The Working Group discussed the European Neighborhood Policy and questioned its value-added contribution to the Barcelona Process. In this regard, the working group stressed the strategic and financial visibility of this initiative and agreed on the necessity to retain Barcelona Process as the regional framework for cooperation.

### Cultural Partnership:

- The Working Group acknowledged the useful role of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the dialogue between cultures and agreed on the need to implement its action plan so as to contribute in a concrete manner in the promotion of the cultural understanding among the peoples of the EuroMed region. The Working Group also pointed out the importance that cultural diversity among Euro-Med Partners should not be underestimated but taken into account in a constructive way.



## Working Group Reports

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## Groupe de travail: Partenariat économique

XIX eme Seminaire Euromed  
Malte, 9-12 décembre 2005

Le débat a porté essentiellement sur le problème du développement dans les Pays de la rive Sud de Méditerranée. La question que nous nous sommes posés et à laquelle nous avons essayé d'apporter une réponse est la suivante : pourquoi le Sud a été incapable de se développer ?

Les raisons possibles de ce retard et les limites qu'on rencontre encore au sein des Pays de la rive sud ont été abordés par les participants, ainsi que des indications sur quelles pourraient être les solutions à envisager dans le futur pour apporter une solution à telle disparité.

- La première remarque a porté sur **l'absence d'un modèle européen de développement**, comme on retrouve, par exemple, chez certains pays d'Asie du sud-est,
- **L'absence d'une organisation économique régionale** sur la base des modèles américain et asiatique (cf NAFTA, ASEAN) constitue également un facteur qui contribue au retard économique de la région. La discussion a amené à la conclusion que la création d'une telle organisation serait cruciale et bénéfique au développement,
- Le **manque d'échanges économiques et commerciaux « sud-sud »** a été un argument aussi largement discuté. Il est indispensable d'augmenter les flux dans cette direction horizontale si l'on veut créer plus de richesse et de prospérité,
- Les **conflits entre les Etats** et les souvent mauvaises relations entre certains Pays de la région (notamment ont été invoqués le cas du Sahara, ainsi que les relations syro-israéliennes) ont été individués comme des obstacles au développement des relations économiques sud-sud,
- Le **manque de confiance** entre les Etats du Nord et ceux de la rive Sud s'est avéré être

un des principaux problèmes qu'on se doit de résoudre. Cela constitue un obstacle aux flux de capitaux européens ou étrangers vers le sud.

- La question qui les participants se sont posés est comment engendrer et stimuler une telle confiance ? Des réformes politiques, économiques et sociales ont été suggérées par le groupe de travail pour établir cette confiance.

## Les réformes

Les participants ont affronté plus dans le détail l'argument des réformes. En particulier a été reconnue l'importance des réformes dans le secteur de l'éducation (pour améliorer le niveau de la main d'oeuvre), de la libéralisation économique et de la réforme du système bancaire (qui seule permettrait un véritable afflux de capital et instillerait la confiance auprès des investisseurs étrangers), de la simplification des systèmes administratifs trop bureaucratiques, enfin l'importance d'assurer un système juridique « constant » et transparent.

Le débat s'est focalisé ensuite sur le dilemme suivant : faut-il donner la préférence aux réformes politiques ou économiques ? A cet égard, le groupe n'est pas parvenu à une réponse univoque, car la réalité même nous confirme en effet que les deux voies existent et elles ont démontré d'être tout aussi valables (exemple de la Chine et des pays d'Europe de l'Est).

Mais d'où doit parvenir le stimulus pour les réformes ? La pression intérieure ou extérieure est-elle nécessaire ? Et quand est-ce le bon moment de lancer les réformes ? Tous les participants ont semblé convenir que une volonté politique est nécessaire pour se lancer dans toute réforme interne, qui ne doit pas être imposée de l'extérieur.

En conclusion, une des solutions individuées pour satisfaire les deux Parties du Partenariat et le principe de *co-ownership*, a été la **création d'un Secrétariat** du Partenariat Euro-Med formé par les fonctionnaires de tous les Etats Partenaires. Celui-ci devrait être un organisme purement technique ayant comme mandat de veiller à la mise en oeuvre et au suivi du Partenariat dans sa globalité ou tous pourraient intervenir sur une base d'égalité.

**Photo captions** - previous page.

Working groups in session under moderation of (at the head of the table): Dr Claire Spencer (left photo), Prof. Alejandro Lorca Corróns (right photo)

This page.

A view to the seminar hall during the opening day of XIX Euro-Med Seminar



## Euro-Med Seminars Website Remake

Since the last XIX EMS, Euro-Med Seminars' website went through a process of remaking in order to keep abreast with trends in portal home page design and functions. The modern layout: a header plus two column home page organization provides more editorial facilities for standard sections as well as for actualities and various announcements. In such a way users get much better overview of current issues and access to various sections of the website which, now in its 20<sup>th</sup> edition, is fairly large.

Visit us at: [www.euromed-seminars.org.mt](http://www.euromed-seminars.org.mt)

**Euro-Med Seminars Website Remake**

The screenshot displays the website interface within a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The browser's title bar reads "Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminars for Diplomats - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows the URL "http://www.euromed-seminars.org.mt/".

The website's header features the "EuroMed" logo and navigation tabs for "Seminar", "Calendar", "Alumni", "Background", "Contact", and "Search". Below the header, there are links for "About EMS", "Site map", and "Search".

The main content area is organized into two columns:

- Left Column:**
  - Seminars:**
    - Current XIX, December 2005:** A photograph of a seminar session. Text: "Current seminar- held from 9th - 12th December was organized immediately after the Barcelona+10 Conference."
    - Recent XVIII, June 2005:** A photograph of a seminar session. Text: "Recent seminar. 18th EMS was held in June 3rd - 6th 2005. Available now are all seminar's information: programme, papers, participants, and gallery."
    - Recommended documents:** "10th ANNIVERSARY EURO-MEDITERRANEAN SUMMIT FIVE YEAR WORK PROGRAMME and other documents"
    - In the spotlight:** "Austria 2006 - Presidency of the European Union (January - June 2006)" with a photograph of two men.
- Right Column:**
  - Current issues:**
    - XX EMS Announced for 5th - 8th May 2006
    - XX Euro-Med Seminar Programme
    - XIX EMS Papers
    - Barcelona+10
  - XX Seminar, 5th -8th May 2006:** A purple banner with text: "Ministers reiterated their support to existing partnership building measures which have been successfully pursued under the MEDA programme, notably the Malta seminars..."
  - Training seminars for diplomats - Overview:** Text describing the seminar process: "In the course of the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership process, the necessity for shaping a culture of dialogue and cooperation among the European member states and its Mediterranean Partners has continually been emphasised..."
  - Latest projects:**
    - New EMS Publication:** "A concerted effort is ... required to remove misperceptions and prejudice which continue to exist across the Mediterranean. This is where the Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminars and similar initiatives must play a strategic role as culture brings about relations based on trust..."
  - News:**
    - Dr. Stephen Calleja (left) presenting the Hon. Dr. Michael Frendo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, with a copy of the tenth anniversary summit book of the Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminars. Text: "Partnership and had already proved to be an invaluable networking mechanism, will be organised in May 2006."

The footer of the website includes the text "Euro-Med Seminars, Malta :: www.euromed-seminars.org.mt" and a navigation bar with the same tabs as the header.