

EMS Network

Euro-Med Seminars Newsletter

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■ The Barcelona Process – Ten Years on: What Prospects?

By Marc Pierini

It is fashionable nowadays to criticise the Barcelona Process for its shortcomings, or even its failure.

A lot has been done (trade, MEDA, FEMIP, regional programmes, these Euromed Seminars, etc), but let's acknowledge it: there is a wide gap between reality and perceptions.

Let's consider this "perception gap" as secondary for a moment and look at the main trends in the region during the last decade. Some of the major trends had nothing to do with the Barcelona Process, yet had a strong influence on its success or failure. These trends show us the way to the future.

Ten major trends in ten years 1995 – 2005

1. The **Palestinian issue** is still not resolved. Not an issue for the Barcelona Process, not its mission, but yet it bears heavily on perceptions and pollutes Euro-Mediterranean relations. The Palestinian issue remains at the centre of the Arab citizens' preoccupations.
2. There has been a considerable rise in **terrorism** in the region: this had had major economic consequences on tourism receipts and on private foreign investment. Governments, North and South of the Mediterranean have shifted priorities because of terrorism (e.g. importance of human rights issues).
3. There is a **growing call for political freedoms from Arab citizens** all through the region. Populations have been educated, they now want a say in public affairs, or at the very minimum a number of basic freedoms: association, expression. People do not believe anymore that the alternative is between the governments in place and Islamic chaos. They want peaceful evolutions.
4. There has been a considerable **rise of political Islam** as a key interlocutor throughout the Arab Mediterranean region. Think that amongst the Arab partners in Euromed, only two (Syria and Tunisia) do not presently have political Islam in power, either in Parliament or in Government, or both.
5. There has been a **slowdown in the political dynamics of Europe**, in particular with the rejection of the Constitution by popular vote in two Member States. Not that the Barcelona Process is directly influenced by this failure

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Marc Pierini, EU Commission representative to Tunisia

2 (it is based on former treaties), but since the Mediterranean region is so closely linked to European politics, the effects of the slowdown were very negative.

6. Economic globalisation has taken its toll on the region, especially in the textile sector (dismantlement of the textile agreements in 2005) in countries like Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and Egypt.

7. There has been a strong rise in the trafficking of human beings, which is now clearly in the hands of criminal gangs. These gangs are well organised, well equipped, connected to security forces throughout the region. This is a € 250 million business per year, counting only the "fees" collected by these gangs. This figure is to be compared to monthly salaries of € 150-200 in the police forces in the region. However, one should bear in mind that, according to the Commission's latest study, the EU will need 20 million new workers between 2010 and 2030, workers that its demographic trends cannot produce.

8. The shape of the EU is changing with the 2004 enlargement and the forthcoming 2007 enlargement. This has created, whether we like it or not, competition for FDI and public funding.

9. The European economy has lacked growth in the recent period. This is a major negative factor for the Mediterranean economies, which rely on the EU for 50 to 80 % of their exports and for a large part of their investment and tourism.

10. Mediterranean partners have shied away from drastic economic reforms, either by not going the full length of the reforms or by not even starting with them. Also there is a striking lack of South-South integration.

As we can see, many of these trends are of a much wider nature and scope than the mere Barcelona Process, but all of them had an

influence on its health and image.

- Political reform remains on the agenda: governments in the region have to tackle the immen-

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Where to go from here ?

Despite the widespread criticisms, there is little choice other than pressing ahead with the major issues of the Barcelona Process. In addition, the quality of the economic and political dialogue within the Barcelona Process can make a real difference on the shape of events in the region. What to do ?

- Keep pushing economic reforms: economic adjustment is not a one-time affair, difficult adjustments and arbitrages still remain to be decided in many countries and in many sectors. This is not an easy proposition as economic adjustment displaces vested interest and economic and political power. But the world keeps changing.
- Find a way to improve the "economic governance" in the Euro-med region. When we think of it, it is only in 2005 that the economic and finance ministers of the region met collectively in Morocco and are meeting again in Tunis next month [June 2006, Ed.]. We had to wait for 9 years to have such an essential meeting. Now the issue of a "Euromed Bank" is being debated. The issue, perhaps, is not so much the bank in itself than the collective economic governance body that it would offer. Many issues need collective thinking in the region and many sectors: infrastructure, social housing, private sector development, etc. Two countries in the region also have massive resources that can be reinvested: Algeria, Libya.
- se challenge of a now vastly educated population and few political freedoms. This population does not believe anymore in the black and white choice "us or chaos" that they have long been offered by their governments. Islamic extremism is no longer an excuse. Terrorism needs to be fought at the same time governance is improved, not at the expense of good governance. Political reform in the region is a strategic goal for the EU because the lack of it opens the door for many forms of instability. Political reforms are not going to go down the priority list of EU countries in the region.
- Finding a role for the civil society will remain important in the Mediterranean countries. We need to find a proper role for the unions, the people of culture, the citizens at large, not just the Euro-med Parliamentary Assembly or the Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures. These are institutions, but people-to-people involvement is something different.
- Illegal immigration will remain a major issue for quite some time. This emigration originates mostly from Sub-Saharan Africa and Egypt. Recently, the common assessment of the issue has evolved: it is now considered a common issue, not Europe against the Mediterranean Partners, and an issue where we collectively have to fight criminal networks of major importance. Therefore, there is a need for a dialogue at political level, between the EU and the South of the Mediterranean, and between them and Sub-Saharan Africa. ■

EMS Alumni

Accounts of Participants of XX Euro-Med Information and Training Seminar for Diplomats

Barhoumi Nadia, Tunisia :: Birgitta Holst Alani, Sweden :: Rayan Saïd, Lebanon :: Amir Weissbrod, Israel

Impressions from the Twentieth Euro-Med 2006 Meeting

During May earlier this year, I took part in the Twentieth Euro-Med Information and Training Seminar for Diplomats in Malta that was conducted under the auspices of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies of the University of Malta headed by Dr. Stephen Calleya. The main goal of the course was to provide the participants with a broad understanding of the Barcelona process, 10 years after its inception and the relations between this process and the ENP agreements. In addition, extensive background concerning the three baskets of the Barcelona process was provided.

For myself this course provided an excellent opportunity to broaden my knowledge of the Barcelona process after attending a EU Basics course in Brussels last year.

I am of the opinion that 10 years after the Barcelona process inception, many parties remain unaware of the opportunities that this process offer particularly within the framework of the social and economic baskets. Moreover, the Barcelona process has enabled a continuous dialogue between Arabs and Israelis since the early days despite the challenging regional circumstances. After taking part in the course I firmly believe that drawing attention and increasing the awareness to the Barcelona process opportunities amongst civilian social leaders will be instrumental in creating an ever growing cadre of civil projects supported by the EU particularly in the fields of culture and education.

The course was rich in content: An outstanding panel manned by EU representatives, Dr. Nassif Hitti,

Ambassador of the Arab League in Paris and diplomats from Malta who presented the challenges with which the process is faced, 10 years down the road. Another example was – the lectures that presented detailed overviews of various projects in the second and third basket Cooperation and more.

Malta, host to this meeting, proved to be the ideal location for courses of this nature because Malta itself demonstrates the rich interaction between the different cultures inherent to the Mediterranean. For myself, it was an opportunity to discover the riches of Malta – with the intricate tapestry of the cultures of the region. The organization of the conference was impeccable, thanks to Dr. Stephen Calleya and Mrs. Jo Ann Camilleri the Maltese experience was particularly impressive, diverse and enjoyable. Beyond the formal content, strong

inter-personal dynamics emerged during the course: A group dubbed “the Mdina group” (named after Malta ancient capital, which we have visited) included Europeans, Arabs and Israelis. This group had plenty of opportunities to share experiences both during the day and the night and actually this was “inter-cultural dialogue and understanding of others” in a real life example.

I sincerely hope that the political circumstances in our region will improve and will allow a deeper realization of the potential for cooperation between Arabs, Europeans and Israelis – spanning the full spectrum - economics, science, medicine, culture and youth. A strengthening of the south-south dynamics to be as fruitful as the south-north dynamic would be an important step forward for the region.

Amir Weissbrod, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Mr. Amir Weissbrod

■ EMS Alumni

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First of all, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the MEDAC team for the warm welcome and the kind ambiance provided during the proceeding of the "Information and Training Seminar for Euro-Med Diplomats"; in line with Malta's tradition of hospitality.

It goes without saying that my participation gave me a great pleasure and distinct honour. The Euro-Med Seminar was a wide opportunity gathering diplomats from both Europe and Mediterranean partner countries. Lectures and presentations were very interesting given that they reflect high level of this intellectual meeting.

I appreciate a lot the simulation exercise, a judicious choice intending to expand diplomatic skills related to multilateral activities. Moreover, the Seminar helped me to practice my English and to be initiated to Maltese language.

In one word, it was a "nice dream"

I wish further success to the Euro-Med Seminars newsletter.

Barhoumi Nadia
Tunisia

For me the XX Information and Training Seminar for Euro-Med Diplomats on 5-8 May 2006 in Malta was a very useful exercise. The programme provided much food for thought and it was a good introduction to the Barcelona Process. The political and security partnership; the economic and financial partnership and the social, cultural and human partnership were all set into a comprehensive context. The panel debate on The Barcelona Process Ten Years On: What Prospects? gave an especially good insight to some of the challenges lying ahead.

To recognize the importance of dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions throughout the Mediterranean region is essential and the Seminar proved to be the right forum where participants - Israelis, Arabs and Europeans - met and discussed issues of common interest in a friendly atmosphere.

Congratulations to the organizers and thanks especially to Dr Stephen Calleya, who skilfully led the Seminar.

Birgitta Holst Alani
Sweden



■ Ms. Barhoumi Nadia



■ Ms. Birgitta Holst Alani

■ EMS Alumni

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It is normal to attend a normal seminar, but it is an excitement to attend a special one. This is the fact about our special Information and Training Seminar for Euro-Med diplomats. It was a chance where we can say what we think, a platform to talk, listen, meet, debate, discuss, and to gain high knowledge – simply it was a chance to learn.

In this Seminar, interaction makes the integration. Interaction between diplomats from many countries with many different points of view, thoughts, languages, and even ways of life, leads to common points that make the integration. It was a stage where the variety enriches the knowledge, and the respect manages the diversity.

The important Sessions of different subjects, the active Simulation exercise, and the important, respected lecturers of high profile and great experience, from professors to ambassadors, gave us the pleasure of being a student at his/her university chair, with the eyes full of ambitions. It was a momentum to discover more, to ask more, to live a true dialogue that aims not to

change each other, but to understand each other.

We were diplomats from countries sharing the same sea. In Malta – this charming island – we learned to share the same sky. It is an ambitious idea, which we hope to continue. It will be great if we can form an Alumni for this Seminar, because the continuity is a secret of success, and a motivation for integration between the neighbours of the common Mediterranean Sea.

It was a memory to be experienced, and it will always be an experience in our memory.

A special, deep appreciation for the respected University of Malta, and its competent management.

Thank you Malta; looking forward for an occasion to meet again....

Rayan SAÏD

Lebanese Embassy to the European Union and Belgium, Brussels

Internet Discussion Forum in Preparation

Preparations are underway to launch an Internet discussion forum for EMS participants as it transpires from accounts of EMS Alumni on these pages that it is a common wish and intention of all participants of Euro-Med Seminars to keep in touch after the end of intensive seminar's gatherings and proceedings. The organizers are therefore working on introducing an Internet Discussion Forum in an effort to strengthen further the community of EMS Alumni, as this newsletter and the EMS website have already achieved. This is a pre-announcement with invitation to readership to update the organizers at MEDAC with your current communication details, address, e-mail, phone, mobile and fax numbers. Suggestions of major topics of interests will be welcomed and highly appreciated. The plan of organizers is to announce setting-up of the Forum through the Newsletter No. 3 informing Alumni, participants and speakers, how to efficiently use the forum.



■ Mr. Rayan SAÏD



✿ Summary of the XX Euro-Mediterranean Information & Training Seminar (5th – 8th May 2006)

The Twentieth Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar took place in Malta between December 9th – 12th 2005. The four days of proceedings focused on recent developments in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, particularly the progress registered in implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Five Year work programme that was agreed to at the tenth anniversary Euro-Mediterranean summit held in Barcelona at the end of 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 ten 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 Partnership, namely the political and security, economic and financial, and the cultural and human resources chapters.

Particular attention was dedicated to topics that include The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership's Five Year Work Programme (2006-2010), the EU's Neighbourhood Policy, Euro-Maghreb Relations, Education and Socio-Cultural Exchanges in the Mediterranean and the

EuroMeSCo work programme. President Emeritus Professor Guido de Marco also delivered a presentation entitled "A Renewed Commitment to a Dialogue of Cultures and Civilisations". The seminar also examined developments that have taken place in the Euro-Mediterranean area during the Austrian EU Presidency.

The Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training meeting, or Malta Seminar as the meetings have become more commonly known, also highlights the proactive role that Malta continues to play in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership process as highlighted in the recently published Strategic Objectives document outlining Malta's foreign policy priorities. The Hon. Dr. Michael Frendo, Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered the keynote opening address of the Twentieth Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar on Friday, May 5th 2006.

Further information on the Euro-Mediterranean Seminars can be found at: www.euromed-seminars.org.mt

Dr. Stephen Calleya

Panelists at the opening of XX Euro-Med Seminar (L to R): Amb. Juan Prat Y Coll, Ambassador at Large for Mediterranean Affairs, Spain; Dr. Michael Frendo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta delivering Keynote Opening Address: "The EMP and Malta's Strategic Objectives" and Dr. Stephen Calleya, Director MEDAC



EMS Simulation Exercise on Euro-Med Diplomacy



■ XX Euro-Med Seminar – Study Visit to Gozo. (Far left) Professor Simon Duke of the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), Maastricht.

■ XX Euro-Med Seminar – Study Visit to Gozo, the Simulation Exercise.



EMS Simulation Exercise on Euro-Med Diplomacy

Professor Simon Duke of the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), Maastricht, The Netherlands, conducted a Simulation Exercise during the XX Euro-Mediterranean Seminar that focused on crisis management in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

The traditional Working Group sessions were this time replaced with a different type of exercise that ensured direct interaction between all the participants of the Seminar. Diplomatic simulation exercises, which are an advanced method of teaching diplomacy and are

especially popular among students of diplomacy at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, may not have been experienced by all participants. The simulation exercise took place during the study visit to Gozo, the second Maltese island - according to some scholars, an ancient Calypso's isle from Homer's "Odyssey".

All participants at the Seminar were able to take part in the role play exercise that focused on arriving at a diplomatic solution to a crisis that had emerged in one of the sub regions of the Mediterranean. ■

EU – In the spotlight: Finnish Presidency of European Union



■ José Manuel Barroso, Portuguese President of the EC (left) and Finnish PM Matti Vahanen (right) during the visit of the European Commission to Helsinki on 3rd July 2006

- ing that Finland should lead the example by ratifying the constitution for Europe, even if it won't be accepted in its present form).
- Enlargement. In words of Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn "The EU needs a new constitutional-institutional settlement without delay, for its own sake. Once it is reached by 2008-9, it will make the EU's institutional rules clear by the time the next new member state, most probably Croatia, is likely to join."
- Northern Dimension and Western Balkans. The EU with the Finnish at helm will, obviously, strongly support Finnish negotiator Martti Ahtisaari, as the UN Special Envoy in settlement for Kosovo. The EU is expected to assume a leading role in post-status Kosovo. As far as Northern European Dimension is concern "An important goal is to finalise the negotiations and adopt the new Northern Dimension (ND) policy document during presidency. The Northern Dimension will then be transformed to a common policy between the EU, Russia, Norway and Iceland," according to Erkki Tuomioja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland.
- Enhancing competitiveness; curbing climate change; new impetus for freedom, security and justice; scientific research, and more.

In a word ambitious plans and responsibility for achieving results amid day-to-day management of EU affairs and world affairs. It is attributed to British historian Timothy Garton Ash that EU's future lies in small member states who have ability to

EU – In the spotlight: Finnish Presidency of European Union

It is the second time that Finland, which joined EU in 1995 with Sweden and Austria, is holding the rotating presidency of EU. The first time was in 1999 when Europe had just taken the decision to open enlargement negotiations with 6 countries: Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania and Malta and recognize the candidate status to Turkey. Such important historic decisions certainly paved the road for stability, democracy and prosperity in Europe towards 21st century.

The 2006 Finnish Presidency of the EU takes place at a moment when the EU is reflecting over French *non* and Dutch *nee* to the Constitution for Europe. Although the EU budget for 2007-2013 has been agreed and the European Neighbour Policy (ENP) championed by dynamic Austrian minister Frau Benita Ferrero Waldner has wind in its sails, Europe in 2006 with Finland at its helm is facing major foreign policy challenges in its immediate neighbourhood. The most recent Middle-East crisis between Lebanon and Israel, stability in the West Balkans and final settlement for Kosovo all beckon.

It is reassuring, if somehow taken for granted, that by the end of 2006 the EU will have successfully concluded the Doha Round of WTO negotiations, have its first two military companies in constant combat readiness (as EU is currently undertaking 12 crisis management operations on 3 continents) and have a new Agency on Fundamental Rights. Romania and Bulgaria are also set to join the EU by 1st January 2007. The European Council summit that will bring to a close the 6 month Finnish Presidency of the EU to be held in Brussels on 14 - 15 December 2006 will thus have plenty of issues to grapple with on its agenda.

Who are the main Finnish protagonists influencing the EU Presidency:

Finnish PM Matti Vahanen of Centre Party, UN troubleshooter Martti Ahtisaari, former President, who has task to negotiate a solution for Kosovo, Olli Rehn, EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Erkki Tuomioja, Finnish Foreign Minister of the Social Democratic Party.

What are the areas of priority as summarized by PM Matti Vahanen?

- Future of Europe (since after the reflection need is to analyse - Finland is expected to bridge these two phases giving impulse by facilitating early negotiations on possible changes to the treaty text; EU observers are also mention-

think big. Small member state Finland, although not small by its geographical area or by its presence in communication technology, for instance - as all of us at some stage had or have Nokia mobile phone, is well positioned to think big and make impact on the future of Europe.

Having said all this one may perhaps wonder where the Barcelona Process and the Euro-Med dimension is on Helsinki's agenda. The table below shows that Finland has also dedicated all its energy to promoting the southern dimension of Europe. With Foreign Ministers' follow-up meeting of the Barcelona Process (EUROMED) to be held in Tampere in November 2006 it is apparent that this will be the furthest north location in which Euro-Med affairs ever have been discussed so far at a ministerial level.

All about Finnish Presidency of EU can be found on its website: www.eu2006.fi and also in French: www.eu2006.fi/fr_FR/

MEETINGS DURING FINLAND'S PRESIDENCY OF THE EU in the second half of 2006 related to Barcelona Process and Euro-Med

Date	Meeting	Venue
21 - 22/09	Meeting of the Ministers of Industry: Barcelona Process	Rhodes, Greece
14 - 15/11	EUROMED Ministerial Conference on strengthening the role of women in society	Turkey, Istanbul
20/11	Meeting of EU Ministers of the Environment: Barcelona Process	Egypt, Cairo
25 - 26/11	Senior Officials follow-up meeting of the Barcelona Process	Tampere, Finland
27 - 28/11	Foreign Ministers' follow-up meeting of the Barcelona Process (EUROMED)	Tampere, Finland
14 - 15/12	European Council	Brussels



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in cooperation with the European Commission

