

REPORT

OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS REPRESENTING THE PARTICIPATING STATES OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE, FORESEEN BY THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE BELGRADE MEETING 1977 TO CONSIDER, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MEDITERRANEAN CHAPTER OF THE FINAL ACT, THE POSSIBILITIES AND MEANS OF PROMOTING CONCRETE INITIATIVES FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CO-OPERATION CONCERNING VARIOUS ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS; IN ADDITION TO OTHER INITIATIVES RELATING TO THE ABOVE SUBJECTS ALREADY UNDER WAY.

In accordance with the mandate of the Concluding Document of the Belgrade Meeting 1977, a Meeting of Experts representing the participating States took place at Valletta upon the invitation of the Government of Malta, from 13 February to 26 March 1979 in order to consider within the framework of the Mediterranean Chapter of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the possibilities and means of promoting concrete initiatives for mutually beneficial co-operation concerning various economic, scientific and cultural fields, in addition to other initiatives relating to the above subjects already under way.

During the opening session of the Meeting, a message was received from Dr. Anton Buttigieg, President of the Republic of Malta, and the participants were addressed by Mr. Wistin Abela, Minister of Development, Energy, Port and Telecommunications of the Republic of Malta.

The participants adopted an agenda and agreed on modalities appropriate to this Meeting.

The participants had a general exchange of views.

In accordance with the Concluding Document of the Belgrade Meeting 1977 all the non-participating Mediterranean States were invited to contribute to the work of the Meeting. Egypt and Israel accepted and made their contributions in plenary on 21 February. Syria addressed the plenary on 27 February. The representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), UNESCO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) made contributions relating to the work of the Meeting.

Two working bodies concerned with co-operation in the economic and in the scientific and cultural fields respectively were established by the plenary and pursued their work under its guidance. The non-participating Mediterranean States which made contributions participated in the discussions of the working bodies. Upon the invitation of the plenary, the representatives of the ECE and UNESCO made additional contributions in the working bodies.

The participants stressed the will of their governments to promote the development of good-neighbourly relations and co-operation with the non-participating Mediterranean States and reaffirmed the importance their governments attach to the attainment of the objectives set forth in the Final Act of the CSCE by implementing all of its provisions, as well as their readiness to pursue their efforts accordingly.

The participants considered many measures and activities already under way or envisaged, both bilateral and multilateral, relating to mutually beneficial co-operation in the fields of economics, science and culture; in doing so, they drew attention to certain current problems in the above-mentioned fields and examined ways of solving them. The participants were of the opinion that the exchange of views which took place in this context was a useful outcome of the Meeting.

The Meeting of Experts noted that particularly useful and concrete work in the fields specified in the mandate of the Valletta Meeting is being done by competent international organisations, notably by ECE, UNESCO and UNEP.

In accordance with the mandate of the Meeting and taking into account the contributions made at the Meeting by non-participating Mediterranean States and by the representatives of ECE, UNESCO and UNEP, the participants considered ideas and proposals for further initiatives intended to promote mutually beneficial co-operation in sectors falling within the fields identified for consideration by the Meeting.

The Meeting of Experts concluded that for many of those sectors ECE, UNESCO and UNEP provided a framework for investigating and developing further co-operation among the participating States and the non-participating Mediterranean States, whereas in other sectors unilateral efforts, or bilateral or other forms of multilateral co-operation were more suitable.

Accordingly, the participants, having examined the ideas, considerations and proposals which had been submitted, recommended to Governments of the participating States that they envisage within their possibilities and interests, through their participation in international organisations and in their bilateral and multilateral relations with the participating States and with the non-participating Mediterranean States, the following:

ECONOMICS

Continuing their efforts to contribute to the diversified development of the economies of the States concerned, including the non-participating Mediterranean States, taking due account of their national development objectives.

Developing the exchange of statistical data, including with the non-participating Mediterranean States, among national statistical institutes and considering the convening of a meeting of experts within the framework of ECE, with a view to drawing up an inventory of existing data and considering further actions in the fields of data concerning national accounts, labour, agricultural and industrial production, trade, transport, tourism, the environment, education and health.

Examining within the framework of UNEP, the possibilities of participating States being provided with information and advice on relevant environmental programmes and activities with a view to achieving better harmonization between Mediterranean and other international programmes; contributing to the efforts to reduce pollution of the Mediterranean; and considering the possibility of developing co-operation initiated within the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

Considering the holding of meetings at a technical level, within the framework of the appropriate international organisations, in order to determine the most suitable criteria for making the best possible use of tourist resources and promoting further co-operation among interested countries in the fields of vocational training, in-service training and scholarships.

Intensifying the exchange, bilaterally as well as in co-operation with the competent international organisations, of the results of studies on the conservation and rational use of energy and developing their co-operation in the area of solar energy including with the non-participating Mediterranean States, by supporting the activities of UNEP and taking due account of the outcome of the CSCE "Scientific Forum".

Considering the expansion of trans-European and Mediterranean transport networks and promoting with a view to facilitating trade, the further application in these areas of the TIR Convention as well as other instruments and recommendations elaborated within the framework of ECE relating to international transport of goods.

Considering co-operative efforts, within the competent international organisations, to adapt agricultural production in the Mediterranean to meet existing needs.

Urging better co-operation among the participating States and the non-participating Mediterranean States in the field of fisheries in the Mediterranean, and supporting further studies within competent international organisations on fish processing.

Supporting the programme sponsored by UNEP for the development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean as a co-operative project between all interested countries.

Promoting co-operation in the field of telecommunications technology among appropriate institutions or firms of interested participating States and non-participating Mediterranean States through the carrying out of joint research, including on new equipment and current technology, the exchange of information, the organisation of training courses for specialists, in co-operation with the International Telecommunications Union. Studying the possibility of convening a meeting of experts of interested countries on telecommunications in the Mediterranean.

Recommending the host countries and the countries of origin to intensify their contacts with a view to finding solutions to the problems which exist in the field of migrant labour. While fully implementing the existing agreements to which they are parties, they should also continue, by all appropriate means, their efforts to improve the situation of migrant workers in conformity with the provisions of the Final Act on migrant labour, including the solution of the problems in the economic, social, human and other fields.

SCIENCE

Practising more widely the holding, within the framework of the competent international organisations mentioned in the Final Act, of conferences, symposia and meetings on the most pressing scientific and technical problems of the Mediterranean that are of general interest.

Reinforcing their co-operation in controlling and eradicating certain diseases prevalent in the Mediterranean (e.g. thalassaemia), facilitating studies and conferences, particularly under the aegis of the World Health Organisation, with a view to establishing programmes for the prevention, detection and treatment of these diseases and for the training of specialized personnel, on the basis of the expertise which some participating states could share with other countries.

Urging further exchanges of views within the competent international organisations, on co-operative studies on gerontology, including environmental geriatric care.

Considering the convening under the aegis of the competent international organisations of a scientific conference on the protection of the Mediterranean ecosystem, particularly with a view to studying co-operative projects in the fields of afforestation, forest management, management of water resources, reclamation of arid and semi-arid areas, and drawing up an inventory of the technical centres for research existing in these areas.

Developing co-operation in the field of seismology, increasing the exchange of information on seismic phenomena in the Mediterranean and adjacent areas, and considering the convening, under the aegis of UNESCO, of a symposium on seismicity in the Mediterranean and its repercussions in Europe and Africa.

Studying, in co-operation with other participating States and with non-participating Mediterranean States, the possibility of the drafting of a comprehensive history of the Mediterranean utilizing the valuable experience of UNESCO and under its aegis.

Encouraging studies relevant to the needs of the Mediterranean, particularly in the fields of science and technology.

CULTURE

Supporting the holding of congresses and conferences by existing international organisations in the fields of culture, both in the participating States and in the non-participating Mediterranean States.

Increasing their co-operation, both at the bilateral and multilateral level, including within the competent international organisations in the field of scientific research and in the protection and preservation of the cultural and historical heritage of the Mediterranean, notably archaeological and architectural remains, with a view to developing in particular underwater archaeological research and harmonizing the legal and technical modalities for the protection and preservation of this heritage.

Considering the preparation of a study on the relationship between the development of tourism in the Mediterranean and the protection, preservation and presentation of the cultural and historical heritage, with the participation of interested participating and non-participating States, and in collaboration with competent international organisations.

Expanding their co-operation in the field of the dissemination of scientific and cultural knowledge through radio and television; increasing the exchanges of scientific and cultural radio and television programmes; studying the possibilities, in collaboration with the competent international organisations, of using radio and television for vocational and adult training.

Promoting the exchange of films among the film libraries of the participating States and the non-participating Mediterranean States and the holding of Film Weeks.

Encouraging the efforts of UNESCO to help Mediterranean countries establish a Mediterranean Cultural Centre.

The participants recommended to the Governments of the participating States of the CSCE that they take into account, as appropriate, at the Madrid Meeting, the results of the Valletta Meeting and that they be mindful in the interim of the outcome achieved by unilateral efforts and within the framework of competent international organisations and in bilateral or multilateral co-operation, in the fields of the mandate for the Valletta Meeting.

The participants expressed their deep gratitude to the Government and the people of Malta for the excellent organisation of the Meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay in Valletta.

Valletta, 26 March 1979