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**Office of the Secretary General**  
*Section for External Co-operation*



2006 Mediterranean Seminar  
**2006 Mediterranean Seminar**



**The OSCE Mediterranean Partnership:  
From Recommendation to Implementation**

*Sharm El-Sheikh, 6 – 7 November 2006*

**Consolidated Summary**

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## **1 General information**

### **1.1 Venue**

The Seminar was held from 6 to 7 September 2006, at the Jolie Ville International Congress Centre in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

### **1.2 Participation<sup>\*)</sup>**

1.2.1 Thirty-five OSCE participating States, including Finland/EU, and the European Commission, took part in the Seminar.

1.2.2 All the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) and two of the Asian Partners for Co-operation (Korea and Thailand) were represented.

1.2.3 The OSCE Secretariat, the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly were represented.

1.2.4 The following international organizations were also represented: the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Organization for Migration, the League of Arab States, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and UNESCO.

1.2.5 Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were able to attend and contribute to the Seminar in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices.

### **1.3 Timetable and organizational modalities**

1.3.1 The Seminar began at 9.30 a.m. (opening ceremony) on 6 November 2006 and ended at 12.30 p.m. on 7 November 2006.

1.3.2 The Seminar was conducted in three sessions.

1.3.3 The opening and the closing sessions were chaired by Ambassador Sanchez de Boado, Head of the Spanish Delegation to the OSCE, Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

1.3.4 Each session had a moderator and a rapporteur.

1.3.5 The working languages were English and French.

1.3.6 Arrangements were made for press coverage.

1.3.7 Other rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Seminar.

1.3.8 The seating arrangement is shown in chapter 8.

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<sup>\*)</sup> See chapter 6, List of participants

## 1.4 Agenda

### Monday, 6 November 2006

8.15–9 a.m. Registration of participants

9–10.15 a.m.

#### **Opening ceremony**

Chairperson: Ambassador Sanchez de Boado, Head of the Spanish Delegation to the OSCE, Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

- Opening address by H.E. Ambassador Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Austria, on behalf of H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt
- Statement by H.E. Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrughe, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council
- Statement by H.E. Ambassador José Angel López-Jorrín, Head of the Task Force for the Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE-2007
- Statement by H.E. Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE

10.15–10.30 a.m. Coffee break

10.30 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.

**Session 1: Follow-up to the 2005 OSCE Mediterranean Seminar: The economic and human dimensions of migration. Ways to improve the mutual benefits of legal migration between countries of origin and destination; the fight against illegal migration; integration of legal migrants.**

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Omar Zniber, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the International Organizations in Vienna

Rapporteur: Mr. Pierre Clive Agius, Delegation of Malta to the OSCE

Keynote speakers (10 minutes maximum per intervention)

- Mr. Nilim Baruah, Head, Labour Migration Division, International Organization for Migration
- Mr. Alexey Stukalo, Deputy Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

- Ms. Manuela Ramin-Osmundsen, Project Co-ordinator for Migration and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Discussion (5 minutes maximum per intervention)  
Conclusion and remarks by the moderator

12.45–2.30 p.m. **Lunch hosted by the OSCE Secretary General**

2.30–5.30 p.m.

**Session 2: The role of the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. Education on human rights and tolerance, legislation, and data collection as tools for combating hate crimes and intolerance.**

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Yusuf Buluç, Head of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Mr. Alexandru Ene, Permanent Mission of Romania to the OSCE

Keynote speakers (10 minutes maximum per intervention)

- Mr. Juan Ferreiro Galguera, Deputy Director-General for Religious Affairs, Ministry of Justice of Spain
- Mr. Samir Morcos, Author, and activist in the area of dialogue between Islam and Christianity, Egypt
- Mr. Udi Cohen and Mr. Ibrahim Abu Shindi, Executive Co-Directors, The Citizens' Accord Forum for Jews and Arabs in Israel
- Ms. Kirsti Westphalen, Co-ordinator of the project "Engagement with the Islamic World", Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland

Discussion (5 minutes maximum per intervention)

Conclusion and remarks by the moderator

08 p.m. **Dinner reception hosted by Egypt**

**Tuesday, 7 November 2006**

9.30–10.15 a.m.

**Session 3: Ways and means to improve the dialogue and co-operation between Mediterranean Partners and OSCE participating States.**

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Austria

Rapporteur: Mr. José Carlos Reis Arsénio, Permanent Representation of Portugal to the OSCE

Keynote speakers (10 minutes maximum per intervention)

- H.E. Ambassador Julie Finley, Chief of the United States Mission to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- H.E. Ambassador Dan Ashbel, Head of the Permanent Mission of the State of Israel to the International Organizations in Vienna
- H.E. Ambassador Christian Falkowski, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the International Organisations in Vienna
- Mr. Karl Wycoff, Head of the Action against Terrorism Unit, OSCE Secretariat
- Mr. Mohamed Ouzerouhane, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria

Discussion (5 minutes maximum per intervention)

10.15 – 10.35 a.m. Coffee break

10.35 – 11.30 a.m. Discussion (continued)

Conclusion and remarks by the moderator

11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

### **Concluding session**

Chairperson: H.E. Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado,  
Chairperson of the Contact Group with the  
Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Reports by session rapporteurs

Discussion

Concluding statement by H.E. Ambassador Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy,  
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Austria

Concluding statement by H.E. Ambassador José Angel López-Jorrín,  
Head of the Task Force for the Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE-  
2007

12.30 p.m. End of Seminar

## 2 Summary of the opening ceremony

### *Report by Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat*

The opening session was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado, Chairperson of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group, and was addressed by H.E. Ambassador Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy on behalf of H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt; H.E. Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugghe, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council; H.E. Ambassador Jose Angel Lopez Jorrin, Head of the Task Force for the Spanish OSCE Chairmanship 2007, and H.E. Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE.

The Seminar was opened by Ambassador Ramzy, who welcomed participants to the 2006 Mediterranean Seminar in Sharm El-Sheikh and thanked the Belgian Chairmanship of the Permanent Council and the Spanish Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group for their leadership during the current year. He highlighted the importance of strengthening the interdependence between the two shores of the Mediterranean and identified the OSCE as one of the leading instruments in that respect. Two themes had emerged as central to the Mediterranean dialogue over the past two years: security in its comprehensive sense and the closely linked issues of migration, integration and tolerance.

Ambassador Ramzy highlighted three security areas of particular urgency and of mutual interest for the Mediterranean Partners and the participating States: combating terrorism, resolving regional conflicts in the Mediterranean and eliminating the threat of weapons of mass destruction. He urged the Mediterranean Partners and the participating States to address those issues to ensure the success and constructiveness of their dialogue. Ambassador Ramzy also drew attention to the growing importance of the three issues of migration, integration and tolerance in the OSCE area, and stressed that increased migration called for appropriate management, for which the OSCE could provide a suitable forum for debate and policy-making. He urged the participating States to work closely with the Mediterranean Partners on policies to address the push factors behind migratory flows. He underlined the interconnectedness of the three issues and expressed satisfaction with the OSCE's balanced approach towards the issue of intolerance, emphasizing the need to create a dialogue with civil society and amongst its parties. He noted the importance of the OSCE's contribution to the UN Alliance of Civilizations and described it as the intersection between issues of comprehensive security and of migration, integration and tolerance.

Speaking on behalf of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Ambassador de Crombrugghe noted that the 2006 Mediterranean Seminar was a direct follow-up to the previous year's Seminar, which had focused on migration and integration, underlining the new dimension of discussions on tolerance and the balancing of freedom of expression and respect of the other. He recalled the Chairmanship's perception paper on the controversy regarding the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed issued in March 2006 and listed a number of other initiatives on the theme of tolerance in the current year, including the Almaty and Dubrovnik tolerance implementation meetings, as well as the OSCE's contribution to the UN initiative on the Alliance of Civilizations. He thanked the Mediterranean Partners for their active contributions and expressed regret that the partnership fund initiative had not come to fruition. He voiced his support for the principle that the Annual Mediterranean Seminar be hosted by different Mediterranean Partners in rotation.

Ambassador de Crombrugge addressed the issue of OSCE reform and strengthening of the effectiveness of the Organization, and noted that significant progress had also been achieved in the dialogue with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation through a number of activities designed to deepen cooperation. In that connection the regular participation of the Mediterranean Partners in meetings of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security and Co-operation deserved mention. He encouraged the participants to start looking at ways to capitalize more systematically on the Mediterranean Partners' presence in the Organization.

H.E. Ambassador Jose Angel Lopez Jorin thanked Egypt for hosting the Seminar and Belgium for its efforts in organizing it. He argued that the topics raised by the Seminar were among most important challenges of the twenty-first century and embodied two aspects. Understanding the issues of migration and integration was a challenge in itself, but it was important to consider the questions also as affording opportunities for mutual enrichment for all the countries affected whether of origin, transit or destination. The need for tolerance was a natural consequence of the first issue, with intercultural and interfaith dialogue becoming factors of broad, long-term security. Education on human rights and tolerance was an important tool for tackling these issues, but the impetus in current activities relating to the strengthening of legislation and data collection as effective tools for combating hate crime and intolerance should not be lost.

Ambassador Lopez Jorin praised the progress of the Mediterranean dialogue since its inception, but urged the Mediterranean Partners and the participating States to continue intensifying their co-operation to ensure that the process became more results-oriented. He underscored the role of the OSCE in the Alliance of Civilizations initiative and its nature as an instrument enabling the international community to establish common ground for an effective intercultural dialogue. He welcomed the upcoming conference on tolerance and non-discrimination in Romania and mentioned the possible organization of a special meeting on the subject of intolerance against Muslims in Spain. He spoke of Spain's ambition to widen the appeal and knowledge of the OSCE, and referred to the role of the Mediterranean dialogue in achieving that ambition. Finally, the Ambassador joined his Egyptian colleague in urging the Mediterranean Partners to include representatives of civil society in their future exchanges.

The Secretary General of the OSCE recalled the importance of a multidimensional and comprehensive approach to the themes of migration, integration and tolerance, underlining their intrinsic linkage and their consistent presence in OSCE debates over the past two years as well as their relevance to the Mediterranean dimension. He related the themes back to the founding principles of the OSCE, underlining the beneficial effects of migration and intercultural dialogue. He enumerated the OSCE's achievements in 2006 in the areas of migration and tolerance, including the Working Group on Human Protection and Non-Discrimination, the Almaty and Dubrovnik tolerance implementation meetings and the OSCE contribution to the UN's Alliance of Civilizations initiative.

He further placed special emphasis on the future of the Mediterranean dialogue, pointing out that the Mediterranean Partners were now at a stage where they no longer needed to be informed about the OSCE, but rather had reached the point where the Mediterranean Contact Group could become a forum for action. He urged the participants to reconsider the nature of the Contact Group and its future role in the OSCE, and said that political will was the key to finding answers to questions and advancing the Mediterranean dialogue.



### 3 Reports by session rapporteurs

#### 3.1 Session 1: Follow-up to the 2005 OSCE Mediterranean Seminar: The economic and human dimensions of migration. Ways to improve the mutual benefits of legal migration between countries of origin and destination; the fight against illegal migration; integration of legal migrants

##### *Report by Mr. Pierre Clive Agius, Delegation of Malta to the OSCE*

The first session was moderated by H.E Ambassador Omar Zniber, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the OSCE. In his opening remarks, the moderator stressed, in particular, the need for the OSCE to introduce concrete forms of co-operation between the Mediterranean Partners and the participating States concerning migration and development. He further mentioned the possible establishment of a working group to assist the OSCE in looking into implementation of proposals and recommendations stemming from previous Mediterranean seminars. As to subject matter, he suggested that the group could concentrate on a global approach to the consequences of migration; the economic roots and consequences of migration; and co-ordination among countries of destination on integration issues.

The first session dealt with:

- i. The Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination;
- ii. The need to improve the mutual benefits of legal migration in countries both of origin and of destination;
- iii. The initiatives taken and work done in the area of migration by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA);
- iv. Challenges in migration;
- v. Combating of illegal migration;
- vi. The role of the OSCE in migration issues.

The Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination, whose primary objective is to assist States in their efforts to design effective policy strategies on migration, was the main focus of one of the keynote speakers in the session. The Handbook, it was stated, was an essential tool for the countries of the Mediterranean because it provided comprehensive information and examples of good practices and experience with respect to the management of labour migration inflows as well as to the preparation of prospective labour migrants. The Handbook also proposed a series of measures to prevent and reduce irregular migration.

Improving the mutual benefits of legal migration in countries both of origin and of destination was the subject of another keynote speech. Migrants, it was explained, contributed to the economy of the host country by, for example, meeting demand for low-skilled and highly-skilled workers in advanced economies. On the other hand, countries of origin gained from remittances and through the acquired skills of the migrants upon their return. However, while searching for ways of improving legal migration channels, it was at

the same time important to combat illegal migration. The latter, could be a cause of social tensions, and might complicate the integration process of regular migrants, among other things. The OCEEA had been very active in the area of migration through various initiatives. More specific to the Mediterranean Partners, the OCEEA had expressed a strong interest in learning more about the work being done by the 5+5 Dialogue, the Euro-African Partnership for Migration and Development and the Rabat Action Plan. The OCEEA also intended to publish an Arabic edition of the Handbook on Migration Policies. Furthermore, a project was scheduled for 2007 on capacity-building designed to combat irregular migration and trafficking for labour exploitation. The Mediterranean countries were invited to submit comments and share experiences on the subject.

The fundamental challenges and concerns, it was stated in another keynote speech, were the same for all countries, even if they took different forms. The overriding challenge was to ensure that migration patterns developed in such a way that the migrants themselves, their countries of origin and their host countries all ended up in a win-win situation. Historically, migration seemed to have been an effective way of combating poverty. The economic disparity, together with demographic trends and conflicts, among other things, would most likely lead to an unprecedented increase in migratory flows. Migration was ultimately a global phenomenon and no country could go it alone.

In the discussion which ensued following the presentations, many delegations agreed on the importance of developing a holistic and comprehensive approach when dealing with migration issues. In that context, tolerance as well as the need to combat illegal migration was considered to be of utmost importance. Incidentally, several speakers pointed out that illegal migration interfered with legal migration flows. The need to develop integration policies in countries of destination was also perceived important by a number of delegations. In that respect, the ODIHR was seen as a particularly important contributor.

Some delegations also made reference to the dire situation with respect to illegal migration in the Mediterranean region. The sheer number of landings of boat people was unsustainable. Furthermore, within the OSCE comprehensive concept of security, illegal migration was described as a real and present threat. Burden-sharing in the spirit of European security was a way of alleviating pressures.

Some delegations emphasized the need to work towards ensuring security of employment and respect of fundamental freedoms. The provision of those two basic elements, it was argued, would pre-empt any need for migration. Another delegation also recognized the role that economic development played in migration issues but added that that was a long-term vision.

Some delegations argued that the OSCE had been discussing migration for a long time and that it was now time to switch to concrete action. In that regard, a proposal was floated for the establishment of an OSCE framework for migration, possibly through the adoption of a code of conduct. Some delegations, however, pointed out that elements for such a code of conduct were already available.

Another proposal for concrete action, for which several delegations expressed support, was the establishment of a working group on migration (WGM). Such a working group could perhaps examine ways in which the OSCE could contribute to the challenges posed to the countries of origin, transit and destination, which stemmed from the multifaceted nature of the phenomenon of migration.

The active promotion of the Handbook on Migration Policies was seen as another way in which the OSCE could be actively engaged concerning the issue, which was repeatedly described as one of common concern.

A call was also issued to assign due importance to environmental migration, which would be the cause of unprecedented migration flows. In that context, environmental migration was a pertinent issue that could be discussed during the 15th session of the Economic and Environmental Forum, under the incoming Spanish Chairmanship.

Finally, many delegations called attention to the important role the OSCE could play in migration issues. In that context, references were made to Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/05 on Migration. However the need to avoid duplication of work being done by other international organizations was also mentioned. To that end, it was argued, there should be a clear division of labour. The OSCE, it was pointed out, should be complementary to, and supplement the work being done in other forums, including the EU, the ILO, the 5+5 Dialogue, the Council of Europe, the OECD, the IOM and the ICMPD.

**3.2 Session 2: The role of the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. Education on human rights and tolerance, legislation, and data collection as tools for combating hate crimes and intolerance**

*Report by Mr. Alexandru Ene, Permanent Mission of Romania to the OSCE*

The second session was moderated by H.E. Ambassador Yusuf Buluç, Head of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE. In his introduction, Ambassador Buluç gave a comprehensive account of OSCE's work over the past 15 years in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, highlighting in particular the appointments of the three Personal Representatives on those issues and the good work of the ODIHR through its Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme.

In the first keynote speech, Mr. Juan Ferreiro Galguera, Deputy Director of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Justice of Spain, gave a presentation on “Freedom of expression and respect for religious feelings”, in which he outlined the necessary balance between the two concepts. Samir Morcos, Egyptian author and activist in the area of dialogue between Islam and Christianity, provided a detailed account of the dialogue based on citizenship in Egyptian experience, which focused on his country's experience with a multifaith society. He was followed by Mr. Udi Cohen and Mr. Ibrahim Abu Shindi, Executive Co-Directors of the Citizens' Accord Forum between Jews and Arabs in Israel, who illustrated how their organization promoted interfaith dialogue in a conflict region. Ms. Kirsti Westphalen, Counselor, project on engagement with the Islamic world of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, delivered a presentation on interfaith and intercultural dialogue, highlighting the necessity to avoid linking Islam and terrorism.

During the ensuing discussion, one delegation explained that, in today's globalized world, the need for tolerance was greater than ever. Tolerance was likened to the lubricating oil that kept machinery from seizing up. There was a need to monitor the ways in which societies coped with racial, cultural and religious differences. To make sure that that was done, appropriate educational programmes were required *inter alia*. Such programmes should include education about education, to sensitize educators to the principle that familiarity with other cultures and religions was a tool to foster respect and avoid stereotypes. The need to respect the sensitivities of members of different religions was also highlighted.

Another delegation shared its national legislative experience in dealing with people of different faiths, and emphasized that legislation in that field was closely connected to education. As past practice showed, when a concerted approach was taken, the impact on the integration of immigrant communities was positive. That was particularly true in those cases in which teacher training and religious classes were conducted in the language of countries of destination. Commitment to dialogue, flexibility and pragmatism were the key ingredients of success. Countering extremist and violent tendencies, especially among the most exposed and vulnerable segments of society, required a full and authentic involvement of civil society as an antidote.

Several speakers stressed the role of the media in preventing xenophobic discourse and other forms of generalized intolerance. The media had a strong effect in shaping the opinions and

attitudes of the majority toward other religions. While there was no simple solution to that issue, it was felt that developing a non-emotive lexicon to discuss tolerance-related matters was important.

A suggestion was made for the establishment of a framework for discussion within the OSCE, aimed at elaborating an OSCE code of conduct that would take into account freedom of expression and respect for religions. Such a code would be based on the OSCE's *acquis* on tolerance and non-discrimination that had been developed since the inception of the CSCE/OSCE. Once adopted, the code could be presented to the UN.

Calls were made for the OSCE to define its niche in promoting tolerance. The Organization had the capacity to provide legal assistance on legislation to combat discrimination and intolerance, while simultaneously promoting integration. The achievement of concrete results depended on establishing specific benchmarks, working at the grass-roots level and tailoring responses to specific target groups. It also depended on a visible presence by the OSCE and its co-operation with other international organizations active in that field. The political leaders had a significant role to play at that juncture.

Another delegate pointed out that becoming a member of a minority was something that could happen to any of the conference's participants. Therefore, any initiative projected to promote inclusiveness had to include sensitivity. The distinction was not merely a matter of semantics, requiring stepping out of a particular paradigm and seeing the broader picture.

A representative of the ODIHR spoke about some of its Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme's activities on education, legislation and data collection and suggested that they could be expanded to include Partner States. A number of proposals were put forward, namely: supporting the development of intercultural/interfaith partnerships among civil society, increasing involvement of the Mediterranean Partners in OSCE meetings and initiatives related to tolerance and non-discrimination, sharing and exchanging practices and policies, and drawing upon existing Euro-Med initiatives.

The moderator thanked the participants for a lively discussion and recalled that tolerance and non-discrimination were prerequisites of democracy. Manifestations of intolerance and discrimination had to be countered by each and every individual, at all levels. Vulnerable groups had a lot to learn from each other's experiences and intercommunity projects were welcome because of their potential positive multiplier effect. The moderator concluded that the OSCE-Mediterranean partnership had to be exploited to the full in developing a deeper understanding of the complex challenges posed by cultural and religious diversity and strategies for addressing them collectively.

### **3.3 Session 3: Ways and means to improve the dialogue and co-operation between Mediterranean Partners and OSCE participating States**

#### ***Report by Mr. José Carlos Reis Arsénio, Permanent Representation of Portugal to the OSCE***

Session 3 was moderated by H.E. Ambassador Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Austria, and was devoted to “Ways and means to improve the dialogue and co-operation between Mediterranean Partners and OSCE participating States”.

In his opening remarks, the moderator noted that the current time represented a moment of truth, a time to transform past deliberations into concrete proposals and recommendations in order to strengthen the relationship between the Mediterranean Partners and the participating States. In doing so, it was necessary to be aware that the ultimate objective was to enhance security for both sides.

Furthermore, the OSCE needed to complement, not duplicate, work done elsewhere, in other words, focus attention on specific areas. Over the past few years, the areas of migration, integration and tolerance had emerged as an important focus for both sides. Those three areas continued to hold increasing promise, and they touched on three areas of interest to the OSCE: security, European co-operation and humanitarian issues.

During the session, five keynote speakers presented their views on the topic at hand.

In the first presentation, the participants were made aware of the role that the OSCE could play in promoting an active dialogue, co-operation, mutual understanding and confidence between the various states in the Mediterranean region with a view to enabling them to face today’s difficult security issues. The dialogue could be brought forward through the identification of priority areas for 2007-2008 in which the OSCE could provide expertise, such as counter-terrorism, through, to promote implementation of the 13 United Nations Security Council resolutions on terrorism and to foster co-operation among governments, civil society and the private sector. The OSCE could also provide added value in respect of issues related to the management of multi-ethnic societies, including religious freedom and democratic practices, especially the election process. The speaker finally reminded participants of the importance of promoting the participation of NGOs in OSCE the Mediterranean Seminars.

The second keynote speaker began by emphasizing the significance of the principle of rotation in hosting the Mediterranean Seminars, as an important confidence-building measure amongst the Mediterranean Partners. The speaker then suggested that the Mediterranean Partners make use of the OSCE framework to promote their own subregional dialogue and co-operation, so as to complement existing peace efforts in the region, through activities in the areas of democratization, human rights and the rule of law. Such complementary activities would allow dialogue to be maintained despite existing conflicts. Reference was also made to the importance of combating prejudices, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in Mediterranean societies. Cases like that of the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed should be dealt with in a comprehensive manner. Special reference was also made to the necessity for all countries to join forces, in co-operation with the OSCE, to fight

the illicit trafficking of military weapons. In general terms, the OSCE's and NATO's respective Mediterranean dialogues, as well as the Euro-Med Partnership, should be used as platforms for building dialogue in the Mediterranean region.

In the third presentation, the speaker recalled the long-standing relationship between the OSCE and the Mediterranean region and noted that Europe's security was closely linked to that of the Mediterranean as a whole. Euro-Mediterranean security must be achieved through inclusive co-operation in each of the three dimensions of the OSCE. It was in the interests of the EU, through its European Neighbourhood Policy, to foster sustainable economic and social development and respect diversity and understanding between cultures.

The speaker added that the Mediterranean Partners could benefit from the OSCE framework to advance their own subregional dialogue and co-operation in the economic and environmental area. A case in point was the side event with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation on the role of transport in regional integration and trans-Mediterranean co-operation, which had been organized on the margins of the 2006 OSCE Economic Forum. That event, and a possible similar discussion in 2007 on common environmental challenges such as soil degradation, could help to foster a sense of community of destiny around the Mediterranean.

Furthermore, the OSCE could share the experience it had gained in bolstering dialogue and co-operation through the hard times of the cold war and the way implementation of its own commitments led to increased democracy and created the structural conditions for people to live in ever better conditions. It could also offer assistance to the Mediterranean Partners in their efforts to implement OSCE commitments.

The speaker also highlighted the importance of allowing the contribution of civil society, as recognized in the Barcelona Declaration, adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in 1995, and the participation of NGOs in future OSCE Mediterranean seminars.

The fourth presentation drew attention to the importance of reinforcing the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership and the level of participation of the Mediterranean Partners in OSCE meetings and gatherings. In this regard, the following was suggested:

To create the necessary follow-up mechanisms to enable implementation of the recommendations emanating from OSCE Mediterranean Seminars, by:

- Permitting the Mediterranean Contact Group to intervene before OSCE bodies;
- Applying to all OSCE meetings and gatherings open to the Partner States the same arrangements as at the 467th meeting of the FSC under the Belgian Chairmanship;
- Holding the traditional meeting between the OSCE Ministerial Troika and heads of delegations of the Partner States on the first day of Ministerial Council meetings rather than on the day before;
- Determining the order of speakers for Partner States at Ministerial Council meetings by drawing of lots;
- Intensifying the consultations with Mediterranean Partners on strengthening the Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE.

The fifth and last presentation provided an outline of the work carried out by the Action Against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE (ATU) and its co-operation with other international organizations. Special reference was made to the importance of combating terrorist use of the Internet and to the need to promote public and private partnership in combating terrorism. Two counter-terrorism activities were highlighted as potential areas for further co-operation with the Mediterranean partners, namely the enhancement of legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism and implementation of the Travel Document Security Programme. In conclusion, it was suggested that counter-terrorism efforts should be further strengthened efforts by enhancing and intensifying co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners.

During the discussion, it was noted that the Participating States and Mediterranean Partners attached great importance to the co-operation and partnership process in all three dimensions of security. In that regard, concrete actions should be based on specific recommendations. The importance of the existing mechanisms and the need to explore new ones were also mentioned. It was suggested that high-level contacts between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners should be revived, and a partnership fund created. It was widely recognized that follow-up remained the main challenge with regard to the Mediterranean Seminars; a “check list” or “score card” might be created to monitor the implementation of various proposals. The discussions also touched on the role of the media and how they could work towards bringing societies and cultures together; further work could be carried out with the Representative on Freedom of the Media. Finally, many participants supported the proposal that an agreement should be reached on holding the Mediterranean Seminar each year in a different Mediterranean Partner country by rotation.



## 4 Summary of the closing session

*Report by Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat*

The closing session was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado. Concluding remarks were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Jose Angel Lopez Jorrin, Head of the Task Force for the Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE 2007, and by H.E. Ambassador Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Austria.

Ambassador Sanchez de Boado shared some thoughts on the discussions at the Seminar. He underlined the importance of co-operation between countries of origin and destination, both in the fight against illegal migration and in the development of an international legal framework for the protection of migrants in general. The publication of the Handbook on Labour Migration in Arabic would be an important step in the right direction. Ambassador Sanchez de Boado also highlighted the themes of tolerance and non-discrimination, which had already been designated to be pillars of the third dimension during the Spanish Chairmanship in 2007. He emphasized the two-way nature of the dialogue on integration and tolerance, concluding by stressing that participation was the key concept in adapting societies to the opportunities and challenges afforded by the new age of migration.

In his concluding statement, Ambassador Ramzy, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the OSCE in Vienna, summarized the Seminar's discussions, drawing key points from the debates on migration and tolerance, and outlining some of the proposals that had been made. He recalled the positive aspects of migration and the continued threat posed by illegal migration, stressing that burden-sharing was an essential element in effective management of migration. He emphasized the close relationship between migration, integration and tolerance, reiterating that an investment in tolerance was the best investment in security. He listed a number of issues in addition to dialogue that needed to be tackled to improve tolerance. Among the proposals arising from the debates, he listed the need to "monitor" the success of integration policies as well as discrimination and hate crimes through proper data collection; the need to strengthen existing mechanisms and explore new ones with a view to further enhancing Partner – participating State relationships; and the preparation of a checklist of past recommendations to ensure a mechanism for follow-up to the Mediterranean Seminars. Finally, he noted wide support for the principle of rotation in hosting the Mediterranean Seminars.

H.E. Ambassador Jose Angel Lopez Jorrin underlined the importance of the 2006 Seminar in addressing both the strengths and the shortcomings of the OSCE Mediterranean partnership. He reiterated the points raised by Ambassador Sanchez de Boado and added that strengthening the Mediterranean partnership would be one of the Chairmanship's priorities in 2007. He urged the Mediterranean Partners and participating States to participate actively in order to make the partnership more results-oriented. He suggested a practical approach, with projects that could show tangible results, such as issuance of the Arabic version of the Handbook on Labour Migration Policies. He stressed the efforts to be made in promoting legal migration and understanding between countries of origin and destination while actively fighting against illegal migration. The reciprocal nature of respect and cultural integration was accurately reflected in the Spanish concept of *Convivencia*, living together in pluralistic societies. He concluded by urging all the participants to put their ideas into practice.

## **5 Recommendations and suggestions emanating from the 2006 Mediterranean Seminar**

*Compiled by Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat, in consultation with the host country and the Spanish Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group*

### **Future developments in the OSCE Mediterranean dialogue**

- Establish mechanisms to enable follow-up to recommendations of Mediterranean Seminars, including the establishment of a checklist of proposals;
- Strengthen the dialogue with civil society and the involvement of Mediterranean NGOs in OSCE Mediterranean Seminars and other OSCE events;
- Annual OSCE Mediterranean Seminar to be hosted by Mediterranean States by rotation;
- PC and FSC to invite Partners for Co-operation to participate in all of their meetings;
- Allow Partners for Co-operation to sit at the main table with participating States in the PC;
- Increase contacts at ministerial level with the Mediterranean Partners;
- Renew efforts to establish a partnership fund ;
- Hold annual joint meetings of the Mediterranean and Asian Contact Groups;
- Promote voluntary implementation of selected OSCE commitments by the Mediterranean Partners;
- Establish a mechanism to promote an exchange of ideas on conflict resolution between experts from the institutions in OSCE and the Mediterranean region, including NGOs, think-tanks and academic and scientific institutions;
- Anti-terrorism: increase co-operation with and among the Mediterranean Partners on combating terrorist use of the Internet; promote public-private partnerships in counter-terrorism and enhance legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism;
- Promote full implementation of the 13 UN Security Council resolutions on anti-terrorism by Mediterranean Partners and their participation in OSCE anti-terrorism activities.

### **Migration**

- Finance the translation of the OSCE-IOM-ILO Handbook on Labour Migration Policies into Arabic;
- Establish a working group on migration issues;

- Elaborate an OSCE code of conduct on migration;
- Address the issue of environmentally induced migration at the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum;
- Promote exchanges of information and experience on the operations of effective migration information and training centres;
- Conduct capacity-building projects to combat irregular migration and trafficking;
- Implement the Rabat recommendations on migration;
- Develop integration policies with the help of the ODIHR;
- Promote increased co-ordination between the OSCE and other international organizations dealing with migration.

### **Tolerance**

- Promote education as a means of countering ignorance, stereotyping and misunderstanding;
- Promote dialogue between religious communities and with media professionals and organizations on freedom of expression and respect for religious belief, in order to develop a common understanding of religious tolerance and media ethics;
- Promote dialogue in European countries with Muslim representatives of civil society, intergovernmental bodies, religious and spiritual leaders and intellectuals, both domestically and internationally;
- Tackle the issues of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the press with the help of the ODIHR and the RFOM;
- Establish a Euro-Mediterranean centre for documentation on prevailing stereotypes in the media;
- Conduct educational programmes to combat discrimination;
- Share best practices in legislation;
- Elaborate an OSCE code of respect taking into account freedom of expression and respect for religious equality, which could be presented to the UN;
- Define the OSCE's niche in promoting tolerance: Provide legal assistance on legislation, combat discrimination and intolerance while promoting integration, establish benchmarks and work at the grass-roots level;
- Expand the activities of the ODIHR's Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme to include the Mediterranean Partners;

- Promote exchanges of experience and best practices among OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners on promoting tolerance and on the management of multi-ethnic societies;
- Create a permanent mechanism to buffer national and international tensions between cultures/religions.

## 6 List of participants

### **Albania**

Ambassador Zef Mazi  
Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Albania to the OSCE

### **Germany**

Ambassador Axel Berg  
Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE

### **United States of America**

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Ambassador of the United States to the OSCE  
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Political Officer

### **Austria**

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### **Belgium/OSCE Chairmanship**

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Ambassador, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Mission of Belgium to the OSCE  
Ambassador Daniel Leroy  
Ambassador of Belgium to Egypt  
Mr. Pascal Heyman  
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### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Ambassador Radomir Kosic  
Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Arab Republic of Egypt

### **Bulgaria**

Ambassador Ivan Gaitandjiev  
Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Arab Republic of Egypt

### **Canada**

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Counsellor (immigration), Canadian Embassy, Cairo

### **Croatia**

Ambassador Drazen Margeta  
Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Egypt  
Mr. Daniel Ridicki  
Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Cairo

### **Denmark**

Ambassador John Bernhard  
Ambassador, Mission of Denmark to the OSCE  
Ms. Louise Jersild  
First Secretary, Mission of Denmark to the OSCE

### **Spain/OSCE Troika**

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Ms. Maria Luisa Casado Lopez Senior Consultant on International Affairs,  
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### **European Commission**

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### **France**

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### **United Kingdom**

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### **Italy**

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### **Kazakhstan**

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### **Luxembourg**

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Meeting Room Attendant



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**OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

Mr. Gustavo Pallares Counsellor, OSCE PA International Secretariat

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**Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia**

Mr. Tleuzhan Seksenbayev Representative of the CICA Chairman  
Mr. Jandos Asanov CICA Executive Director

**International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)**

Dr. Adel Afify ICMPD Representative in Egypt

**International Committee of the Red Cross**

Mr. Gérard Peytrignet Head of Delegation, Egypt

**International Organization for Migration**

Mr. Nilim Barwah Head, Labour Migration Division

**League of Arab States**

Ms. Farida Hassouna Director for European Affairs

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

Mr. Gilles Vander Ghinst NATO HQ, Officer, Regional Affairs and Mediterranean Dialogue

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Mr. Paolo Garonna Deputy Executive Secretary

**UNESCO**

Ms. Rasha Abou-Elazm National Professional Officer, Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab Region

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS**

Mr. Samir Morcos Activist in the area of dialogue between religions

**Citizens' Accord Forum between Arabs and Jews in Israel**

Mr. Ehud (Udi) Cohen Co-Director  
Mr. Ibrahim Abu Shindi Co-Director

**Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs**

Mr. Abdel Raouf El Reedy Chairman

**University of Paris VIII**

Prof. Samir Nair Philosopher and sociologist

**Interpreters**

Ms. Alix Sehr-Stewart  
Ms. Yannick Quero  
Ms Anne-Marie Greis  
Ms. Samira Abdel Sayed

**Media**

*(attending the Opening Ceremony)*

Mr. Ebrahim El Bahi Journalist, *El Ahram*

Mr. Tarek Mahmoud

Diplomatic Editor, Middle East News  
Agency (MENA)

## 7 List of documents

No.	Document
1.	List of Participants
2.	Egypt - opening
3.	Spain - opening
4.	Malta, Session 1
5.	Morocco, Session 1
6.	Holy See
7.	ICMPD
8.	Algeria, Session 3
9.	OSCE SG - opening
10.	Belgium - opening
11.	Citizen's Accord, Session 2
12.	Samir Morcos, Session 2
13.	Manuela Osmudsen, Norway, Session 1
14.	Manuela Osmudsen, Session 1
15.	Albania
16.	Israel, Session 3
17.	Finland
18.	OCEEA, Stukalo, Session 1
19.	Nilim Baruah, IOM – OSCE-IOM-ILO, Session 1
20.	Samir Morcos, Session 2
21.	Ambassador Olexii Rybak, Ukrainian Statement, Session 3
22.	Ambassador Kim Sung-Hwan, Republic of Korea – Discussion on ways and means to improve the dialogue and co-operation between Mediterranean Partners and OSCE participating States
23.	Ambassador Jose Angel Lopez Jorin, Spain – Concluding remarks
24.	Ambassador Christian Falkowski, European Commission
25.	Juan Ferreiro Galguera, Spain – Statement

## 8 Seating arrangement

<p>Greece Ireland Italy Kazakhstan Lithuania Luxembourg Malta Norway Netherlands Poland Portugal Algeria Egypt Israel Jordan Morocco Tunisia Romania Russian Federation Holy See Slovakia Slovenia/OSCE Troika Sweden</p>	<p>United Kingdom France <i>European Commission</i> Finland / EU Estonia Spain/OSCE Troika Denmark Croatia Canada Bulgaria Bosnia and Herzegovina Belgium/OSCE CIO Austria USA Germany Albania</p>	<p>Lectern</p>	
		<p>Keynote speakers Rapporteur Moderator OSCE Secretariat Keynote speakers</p>	<p>OSCE SG Chairperson of Contact Group with MPCs Chairperson Host Country CIO Rep.</p>
	<p>Czech Republic Turkey Ukraine Korea Thailand CICA NATO ICMPD ICRC IOM League of Arab States UNECE UNESCO OSCE PA OSCE ODIHR OSCE SG OSCE Secretariat</p>	<p><i>Sessions 1-3</i></p>	<p><i>Opening Ceremony</i></p>
	<p>NGOs</p>		