



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Secretary General
Section for External Co-operation



Ministero degli Affari Esteri

**2012 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE ON
“ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WITH MEDITERRANEAN
PARTNERS IN THE DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION PROCESSES
AND POLITICAL REFORMS”**

Rome, Italy, 30 and 31 October 2012

Consolidated Summary

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1 General information

1.1 Venue

The Conference was held on 30 and 31 October 2012, at the *Sala Conferenze Internazionali* of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

1.2 Participation^{*)}

1.2.1 Thirty-three OSCE participating States, including Cyprus/EU, took part in the Conference.

1.2.2 All the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia) participated.

1.2.3 The Personal Representative of the CIO for Article IV, Annex 1-B, of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the Conference, as did the OSCE Secretariat, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

1.2.4 At the invitation of the host country, representatives of Libya and the Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya took part in the Conference. The Palestinian National Authority was also invited, but did not participate.

1.2.5 The following international organizations were represented: Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, Collective Security Treaty Organization, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, Council of Europe, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Organization for Migration, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, and the World Bank.

1.2.6 Representatives of non-governmental organizations were able to attend and contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices.

1.3 Timetable and organizational modalities

1.3.1 The Conference began at 10 a.m. (opening ceremony) on 30 October 2012 and ended at 1 p.m. on 31 October 2012.

1.3.2 The Conference was conducted in three sessions. The first session had three parts.

1.3.3 The opening session was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Eoin O’Leary, Head of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE and Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, and the closing session by H.E. Mr. Domenico Giorgi, Minister Plenipotentiary, Central Director for the Countries of the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

^{*)} See part 5, list of participants.

- 1.3.4 Each session had a moderator and a rapporteur.
- 1.3.5 The working language was English. At the request of several participating States, interpretation was provided from and into French.
- 1.3.6 Arrangements were made for press coverage.
- 1.3.7 The rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.

1.4 Agenda

Tuesday, 30 October 2012

9.15–10 a.m. Registration of participants

10 –10.45 a.m. **Opening session**

Chairperson: Ambassador Eoin O’Leary, Head of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE and Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council

Speakers:

- Mr. Staffan de Mistura, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ambassador Frank Cogan, Head of the OSCE Irish Chairmanship Task Force;
- Ambassador Yevhen Mykytenko, Special Representative of Ukraine for the Middle East and Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine;
- Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, Secretary General of the OSCE;
- Mr. Riccardo Migliori, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

10.45–11.15 a.m. Coffee break

11.15 a.m.–6.30 p.m. **Session I**

11.15 a.m.–1.30 p.m. ***Part 1: Economic and social challenges in the Mediterranean Partner countries***

Moderator: Ambassador Eustathios Lozos, Head of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Mr. Mudassar Mian, Support Officer, United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE in Vienna (**TBC**)

Speakers:

- Mr. Mats Karlsson, Director, Center for Mediterranean Integration, World Bank;
- Ambassador Makram Queisi, Head of the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the OSCE;
- Ambassador Hassan Aboyoub, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Italy;
- Dr. Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou, Head of the Regional Capacity Development Programme, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Switzerland

Discussion

1.30–3 p.m. Lunch hosted by the OSCE Secretary General

3–4.30 p.m. ***Part 2: Enhancing the economies of Mediterranean Partner countries using relevant OSCE best practices***

Moderator: Ambassador Przemyslaw Grudziński, Head of the Permanent Mission of Poland to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Ms. Eglė Morkūnaitė, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

Speakers:

- Mr. Enzo Quattrocioche, Secretary General of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
- Mr. Alexey Stukalo, Deputy Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities; Head, Economic Activities

Discussion

4.30–5 p.m. Coffee break

5–6.30 p.m. ***Part 3: Promoting dialogue and developing co-operation on sustainable energy including renewable energy sources***

Moderator: Ambassador Khaled Shamaa, Head of the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Ms. Andrea Rauber Saxer, Deputy Head of the Swiss Delegation to the OSCE

Speakers:

- Mr. Sokol Dervishaj, Deputy Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy of Albania;
- Mr. Khaled Fekry, Head of the Studies and Research Sector, Ministry of Electricity and Energy of Egypt;
- Ms. Djamila Mohammedi, Director, Société Nationale d'Électricité et du Gaz, Algeria ;
- Mr. Goran Svilanović, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Discussion

Wednesday, 31 October 2012

9.30–10.30 a.m.

Session II

- **OSCE experience in addressing transnational threats to security**

Moderator: Ambassador Tacan İldem, Head of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Uwe Hovorka, Captain (Navy), Military Adviser, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE

Speakers:

- Ambassador Ian Kelly, Head of the Permanent Mission of the USA to the OSCE;
- Ambassador François Alabrune, Head of the Permanent Mission of France to the OSCE;
- Dr. Pierre von Arx, Deputy Head of the Swiss Delegation to the OSCE for Security Policy Issues;
- Mr. Nicola de Santis, Head, Middle East and North Africa Section, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO;
- Mr. Alexey Lyzhenkov, Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, OSCE Secretariat

Discussion

10.30–11.30 a.m.

Session III

- **Enhancing participation of women in political and public life**

Moderator: Ambassador Samir Koubaa, Head of the Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Mr. Raffaele Festa, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE

Speakers:

- Ms. Marta Dassù, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ambassador Gert Meinecke, Ambassador for Dialogue with the Middle East in the Middle East Department of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Dr. Rina Bar-Tal, former Chair of the Israel Women's Network and former Deputy Mayor of the City of Ra'anana, Israel;
- Ms. Nathalie Tagwerker, Deputy Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Democratization Department

Discussion

11.30 a.m.–12 noon Coffee break

12 noon–1 p.m. **Closing Session**

Chairperson: Mr. Domenico Giorgi, Minister Plenipotentiary, Central Director for the Countries of the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Concluding statement by Ambassador Eoin O’Leary, Head of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE and Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council

Concluding statement by Mr. Domenico Giorgi, Minister Plenipotentiary, Central Director for the Countries of the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Concluding statement by Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk, Head of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the OSCE and Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group

1.30–3 p.m. Lunch co-hosted by the OSCE Secretariat and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2 Summary of the opening ceremony

The opening session was chaired by Ambassador **Eoin O’Leary**, Head of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE and Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Mr. **Staffan de Mistura**, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, underlined the importance that his country assigned to the development of new forms of multilateral engagement towards the southern Mediterranean countries; the OSCE Partnership ought to be strengthened and tailored to support the Partners consistently through the OSCE’s inclusive and holistic approach to security. He referred to the Conference on the OSCE and a New Context for Regional Cooperation in the Mediterranean, held in May 2012, and organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy together with two Italian think tanks, IAI and IPALMO. On that occasion, the discussions had paved the way for new patterns of multilateral academic co-operation. Italy promoted the idea of a centre for standing interaction between the OSCE, think tanks and civil society across the Mediterranean. He reaffirmed Italy’s commitment to making the centre effective as soon as possible. Mentioning the fortieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the debate concerning the future of the OSCE, he said that he hoped that the Partnership would bring a stimulus to the Organization for an effective and credible reform process, in order to enable it to face present and future challenges on the international agenda.

Ambassador **Frank Cogan**, Head of OSCE Irish Chairmanship Task Force, expressed an interest in the Italian proposal. As Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2011, Ireland had promoted the decision on Partners for Co-operation adopted at the Vilnius Ministerial Council Meeting, and throughout 2012, it had sought to integrate the Mediterranean Partners, to the greatest extent possible, in the work of the Organization, including by extending an invitation to them to participate in the committees across all three dimensions. He also encouraged the Partners to be represented at a senior level at the next Ministerial Council Meeting in Dublin in order to allow a strategic debate on future co-operation. Referring to the political developments in the Mediterranean region, he stressed the need for good governance at all levels in order to allow economic growth, political stability, peace and security. He noted that respect for the rule of law and strong democratic institutions were essential foundations for a sound economy and he hoped that an agreement would be reached for a decision by the Ministerial Council on good governance.

Ambassador **Yevhen Mykytenko**, Special Representative for the Middle East and Africa for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, noted with appreciation the strengthening of the Partnership. He mentioned the potential relevance for the Partners of Ukraine’s experience as a country in transition pursuing comprehensive democratic and structural reforms. He gave concrete examples of the benefits of the co-operation with the OSCE, presenting *inter alia* the work of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine on the occasion of the parliamentary election held in October 2012. With the support and joint efforts of Ukraine, the OSCE and the ODIHR, free and fair democratic elections had been held in accordance with national legislation and international standards. The promotion of alternative energy was also a priority on the agenda of Ukraine, as demonstrated by the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine for projects regarding energy-efficient technologies.

OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador **Lamberto Zannier**, stated the Organization’s commitment to and support for a more operational Partnership, and presented the latest

developments in the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership. In implementation of the Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision on the Partners for Co-operation, he had held an informal meeting with the Partners, and important developments had been achieved on a number of projects across the three dimensions, some of which had been of a regional nature, while others had been more specifically tailored to individual Partners' expressed needs. In particular, he referred to the holding of the "Valencia follow-up" workshop in Amman in June 2012 and, among upcoming events, to the hosting by Italy of an international seminar on co-operation to prevent trafficking in human beings in the Mediterranean, a regional workshop on the implementation of universal anti-terrorism instruments and a round-table meeting on sustainable energy, all to be held in early 2013. Additionally, the ODIHR was working closely with Tunisia on possible activities in the field of democratization and institution-building; the Secretariat's Gender Section and the ODIHR were consulting with Morocco on future engagement on women's empowerment; and a team of experts from the Transnational Threats Department had been invited to visit Algeria the following month to explore venues for co-operation on anti-terrorism and borders management. Fostering a closer high-level dialogue was also among the OSCE Secretary General's priorities, as demonstrated by his visits to Mediterranean Partner countries and bilateral meetings with senior officials from Mediterranean Partners that had been held both in Vienna and on the margins of the UN General Assembly session. He welcomed the Italian proposal for a Track II initiative, and encouraged all the Partners and participating States to support it.

In his statement, Mr. **Riccardo Migliori**, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, shared his views on how to make the Partnership more effective. An example was the creation of a global inclusion fund that would contribute to the fight against intolerance and foster inclusion. He also shared his concerns on the significant decrease in State pledges to the Partnership Fund since its creation in 2007. The situation in Syria was affecting the OSCE participating States, and he hoped that participants could encourage their governments to work toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Recalling that political reforms were an open-ended process, he expressed his wish to see the participating States and Partners co-operate further to promote the OSCE's common values.

3 Reports by session rapporteurs

3.1 Session I, Part 1: Economic and social challenges in the Mediterranean Partner countries

In his opening remarks, the moderator, Ambassador **Eustathios Lozos**, explained how economic and social issues in the Mediterranean region had gained in importance, and indicated that the security of the Mediterranean area was indivisible from that of the OSCE area.

The first speaker, Mr. **Mats Karlsson**, Director of the Centre for Mediterranean Integration at the World Bank, focussed on economic reform and the importance of employment, an issue of primary importance to leaders from the region. He called attention to the critical role of the financial sector, as access to finance had not always been decided on performance. On migration, he said that history had shown that labour mobility assisted both sending and receiving countries, but countries did not evaluate that issue from an economic point of view due to its volatility. He highlighted the win-win opportunities of ‘green’ growth, and described how a fully evaluated environmental strategy could contribute to economic development.

The second speaker, the Jordanian Ambassador to the OSCE, **Makram Queisi**, explained that, whilst the political aspect of the Arab Spring was important, the uprisings had also brought the economic, financial and social dimensions to the fore, all of which had a fundamental role to play in triggering the desire for change across the region. He spoke about how the global economic crisis, regional conflict, and the Arab Spring had all depressed the growth in Jordan’s GDP, whilst the influx of refugees from Syria had placed a great strain on public services. He distinguished between the protests in some parts of the Arab world where protesters were demanding regime change, and Jordan, where the process was evolutionary rather than revolutionary, and where citizens’ demands were focused on economic issues.

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Italy, **Hassan Aboyoub**, explained how Morocco had chosen the path of a pluralistic society and a market-driven economy since its independence in 1956. Following a debt crisis in 1983, Morocco had established a new macroeconomic framework based on conditions which were widely understood as key elements of good governance in the context of a global economy. That included opening up various parts of the economy to the private sector and undertaking fiscal reforms. That decision had been based on the assumption that key markets (mainly the EU) would respond with more market access and regional integration, and since 85% of trade was with the European Union, Morocco had adopted EU principles and regulations. He concluded by saying that institutional reform required economic progress, and called attention to various threats to the sustainability of Morocco’s performance, such as the crisis in the economy, which relied on tourism, remittances and export-driven industry, an ageing population and a low birth rate.

Dr. **Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou**, Head of the Regional Capacity Development Programme, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, said that socioeconomic aspirations lay at the root of the transformation that was taking place in the Mediterranean region, and any attempt to address the challenges in each nation would need to be carried out

in partnership with the international community and other Mediterranean countries. He spoke about the linkages between embedding democracy and generating development, and about how enhancement of participation and expansion of opportunity were the indicators of social and economic development. He said that such a relationship could build strong and representative States which were better positioned to provide services to their masses. He warned of the risk of disillusionment with the transition process if there were delays in the reform process, and said that each country would follow a different path to democracy. Whilst calling for a new strategic framework of support for the transitions taking place, he said that the OSCE was well positioned to play a key role in supporting such transitions, and referred to the role the Organization had played in facilitating similar processes in Eastern Europe in the early 1990s, as well as its experience in areas that would prove relevant in the next phase, such as good governance, democratic policing and conflict settlement.

In the subsequent discussion, one Partner delegation spoke about how economic and social rights were at the heart of the revolt, and gave an update on the transitions taking place in their country. Another partner country explained how they had already experienced their ‘Spring’; their economic situation was good compared to that of their neighbours, and the importance of economic improvement which would lead to a sustainable democratic transition could not be overestimated. A different partner country stated the need for a strong framework of co-operation, with a support structure and specific format and modalities. The OSCE should be explicit as to how it could provide assistance.

The representative of a participating State responded by saying that requests needed to be heard from the Partners themselves; only then could the OSCE respond. The process had to be demand-driven, without going beyond its remit. The representative sought clarification on the current proposed and ongoing projects, in response to which the OSCE Secretariat had circulated an up-to-date list of projects. The representative of one participating State, speaking also on behalf of other delegations, spoke about the link between lack of employment opportunities and security. A participating State described the social problems, particularly relating to employment, as significant, and advocated the broadening of EU perspectives towards the Mediterranean. Another representative of a participating State felt that early success could be achieved by quickly improving the framework for economic development in Mediterranean Partner countries. The OSCE could assist in that regard; there was an opportunity to learn from the transition experienced by many EU countries following the end of the cold war. Good governance was described as an indispensable prerequisite for attracting investment.

3.2 Session I, Part 2: Enhancing the economies of Mediterranean Partner countries using relevant OSCE best practices

The moderator, the Ambassador of Poland to the OSCE, **Przemysław Grudziński**, referred to the transition process in the Eastern European countries in 1989-1990. At that time, the Western countries had supported the transition process by providing the necessary instruments and toolboxes; however, the situation was different today for the Arab Spring countries. While there was no single answer to the question, “What can the OSCE do for its Partner States?”, it was clear that the OSCE’s best practices might be helpful to the Mediterranean Partners.

The first speaker, Mr. **Enzo Quatrocioche**, Secretary General of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), gave an overview of the EBRD’s experience and priorities, focusing on the Bank’s recent engagement in four South-Eastern Mediterranean countries: Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The EBRD supported countries in transition by inspiring systemic changes, emphasizing the private sector and focusing on long-term changes. He noted that both the OSCE and the EBRD aimed at creating well-functioning economies and societies committed to good governance, democratic principles and human rights. Following a recent request from Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia to become recipient countries of the EBRD, the Bank had started the first phase of the process, which involved technical co-operation activities in a value amounting to 25 million euros and included various projects. The second phase, enabling the Bank to provide investments out of the Investment Special Fund, had recently been launched. To reach the third and final phase, the EBRD establishment agreement would have to be amended, redefining the Bank’s geographic scope and mandate by extending them to the four new countries. That would be followed by a vote by the EBRD Governors on the countries’ status as recipient countries. If approved, that status would entitle the four countries to benefit from regular and longer-term EBRD investments. He noted that the EBRD, in co-operation with the national authorities of the four countries, had identified sectors in which the Bank could provide added value. Those included restructuring of financial sectors, financing of private enterprises, modernizing of the agricultural sector, promotion of energy-efficiency and upgrading of municipal infrastructure. While the EBRD’s key focus was on the private sector, promoting best practice in economic development also included maintaining a dialogue with governments. Issues such as sustainable and environmentally sound development, action to address corruption, youth unemployment and the low participation of women in the labour sector would be a focus of the EBRD’s attention when assisting the Mediterranean countries in their ongoing transition.

The second speaker, Mr. **Alexey Stukalo**, Deputy Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, gave a briefing about the OSCE’s economic and environmental work which might be of interest for the Mediterranean Partners. The following areas in which the OSCE could offer its assistance to the Mediterranean Partners were highlighted: promoting the principles of good governance, including asset recovery, national risk assessment relating to action to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT), and the inclusion of civil society in the fight against corruption. Labour migration was pointed to as another topic where the OSCE’s experiences and best practices might be useful for the Mediterranean countries. He referred to the OSCE’s publications in

those areas, as well as to the OSCE's seminars and the projects it had implemented, stressing the OSCE's openness to assisting its Partners for Co-operation in those fields.

During the general debate, many delegations emphasized that the transition was a complicated, comprehensive and long process, which required time and patience. The activities of both the OSCE and the EBRD were commended.

Many delegations acknowledged that the OSCE's toolbox and experience could be shared with the Mediterranean countries undergoing transition. A few participating States emphasized that the co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners should be demand-driven. Some Mediterranean Partners indicated that the issues of labour migration, the fight against corruption and asset recovery could be further explored, with a view to determining the possibilities for concrete co-operation with the OSCE. Mr. Stukalo encouraged the Mediterranean Partners to indicate specifically where assistance was needed and stressed the OSCE's readiness to draft specifically tailored projects for the Mediterranean Partners. Mr. Quatrociocche added that the EBRD functioned as a private investment bank whose activities were based on projects. At the request of one Partner State, Mr. Quatrociocche gave a concrete example of a project that could be implemented in the Mediterranean Partner countries, namely, the EBRD's support in drafting legislation for the creation of a local enterprise institution.

There was a lively discussion on whether democratization was essential for economic development. While some differences remained, there was a general agreement that there was no single way of bringing about a democratic transition. Both democratization and economic development were processes that went hand in hand and reinforced each other. One Mediterranean Partner stressed that, while democracy was needed for sustainable development, it was not a precondition for economic development.

In his closing remarks, the moderator referred to the importance of the triple transition, including political, economic and social layers, and pointed to the synergies that could be achieved by both the OSCE and the EBRD in assisting Mediterranean Partner countries undergoing transition.

3.3 Session I, Part 3: Promoting dialogue and developing co-operation on sustainable energy including renewable energy sources

In his opening remarks, the moderator, Ambassador **Khaled Shaama**, pointed out that, in the field of renewable energy, the OSCE could serve as a useful platform for information-sharing and co-operation.

The first speaker, Mr. **Sokol Dervishaj**, Deputy Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy of Albania, presented his Government's strategy for restructuring the energy sector in order to make it more sustainable and environment-friendly. The necessary legal framework had been adjusted in order to improve energy production, including renewable energy, mainly wind energy, but partly also hydropower. At the moment, 15 projects for wind plants were in various stages of development. In conclusion, he noted that Albania had also signed a memorandum for the transit of a gas pipeline through the Adriatic Sea. The Government of Albania also planned to improve interconnectivity in order to increase energy exports to neighbouring States.

The second speaker, Mr. **Khaled Fekry**, Head of Studies and Research Sector, Ministry of Electricity and Energy of Egypt, explained the Egyptian Government's strategy to generate 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 (12% to be produced from wind, 6% from hydro and 2 % from solar energy). Several initiatives had been developed to encourage the private sector to invest. The most important scheme was to make land available free of charge (except for land preparation costs, to be paid after the project had become operational and was producing energy). Private investors could count on recovering their investments, plus profit, by means of long-term power-purchasing agreements with a duration of 20 to 25 years. In addition, Egypt had also established a Renewable Energy Fund to finance pilot projects and research and development (R&D) activities. He pointed out that North-South co-operation was beneficial for both sides, with Egypt providing cost-effective labour and resources, and foreign investors contributing know-how and finances.

The third speaker, Ms. **Djamila Mohammedi**, Director, Société Nationale d'Electricité et du Gaz, Algeria, said that Algeria hoped to derive 40% of its energy from renewable resources by 2030. The country had an important potential for the production of solar energy, which it also planned to export. The main condition for achieving that aim was interconnectivity. Algeria was also in the process of developing a strong R&D programme. The country wanted to position itself as a major player in the solar energy market by developing photovoltaic and thermodynamic solar plants, mainly by attracting capable investors with a long-term strategy.

The last speaker of the session, Mr. **Goran Svilanović**, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, broadened the subject by noting that the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), which had been presided over by the OSCE for the past two years, was an excellent example of the co-operation between different international organizations. Each organization brought in its particular expertise and funds in order to reach a common goal. He suggested that a similar initiative could also be developed for the Mediterranean Partners. In June of 2012, the OSCE had organized, in co-operation with Jordan, a Workshop on Environment and Security Issues in the Southern Mediterranean

Region. The participants had identified a number of environmental issues that might have an impact on security in their region, namely, water scarcity, land degradation, the environmental implications of energy and security policies, and the role of civil society. He pointed out that the OSCE, based on its experience in the OSCE region, would have a lot to offer to the Mediterranean Partners in their endeavour to address those issues. On water, the transboundary experience in Central Asia could be shared, in particular regarding the creation of bilateral water commissions, as well as technical support for monitoring of water quality. The OSCE's scenario-building on climate change and its impact on security could also be of interest to the Partners. The OSCE had also worked extensively on the subject of sustainable energy and was working with specialist partner organizations in the so-called Vienna Energy Club. In that field, it was recognized as a platform for dialogue and could help to convey best practices and detailed expertise from specialized organizations to participating States and Partners. Inspiration could also be drawn from the work of the OSCE's field missions in the area of sustainable energy. Recognizing that sustainable development would not be achieved without the participation of civil society, the OSCE had developed a dense network of Aarhus centres across the OSCE region. Finally, he described a round table on renewable energy that was being organized in 2013 in response to the Partners' expression of interest.

In the discussion, it clearly emerged that regional and interregional co-operation on the subject should be reinforced, particularly between States in the East and in the Southern Mediterranean. As there was little time for discussion, the moderator suggested continuing the debate in Vienna at a convenient time and in a suitable format.

3.4 Session II: OSCE experience in addressing transnational threats to security

The moderator, Ambassador **Tacan Ildem**, Head of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE, led into the session by pointing out that transnational threats (TNT) affected all States, and thus international co-operation would be essential to counter those threats. Only increased co-operation could lead towards the needed development of a common mechanism. After the Astana Summit in 2010, countering TNT had become a key objective for the OSCE. He pointed towards the added value the OSCE could contribute towards addressing TNT, namely, through its comprehensive approach to security, broad membership, field missions and available expertise.

The first speaker, Dr. **Pierre von Arx**, Deputy Head of the Swiss Delegation to the OSCE for Security Policy Issues, referred to new threats resulting from organized crime, which operated transnationally. The necessary comprehensive approach to countering those challenges represented a comparative advantage of the OSCE. The 2011 OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on Partners encouraged executive structures to engage in action-oriented co-operation with Partners. Together with other international organizations and its Partners for Co-operation, the OSCE could establish a preventive framework. On that basis, his country would be interested in organizing an expert workshop on enhancing counter-terrorism in the Mediterranean Basin. The aim would be to share expertise and best practices on countering terrorism, to facilitate capacity-building of criminal justice legal regimes and to exchange information on terrorist networks. As a further initiative, he mentioned the dissemination and the strengthening of the outreach of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. He confirmed strong support for the forthcoming translation of the Code into Arabic.

The Head of the Permanent Mission of France to the OSCE, Ambassador **François Alabrune**, referred to the rapid evolution stemming from the Arab Spring and the resulting political situation in the Mediterranean area. The Arab Spring would require a political “accompaniment”, because the future of the current development would also depend on the responses of the international community. Confidence-building was seen as necessary – not only in the political field, but also in the social field. The timescale was a major challenge, whereas terrorism was the major transnational threat to internal and external security. He pointed to the victims and hostages of trafficking of human beings, and mentioned in that context the nebulous role of *al Qaida* and the necessity of countering illegal immigration. The speaker went on to call for more pragmatic approaches, such as the Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union and the activities of the 5+5 Dialogue. France would remain committed to multilateral and bilateral activities, also financially, and would build a stable element linking up Europe with the Mediterranean and thereby enhancing security.

Ambassador **Ian Kelly**, Head of the Permanent Mission of the USA to the OSCE, focused on new security challenges to the OSCE stemming from the Internet – a risk that knew no borders. The OSCE and its participating States had an obligation to protect their citizens against security risks coming from cyberspace, while at the same time preserving fundamental freedoms online. Unlike individuals, States would face a more confounding challenge. Unattributed cyberincidents could escalate into State conflict. That risk needed to be minimized. He suggested that the OSCE could operationalize concepts and ideas which

could later become the foundation of broader confidence in cyberspace. Confidence-building measures (CBMs) were a means of contributing to a more stable environment and reducing possible misperceptions. The OSCE informal working group that had already been established had identified such a set of CBMs. He hoped that the participating States would agree to them and that the CBMs would be adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin.

Mr. **Nicola de Santis**, Head, Middle East and North Africa Section, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO, spoke about NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue, which had been in existence for 18 years. The Mediterranean Dialogue was not only a political dialogue but, equally important, an instrument for practical implementation of common activities. The challenges raised by transnational threats, however, were currently leading NATO to seek complementarity also with other international organizations. Co-operative security would promote the necessary culture of multilateral co-operation. He discussed cybercrime as a transnational threat and presented the work done in support of the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). In more general terms, he pointed out that NATO would be available to assist and help its Partners. It could play a particular role in areas such as sector reform, security systems and the building up of security institutions.

The Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats (TNT) within the OSCE Secretariat, Mr. **Alexey Lyzhenkov**, named in his presentation the existing challenges for international co-operation in the context of transnational threats. First and foremost, there was no consensus regarding the legal definition of the term "terrorism". In addition, different States had different legal systems and complex bureaucracies, and that often hampered information exchange. The lack of focal points and of secure communication channels would have to be added to the challenges. The OSCE TNT Department aimed at ensuring better co-ordination and was striving for greater efficiency. The OSCE concept would recognize that, in order to achieve comprehensive security, co-operation at multiple levels was indispensable, between and within countries and among international organizations. The TNT Department was concerned with counter-terrorism, cyberthreats, borders and security and police-related activities. He stressed that his Department would be happy to welcome Partners in future co-operation.

Intervening from the floor, the representative of a participating State called attention to his country's commitment to the 5+5 format. He also pointed out that the consequences of the situation in the Sahel area were already being felt in other countries.

Another delegation noted that fighting TNT was one of its main priorities and described the new OSCE TNT Department as achieving greater unity of purpose and being able to adopt a more action-oriented approach. It also welcomed the fact that the Secretariat had developed a list of potential projects and topics for possible co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners.

The Chair, Ambassador Tacan Ildem, wrapped up the session by stating that the OSCE would have an excellent toolbox to counter TNT challenges and that the new TNT Department had the capacity to provide substantial support. However, closer co-ordination with other international organizations would be necessary to further the OSCEs' endeavours, and accordingly, the room for co-operation with Partners would need to be expanded.

3.5 Session III: Enhancing participation of women in political and public life

The moderator, Ambassador **Samir Koubaa**, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the OSCE, opened the proceedings. By way of an introduction to the theme of gender, he put some questions to the speakers:

- Are gender policies the exclusive responsibility of governments?
- Can civil society organizations also play a role?
- What is the role that the OSCE and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) can play in this field, in particular in the Mediterranean?
- What is the relationship between gender policies and policies to combat violence against women?
- What can the international community do to combat the manifestations of discrimination that women suffer in different sectors of social life?

The first speaker, Italian Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Ms. **Marta Dassù**, noted that the often-cited parallel between the Arab Spring and the 1989 revolutions in the former Warsaw Pact countries was actually quite misleading because of the different starting conditions. It would be better to speak of an Arab Awakening. The role played by women in that historical process had been contradictory: they had been very much at the forefront in combating existing regimes and less present in the transition to the next stage. In that sense, it was not necessarily the experience of the Arab Spring, which each country had also been through in different forms and in different ways, that represented a step forward. In some cases, it might be a step backward. She highlighted the economic aspects of gender policies: promoting the education of young women and including them in small and medium-sized enterprises contributed to the overall growth of the country. In conclusion, she recalled the Italian initiative in the United Nations for the promotion of a United Nations General Assembly resolution against female genital mutilation. She called for greater support for that initiative by the Mediterranean Partners.

The next speaker, Ambassador **Gert Meinecke**, from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, focused on the Partnership Programme between Denmark and the Arab world, promoted by his Ministry and aimed at creating dialogue between civil society and the Danish Government, on the one hand, and the Arab world, on the other. It focused on three sectors: media and culture, gender equality, and human rights and governance. He also referred to the contribution that the OSCE could make in promoting the status of women in the Partner countries, especially in the electoral process and in participation in public and political life.

The Israeli activist, Ms. **Rina Bar-Tal**, former Chairwoman of the Israel Women's Network (IWN) and former Deputy Mayor of Ra'anana, emphasized the holistic approach adopted by the IWN in promoting the status of women in Israel. She found it paradoxical that 51% of the population was treated as a minority and cited various fields in which Israeli women were still suffering discrimination, namely: senior academic positions, the army and politics. Referring to the latter sector in Israel, she noted that women in government had themselves done little for women in the past. She concluded by referring to her own political experience: She had formed a local party and had managed to increase the number of female town

councillors to more than half. That fact showed that much could be achieved if the will was present, and that women should be cautiously optimistic about the future.

The final speaker, Ms. **Nathalie Tagwerker**, Deputy Head of the ODIHR's Democratization Department, reviewed the actions of the ODIHR in gender policies. Among other initiatives, she cited the Civil Society Conference, held in Vilnius during the Ministerial Council meeting in December 2011, which had allowed non-governmental organizations and the OSCE's Partners for Co-operation to develop a platform for dialogue in various fields, including that of gender policy. She also recalled the ODIHR's legislative assistance projects in the area of electoral quotas and, finally, the project in Tunisia to promote the presence of women in public life.

The debate was then opened. The speakers included five Mediterranean Partners, the representative of the OSCE Secretariat on gender policy and the European Union (EU).

A representative of a Mediterranean Partner stressed the importance of ensuring equal access to schooling for girls and boys and of dispelling stereotypes of machismo or conservatism of the Arab societies.

Another representative of a Partner country recalled that the controversial principle of complementarity, originally included in the draft of the country's new constitution, had not in fact been correctly interpreted by the media, and it had therefore been decided to withdraw it.

The representative of a third Partner recalled the usefulness of the quota system in helping women to gain access to politics.

A fourth Partner for Co-operation took a different view and called the quota system into question. As regarded the possible marginal role that women had played in the management of the transition periods, he pointed out that that historical phenomenon occurred in every revolution, even outside the Arab world.

A fifth representative spoke of the need to change the mindset of society and of the fact that religion played no role in that area. He cited the case of the reform of family law in his country. In some cases, it had been women themselves who had opposed it.

In her statement, the representative of the OSCE Secretariat on gender policy recalled the recent proposal for an action plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in the OSCE region.

Lastly, another representative quoted the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, according to whom the development of the status of women would be the litmus test for the success of the Arab Spring.

4 Summary of the closing session

Closing session

The closing session was chaired by Mr. **Domenico Giorgi**, Minister Plenipotentiary, Central Director for the Countries of the Mediterranean and the Middle East at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Concluding statements were delivered by Ambassador Eoin O’Leary, Head of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE and Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, by Mr. Domenico Giorgi and by Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk, Head of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the OSCE and Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group.

In his concluding remarks, **Ambassador Eoin O’Leary** thanked the participants for their contribution to the event and expressed his satisfaction at seeing that the Partnership could provide a useful framework for exchanging experiences, co-ordinating responses and jointly addressing challenges. The discussions had explored concrete ways to make the Partnership stronger and more effective, focusing on economic co-operation with Mediterranean Partners in the democratic transition process. In that regard he pointed to some ideas which had emerged during the discussions and would be deserving of further attention. Referring to the issue of economic development versus democratization, he said that the experience of the OSCE and its participating States was available to Partners, and they should all engage in that two-way process. He called for a continuation of the discussion to address the need for a strategic framework of co-operation between the OSCE and the Partners, as had been emphasized during the debates. Following the decision by the Vilnius Ministerial Council meeting, potential projects were being prepared and tailored for co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners. That was still a work in progress, which required active engagement and a results-oriented approach. He urged the Partners to engage in the process and encouraged participating States to allocate the necessary financial contributions. In conclusion, he invited all the Mediterranean Partners to the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Italy, to the Secretariat and to the Ukrainian Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group for organizing the Conference.

Mr. **Domenico Giorgi** thanked the Secretariat and the Ukrainian and Irish Chairmanships for their valuable contribution to the event, as well as the six Mediterranean Partners. He called for a strengthening of the multilateral integration process, in addition to the existing bilateral dimension. He recalled how Italy was contributing to the OSCE dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners, in the spirit of the “action-oriented and results-based” Partnership approach envisaged in the 2011 Vilnius Ministerial Council decision. Italy had financed, and in Rome in 2013, would host a Seminar on Trafficking of Human Beings in the Mediterranean Region, with the co-operation of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings; a concept paper had also been circulated for the creation of an OSCE-MED Focal Point with the aim of bringing a Track II diplomacy contribution into the process. He praised the contribution of IAI and IPALMO, and thanked the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative and Head of the the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), H.E. Tarek Mitri, and the Libyan authorities for their participation.

Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk opened his concluding statement by thanking the speakers for their contributions and praising the hospitality of the Government of Italy. He recalled the two tracks enshrined in the Vilnius Ministerial Council decision that had guided Ukraine

as a Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group in its activities with the Partners: enhancement of political dialogue and sharing of good practices as well as practical and action-oriented co-operation. He expressed his gratitude to the ambassadors of Mediterranean Partners who had agreed to give presentations during the Contact Group meetings over the year, thus giving the participants an insight into the situation in their own countries and a better understanding of the ongoing developments. He greatly valued the lively discussions and especially welcomed the proposal of a Track II Focal Point that would promote the establishment of an academic network with the Mediterranean region. He fully supported the plans to hold a seminar on combating human trafficking as well as to conduct an expert workshop on sustainable energy to share good practices, as they converged with the priorities of Ukraine's OSCE Chairmanship in the coming year. Despite the current budgetary situation, he hoped that practical meaningful steps could be taken and initial projects implemented. Promoting dialogue and co-operation with the Partners was among the priorities of the incoming Ukrainian Chairmanship, and he looked forward to continuing close co-operation with the incoming Swiss Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group.

5 List of participants

OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES

Albania

Mr. Sokol Dervishaj	Vice Minister, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy
Ms. Ledia Hysi	Minister Plenipotentiary, Embassy in Rome
Ms. Vera Cara	Counsellor, Embassy in Rome

Germany

Ambassador Rudiger Ludeking	Head of Mission, German OSCE Mission in Vienna
Mr. Uwe Hovorka	Captain (Navy), Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE

United States of America

Ambassador Ian Kelly	Permanent Representative of the U.S. Mission to the OSCE
Mr. Daniel Phelps	Political Officer, U.S. Mission to the OSCE
Mr. Fred Turner	Deputy Chief of Staff, Helsinki Commission
Mr. Alex Johnson	Policy Advisor, U.S. Helsinki Commission
Ms. Alexandra McKnight	Political Officer, U.S. Embassy in Rome
Mr. Alessandro Nardi	Political Officer, U.S. Embassy in Rome
Ms. Yetta Ziolkowski	Political Officer U.S. Embassy in Rome

Austria

Ms. Katharina Wieser	Minister, Embassy in Rome
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Belgium

Ambassador Bruno Georges	Permanent Representative of Belgium to the OSCE
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Ms. Vesna Njegic	Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rome

Canada

Ambassador Fredericka Gregory	Permanent Representative, Delegation of Canada to the OSCE
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Cyprus / EU

Ambassador Costas A. Papademas	Permanent Representative, Vienna
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Croatia

Ambassador Damir Grubiša	Head of Delegation, Embassy in Rome
Mr. Domagoj Livljanic	Third Secretary, Embassy in Rome
Mr. Mirko Ujdenica	Third Secretary, Permanent Mission to the OSCE

Denmark

Ambassador Gert Meinecke	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Allan Pagh Kristensen	Deputy Head of Mission, Minister Counsellor, Mission of Denmark to the OSCE, Vienna

Spain

Mr. Francisco Capote Yeregui	First Secretary, Embassy of Spain in Rome
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Finland

Ms. Leena Ritola	Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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France

Ambassador François Alabrune	Permanent Representative of France to the OSCE
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United Kingdom

Mr. Mudassar Mian	Support Officer, United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE
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Greece

Ambassador Eustathios Lozos	Permanent Representative of Greece to the OSCE
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Hungary

Ambassador Dr. Miklós Boros	Permanent Mission of Hungary to the OSCE
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Ireland / OSCE Chairmanship

Ambassador Frank Cogan	Ambassador, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ambassador Eoin O’Leary	Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE
Ambassador Patrick Hennessy	Ambassador of Ireland to Italy
Ms. Martina Feeney	Deputy Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE
Mr. Eoin Duggan	Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy in Rome
Ms. Egle Morkunaite	Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

Personal Representative of the CIO for Article IV, Annex 1-B, of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Michele Torres	Personal Representative of the CiO
Mr. Gennaro Di Domenico	Military Adviser of the Personal Representative of the OSCE CiO for Article IV, Annex 1-B, of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Italy

Mr. Staffan De Mistura	Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms. Marta Dassù	Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ambassador Sandro De Bernardin	Director-General for Political and Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Domenico Giorgi	Central Director for the Countries of the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ambassador Giulio Tonini	Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE
Minister Plenipotentiary Giovanni Brauzzi	Deputy Director-General for Political and Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Dante Brandi	Counsellor, Head of the OSCE Desk Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dr. Raffaele Festa	First Secretary, Italian Delegation to the OSCE
Mr. Marco Di Sabatino	Deputy Head of the OSCE Desk Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms. Clara Ciavarella	Ministry of Justice

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Ambassador Caramelo Inguanez	Ambassador of Malta to Italy

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Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk	Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OSCE
Mr. Hryhorii Khomenko	Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OSCE

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Ms. Rina **Bar-Tal** Former Chairperson, Israel Women's Network

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Mr. Ian Mitchell	Head of External Co-operation
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Ms. Miroslava Beham	Senior Adviser on Gender Issues
Mr. Marco Bonabello	Policy And Planning Officer
Ms. Aldona Szymanski	Senior External Co-operation Assistant

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Ms. Nathalie Tagwerker	Deputy Head, Democratization Department
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OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Mr. Riccardo Migliori , MP	President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Mr. Matteo Mecacci	Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
Mr. Giuseppe Maggio	Secretary, Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Italian Chamber of Deputies
Ms. Pia Califano	Secretary, Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Italian Chamber of Deputies
Ms. Sara Del Bello	Staff Member, Italian Chamber of Deputies

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Adriatic-Ionian Initiative

Ambassador Fabio Pigliapoco	Secretary General
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Collective Security Treaty Organization

Mr. Zhanybek Imanaliyev	Representative of the Chairing Country – Kazakhstan
Mr. Daniyar Kopishev	Representative of the Chairing Country – Kazakhstan

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Mr. Kanat Tumysh	Deputy Executive Director, CICA
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Mr. Pierre Fournier

