

REPORT  
OF THE CSCE VENICE SEMINAR ON ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL CO-OPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN  
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE RESULTS OF THE  
VALLETTA MEETING OF EXPERTS

In accordance with the mandate of the Concluding Document of the Madrid Meeting of Representatives of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), a Seminar was held at Venice, at the invitation of the Government of Italy, from 16 to 26 October 1984, to review the initiatives already undertaken, or envisaged, in all the sectors outlined in the report of the Valletta Meeting and to stimulate, where necessary, broader developments in these sectors.

Representatives of the participating States of the CSCE took part in the Seminar. Representatives of the non-participating Mediterranean States and of UNESCO, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) were invited to participate in the Seminar in accordance with the Concluding Document of the Madrid Meeting.

Egypt and Israel accepted the invitation and participated in the work of the Seminar in the manner provided for in the above invitation. UNESCO, ECE, UNEP, WHO and ITU took part in the Seminar in the same manner.

The work of the Seminar was organized in accordance with the Chairman's statement at Annex I of the Madrid Concluding Document.

Written contributions to the Seminar, as provided for in the Chairman's statement, were submitted in advance.

The participants in the Seminar were addressed on 16 October 1984 by H.E. Mr. Giulio Andreotti, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, on behalf of the host country.

The participants in the Seminar had a general exchange of views in the Co-ordinating Committee on questions relating to their economic, scientific and cultural co-operation within the framework of the Mediterranean Chapter of the Final Act.

Recalling their existing economic, scientific and cultural co-operation with the non-participating Mediterranean States, and the conclusions and recommendations of the Valletta Meeting of Experts, the representatives of the participating States of the CSCE reaffirmed their wish to develop further co-operation in these fields.

The representatives of the participating States of the CSCE stressed the importance attached by their Governments to the attainment of the objectives set forth in the Final Act by implementing all of its provisions, as well as their readiness to pursue their efforts accordingly.

The three Study Groups met to consider respectively the economic, scientific and cultural aspects of co-operation in the Mediterranean. The Groups reviewed the initiatives already undertaken, or envisaged, in these sectors aimed at implementing the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Valletta Meeting of Experts.

The participants discussed certain current problems in the field of international economic co-operation. They acknowledged that such co-operation should take into account the interests of those countries which are developing from an economic point of view. In particular, co-operation should stimulate the production and marketing of goods and services of such countries. The representatives of the participating States of the CSCE reaffirmed the will of their Governments to intensify such co-operation.

The Seminar noted that as well as bilateral and multilateral co-operation, a constructive and positive role is played by the competent international organizations, notably UNESCO, ECE, UNEP, WHO and ITU, in carrying out useful and concrete work in the development of co-operation in the areas covered by the Valletta report.

The representatives of the participating States of the CSCE, having examined the ideas and proposals put forward in the course of the Seminar, decided to recommend to their Governments the following specific fields where broader developments could be envisaged, within their possibilities and interests, whether through their participation in international organizations or in bilateral and multilateral relations with the participating States and with the non-participating Mediterranean States:

The promotion of bilateral and multilateral co-operation among participating States and the non-participating Mediterranean States in the field of environment protection of the Mediterranean region within the appropriate frameworks, in order to contribute, in particular, to the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), keeping in mind the provisions of the Final Act and the activities already included in the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts held at Valletta and the possibility of new initiatives in other fields of common interest, such as study programmes on jellyfish.

The strengthening, through the MAP, of actions aimed at better harmonization of national legislation on the protection of Mediterranean waters from pollution, in implementation in particular of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols signed by the parties to the Convention.

The improvement of methodologies within the appropriate framework for evaluating economic damage caused by pollution in the Mediterranean and for determining means to protect the Mediterranean environment.

Co-operation in concrete actions aimed at ensuring compliance with standards laid down in the MARPOL Convention 73/78, for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea resulting from maritime traffic.

Support for increasing efforts towards the preservation of the Mediterranean environment undertaken also within and beyond the framework of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and its Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP).

Co-operation among international organizations on the Mediterranean environment notably by the ECE and UNEP.

The promotion of a better cohesion between sea and land transport infrastructures and their methods of use, taking due account of new transport techniques; with this in view, giving due consideration to initiatives taken in the framework of the ECE related to: co-ordination of infrastructures, in connection with the Trans-European Motorway project (TEM) and studies on other European transport projects; harbour infrastructure and organization questions; and transport facilitation and training in the field of transport.

The encouragement of the more effective use of trans-shipment facilities with the aim of reducing costs, improving the timely distribution of goods, facilitating storage and thereby enhancing economic benefits.

The encouragement of more extensive participation by the countries bordering the Mediterranean in research and experiments aimed at providing coastal assistance to maritime navigation; and in joint studies on intra-Mediterranean maritime traffic and on the requirements of advanced types of maritime carriers.

The development and co-ordination of existing exchanges of statistical data, identification of the economic and social areas of priority interest for the further exchange of such data with due account taken of national legislation, and the promotion of research projects concerning social factors affecting economic development.

The continuation of efforts to solve problems in the field of migrant labour, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document.

Participation in national programmes of theoretical and applied scientific research on topics of Mediterranean interest by teachers and students from as large a number of interested countries as possible.

Greater access to libraries and archives of scientific institutions for research workers engaged in research on problems of Mediterranean interest, taking into account national legislation regulating the conditions of such access.

The extension and improvement where appropriate of bilateral and multilateral co-operation in the scientific field, both at the intergovernmental level and between relevant institutions.

An increase in efforts to combat thalassaemia and other diseases in the Mediterranean; the encouragement of research including appropriate statistical research, particularly under the auspices of the WHO, with the objective of enhancing programmes for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of those diseases prevalent in the Mediterranean region.

Joint research on the effects on human health of olive oil and leguminous plants, with particular reference to ascertaining the function of olive oil in the reduction of cholesterol.

Encouragement for the activities of the Community of Mediterranean Universities within which specific co-operation projects which appear to deserve support have been identified.

The identification of significant areas for cultural co-operation such as the conservation, protection, safeguarding and enhancement of the cultural heritage in the fields of archaeology, architecture, arts and crafts; the investigation of underwater archaeological remains; the training of professional staff and cultural personnel; cinematography; audiovisual media, with particular reference to their use in teaching activities; the dissemination of historical knowledge and the promotion of dialogue between historians of different traditions.

Recognition of the value and usefulness of instruments of cultural co-operation such as: cultural agreements; links between universities and institutes of higher education for the exchange of information and for the conduct of joint research projects; national and international cultural institutions, whether governmental or other, operating in the area; more contacts and co-operation among persons engaged in the field of culture from different countries.

Encouragement of efforts to deepen cultural co-operation in the Mediterranean, in particular through a broader use of radio, television and publications, and through the collection of material and the data required for these specialized activities, as well as the training of personnel.

The representatives of the participating States of the CSCE took note of the document of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe detailing activities of co-operation which are of interest to the countries in the Mediterranean. It was agreed that such opportunities should be kept in mind.

The Seminar noted the opinion expressed by some Mediterranean participating States as to the desirability of ad hoc meetings of Mediterranean States on co-operation in the fields of economy, science and culture.

The participants expressed their deep gratitude to the Government and people of Italy for the excellent organization of the Seminar and the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay in Venice.

Venice, 26 October 1984

STATEMENT BY THE ITALIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
H.E. MR. GIULIO ANDREOTTI ON 16 OCTOBER 1984

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Italian Government and in my own name I should like to extend a most cordial welcome to all participants in the Venice Seminar on Economic, Scientific and Cultural Co-operation in the Mediterranean, together with my most heartfelt wishes for the full success of your work.

Between the Madrid Meeting and that to be held in Vienna in two years' time, this is the third gathering of the post-Madrid process, following the Athens Meeting and the important Conference in which we are all participating in Stockholm.

We are the guests of the incomparable city of Venice, which forms part of the priceless heritage created by Mediterranean civilization and which will, I hope, be a positive source of inspiration to us in our work.

Venice is one of those cities that the great historian Fernand Braudel numbered among the "world-cities", important not just for reasons of trade but equally, indeed primarily, because a vast range of political, cultural and economic experience came together within it; a city which, on account of its geographical position, became a meeting place between East and West.

As a result of its past, Venice can still have something to teach us today, and its selection as the venue for this Seminar is not without significance.

The importance of the Seminar on Economic, Scientific and Cultural Co-operation in the Mediterranean resides primarily in the evolutionary dynamics of the CSCE process.

In January of this year Stockholm witnessed the opening of the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, which has not so far been sufficiently constructive. In March and April the Meeting of Experts on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes was held in Athens. The gathering which begins today, following those to which I have just referred on the military and political aspects of security, is the first of the post-Madrid series to deal with matters relating to the co-operative dimension of the CSCE process.

In view of the need for symmetry in the follow-up of the process, which Italy has always recognized, this seems to be a significant feature of the Seminar. It is essential to maintain a proper balance between the implementation of existing commitments and the assumption of new commitments.

In the same way, there must be a balance in the progress made in negotiations and, if possible, in standard-setting among the various dimensions which make up the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. It is worth pointing out that this process involves not just the Governments of participating States, but the whole of society as well, since, although the subjects are States, the recipients - who are, in fact, the beneficiaries - are principally their citizens, whose fundamental freedoms and human rights (whether individual or collective, civil, political, economic, social or cultural) are all formally enshrined in the Final Act of Helsinki and must all, therefore, be fully and equally respected.

On the same grounds of balance, but from a different, though no less important standpoint, we view this Seminar with the greatest interest. It constitutes the sole follow-up measure, during the current phase of the CSCE process, of the Mediterranean Chapter of the Final Act.

All are aware of the great efforts made by Italy, along with other participating Mediterranean countries, to ensure that such a Chapter appeared in the Final Act, and that the close bonds linking continental and Mediterranean Europe in all fields were thereby recognized in that context. As a result of this Chapter, the subject of the Mediterranean has become an integral part - on an equal footing with the others - of the CSCE; and



consequently it is of specific concern to all countries committed to preserving the vitality of the Final Act that this subject should be given, like all others, serious and thorough consideration.

Anyone who has observed recent events in this region cannot have failed to notice the growing connection between what happens on our Continent and in adjoining areas, which, moreover, throughout the centuries, were never felt to be something alien.

So this gathering is also of importance because of the special nature of its composition, because of the welcome participation of non-European Mediterranean countries. This is an objective which we resolved to attain in the Madrid document, which specifically provides for more extensive participation in the Seminar by Mediterranean countries.

We are delighted - indeed we are highly delighted - by the positive response of some Mediterranean countries. We hope that their participation may lead to an ever stronger presence of the Mediterranean countries within the broad multilateral context of CSCE, so as to ensure that Mediterranean affairs are given all due consideration and that appropriate co-operation programmes are developed.

It is a fact, moreover, that the recommendations adopted at the end of the Valletta Meeting were designed specifically to identify a wide range of suitable sectors for co-operation in the economic, scientific and cultural spheres. This co-operation embraces all countries of the region regardless of whether or not they form part of CSCE or attended the Valletta Meeting.

The fact that all the Mediterranean countries without distinction have become potential beneficiaries of the exercise we are engaged in constitutes a positive development.

In this connection, it would seem to me to be useful to recall the tasks entrusted to the Venice Seminar by the Madrid mandate. They are basically two, namely, to bring about widespread recognition of the follow-up to the recommendations of the Valletta Meeting so as to draw up an overall picture of the state of co-operation in the Mediterranean and,

secondly, to identify those sectors which might best lend themselves to further co-operative development.

The participation of Mediterranean countries in this Seminar will best enable them to achieve a practical follow-up to the aspects of co-operation envisaged in the Madrid mandate, both here in this forum, so as to direct our survey of the relevant sectors towards those sectors of co-operation which are deemed to be most productive and, in the period after the Venice Seminar, so as to obtain concrete benefits.

For its part, Italy has drawn from the recommendations adopted at the conclusion of the Valletta Meeting further and renewed inspiration for the work of economic, scientific and cultural co-operation with all the Mediterranean countries, the essential need for which it has long recognized.

In spite of the difficulties affecting the world economic situation, which have not spared the Italian economy, the new impetus which, since the end of the 1970s, we have attempted to give to our co-operation for development has enabled us to channel greater resources, in terms of both financial assistance and technical staff, towards the emerging countries of the Mediterranean basin. The Mediterranean is and will remain in the future one of the priority areas of our policy in this field. Rural development, health, energy, transport and telecommunications, the protection of the environment and vocational training are the priorities of our Mediterranean co-operation in the economic and social field. As a result of the suggestions that will emerge from this Seminar, we hope to be able to strengthen our co-operation, making appropriate changes in the level of resources allocated to it and improving the relevant procedures for action.

We are convinced of the overall dimension which needs to be given to the prospects and initiatives for co-operation when this is extended to embrace an area in which not only the economic, but also the social and cultural inter-relationships are far-reaching. It is for this reason that Italy has always attached and continues to attach the greatest importance to intensifying co-operation and strengthening its cultural links with all the countries in the Mediterranean area, whose civilizations, as a result of the constant contacts encouraged by geographical proximity, have contributed profoundly to the formation and development of

the cultural identity of the Italian peninsula, which in its turn has been a decisive element in European culture as whole.

We have traditionally placed great stress on co-operation programmes, often involving the presence in the field of Italian expert missions, for the enhancement and conservation of the archaeological and architectural heritage, which constitutes a source of cultural enrichment not only for the countries where it is actually situated, but for all the peoples of Europe.

We are conscious of the interest, which we share, in enhancing the intellectual and cultural heritage of all the countries of the Mediterranean basin. Moreover, we consider that such countries cannot be regarded as the mere recipients of scientific and technological knowledge which has originated elsewhere. It is for these reasons that we also attach major importance to Mediterranean co-operation in the scientific field as an essential condition for balanced and continuing development. Many problems - such as the prevention and cure of diseases occurring throughout the Mediterranean and the nutritional science problems involved in the use of some typical products as foodstuffs - concern all countries. Hence the advisability of identifying solutions of benefit to all, which are both effective and rational and call for co-ordinated research activities and experiments, in which all the countries potentially concerned may take part.

At this point I should like to draw attention to the political reasons, of fundamental importance, that should induce us to approach this Seminar with the greatest of interest. At such a sensitive moment in international affairs, when there is no lack of grounds for crisis and tension in either Europe or the Mediterranean, we are convinced that there is a need to work intensively in order to open up prospects for the strengthening of peace. The contribution that our Seminar may be able to make in achieving this objective will depend on the capacity which we show for establishing, albeit gradually, a dialogue in which all those interested in equilibrium in the Mediterranean should be constructively associated.

Such a prospect clearly lies outside the framework envisaged by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. We are conscious indeed of the risks inherent in initiatives of regionalization which could compromise the unity and continuity of the process initiated by the Helsinki Final Act. However, it is also true that the regional dimension constitutes an objective which we shall endeavour to pursue and define in parallel and thereby ensure that the awareness of the interdependence of the European and Mediterranean regions, affirmed in Helsinki and included in the Final Act, does not remain a mere statement of intent.

Both in its historical assumptions and in the successive stages of negotiation, the CSCE has directed its attention to the problems of East-West relations, obviously from the viewpoint of each of the 35 participating countries whether or not they are associated with one or other of the systems of alliances. Naturally, each of us acts in accordance with our own international position, and the talks begun at Helsinki do not conflict in any way with the loyalty we owe to such a position.

But what is more, I would like to note that there are particular grounds for participation by the United States of America and Canada in the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, since now perhaps as never before their participation has the virtue of making the exercise we are engaged in a credible one, particularly as it adds a dimension of reliability and effectiveness to the measures to be adopted.

I would also like to recall the wisdom, balance and imagination contributed from Helsinki until now by the neutral and non-aligned countries of Europe. For this reason too we consider that the role the non-European Mediterranean countries are called upon to play will be able to produce useful results.

We perceive the need to make an active contribution to the clarification of existing positions, particularly with regard to disarmament, which is of fundamental concern to all mankind, with the aim of promoting the full growth of an overall political vision of its different aspects, though it is clearly advisable for these to be pursued further in other forums of negotiation.

In this forum today it is right for us to ask ourselves what should be done and where, so that the potentially obtainable benefits in East-West relations are not progressively undermined by the absence of similar progress towards stability and collaboration in the Mediterranean context. This is a question we must raise, not just in the light of the interdependence of the two regions but also because of the dissimilarity in the rules of conduct theoretically applying in one and the other region.

The goal we are pursuing is to achieve an international order in Europe based on co-operation and trust. But what value is to be placed on the lessening of tension in our own Continent - desirable though that may be - if in an adjoining region, one that is of supreme importance as a waterway and a means of transit for the energy supplies of the industrialized countries, conflictual situations persist that are anyway bound to have repercussions not limited to that region?

In analysing the interdependence between events in Europe on the one hand and in the Mediterranean on the other we are therefore faced with a basic political question: namely how to find a suitable strategy for peace and co-operation in each of the two regional frameworks. We still hold that, to resolve the major political, economic and scientific issues in the two regions, a sectoral approach is insufficient and it therefore becomes essential to develop an all-embracing vision of the way to resolve them.

Italy shares the view that the détente process is indivisible and supports the proposition of the importance of the Mediterranean checkerboard in safeguarding the balance of peace and co-operation in the East-West context too. We are more and more convinced that this assessment is the right one. The search for and maintenance of détente in Europe would be a hard undertaking if a vast area on the fringes of the Old Continent were to be forever riven by tensions and confrontations of every kind, with the most basic rights of States, peoples and individuals being frequently ignored.

We must not become resigned to the perpetuation of a distinction between privileged areas that are potential beneficiaries of peace and co-operation, for which it is worthwhile conducting negotiations, even if these are arduous, and areas that are second-class, as it were, and condemned to permanent instability.

We feel that it is essential as soon as possible to bring about political conditions favourable to prospects for a Mediterranean dialogue along the lines drawn by the CSCE, in which all political entities without exception, active in the Mediterranean basin, would be associated. For some time Italy has been thinking of a Conference on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean. I would like to recall that this was an idea launched by Aldo Moro in 1972 and taken up by the Italian Government of the time, which I had the honour to head. In our view such a conference should foster direct dialogue between the various parties to the major disputes in the area and also provide a valuable opportunity to bring into the collective search for a peaceful order all forces working for the introduction and development of effective and lasting regional co-operation.

In other words we think that it is essential to agree upon rules of behaviour in the Mediterranean context that are similar to those sanctioned in the European framework of the CSCE. From this conviction stems the need that the interdependence between the two regions should also be reflected in uniform behaviour on the part of their constituent States as well as in parallel and inter-connected developments in the fields of co-operation and security. It is also essential to work hard until this goal is reached; whenever possible Europeans and Mediterranean should work together in a spirit of realism, making use of all the tools that are available at any given time.

This wonderful city has had such a part to play in the age-old history of the Mediterranean: a history of mutual and enduring artistic and cultural enrichment among peoples who face one another across a single sea.

Here in Venice today the conditions for advancing along the road of co-operation and, indirectly, along the road of peace are not wanting. What is needed is to take up, in a dialogue that is serene (as serene - or rather "serenissima" - as was the Republic of Venice) and reassuring in its intentions, the Declaration for Peace in the Middle East produced four years ago by the Venice summit of the countries of the European Community. The Venice Declaration, in fact, strove to outline an approach for the even-handed and realistic settlement of the historical conflict that still today divides the countries of the region that are our neighbours and our friends.

It is a task we must take up and start afresh if we wish to oppose to the irrational twists of history, our own dimension as men imbued with goodwill and the conciliatory spirit of the Mediterranean, committed to achieving a better world for younger generations.