

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Seminar on OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement

Washington, DC

22-23 July 2009



Special thanks to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi
Copyright © 2009 the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe



TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe	4
Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation	5
Mediterranean Seminar Background	7
Participants List	8
Seminar Summary	11
Hearing Summary	18
Introduction	19
Witness Recommendations	19
Rep. Alcee Hastings	20
Sen. Benjamin Cardin	21
William Hudson	22
Sotiris Roussos	24
João Soares	26
Full Hearing Transcript	28
Appendices	29



THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, is an independent U.S. Government agency created in 1976 to monitor and encourage compliance with the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE commitments. The Commission consists of nine members from the United States Senate, nine members from the U.S. House of Representatives, and one member each from the Departments of State, Defense, and Commerce. A professional staff assists the Commissioners in their work.

The Commission contributes to the formulation of U.S. policy on the OSCE and takes part in its execution, including through Member and staff participation on U.S. Delegations to OSCE meetings and in certain OSCE bodies. The Commission convenes public hearings and briefings with expert witnesses on OSCE-related issues; issues public reports concerning implementation of OSCE commitments in participating States; and organizes official delegations to participating States and OSCE meetings to address and assess democratic, economic, security and human rights developments firsthand.

MEMBERSHIP

Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, Maryland **Chairman**

Sen. Sam Brownback, Kansas
Ranking Minority Senator
Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, Connecticut
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island
Sen. Tom Udall, New Mexico
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire
Sen. Saxby Chambliss, Georgia
Sen. Richard Burr, North Carolina
Sen. Roger F. Wicker, Mississippi

Fred L. Turner, Chief of Staff

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, Florida **Co-Chairman**

Rep. Christopher H. Smith, New Jersey
Ranking Minority House Member
Rep. Edward J. Markey, Massachusetts
Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter, New York
Rep. Mike McIntyre, North Carolina
Rep. G. K. Butterfield, North Carolina
Rep. Joseph R. Pitts, Pennsylvania
Rep. Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama
Rep. Darrell E. Issa, California



MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR COOPERATION

For more information, please consult <http://www.osce.org/ec/13068.html>

The OSCE maintains special relations with six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

This relationship goes back to the Helsinki Process and the Helsinki Final Act, which included a Mediterranean chapter stating that security in Europe is closely linked with security in the Mediterranean as a whole. This inter-linkage has been underscored in subsequent CSCE/OSCE documents, such as the Istanbul Charter for European Security and the Maastricht OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the XXI Century. Permanent Council decision 571 decided to explore new avenues of co-operation and interaction and to explore the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments.

Over the years, the OSCE has been able to share its experience with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation on a number of topics, including:

- Confidence-building
- OSCE as a platform for dialogue and the fostering of norms of behaviour
- The security model for the twenty-first century and new threats to security and stability
- OSCE human dimension commitments
- OSCE economic and environmental dimension commitments
- Media and new technologies
- Comprehensive approach to security
- Migration and integration policies

Through ongoing dialogue and joint activities with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, the OSCE shares its expertise and provides insight into current developments and is open to reciprocal enrichment provided by them.



FRAMEWORK FOR CO-OPERATION

A number of meetings, conferences and special events provide a broad framework for regular contact:

- Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation participate as observers in the OSCE Ministerial Council Meetings, and on the margins have high-level meetings with the OSCE Ministerial Troika and the Secretary General.
- They actively participate in OSCE yearly events, such as:
 - the Annual Security Review Conference
 - the Economic Forum
 - the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
 - Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting
- The Annual and Winter Sessions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- Special side events for the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation are frequently organized on these occasions, while the PA holds an annual Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean.
- Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation are regularly invited as observers in Permanent Council and Forum for Security Co-operation meetings.
- Following the 1994 Budapest Summit decision, the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation was established within the framework of the Permanent Council. It is an informal group that meets periodically "to facilitate the interchange of information and the generation of ideas".
- The annual OSCE Mediterranean Seminars provide the opportunity to exchange views and contribute to further developments in the relationship between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. The seminars are also attended by international organizations, parliamentarians, academics and NGOs, leading to a cross-fertilization of ideas and recommendations.
- On an operational level, Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation are invited to send observers to electoral missions of ODIHR and to second, on a voluntary basis, mission members to OSCE field missions..



MEDITERRANEAN SEMINAR BACKGROUND

In December 2008, United States Representative Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), then-Chairman of the United States Helsinki Commission (CSCE) and Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA), visited all OSCE Mediterranean Partner States, with the exception of Jordan.

Hastings traveled to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and Israel, where he met with parliamentarians and senior government officials to discuss greater OSCE engagement by the Mediterranean Partners, the Middle East peace process, enhanced economic cooperation throughout the Maghreb, and the Iraqi refugee humanitarian crisis. Hastings met with Jordanian officials in Egypt and concluded his trip in Lisbon, Portugal where he briefed OSCE PA President João Soares on the outcome of his meetings. Hastings presented recommendations to President Soares on how to foster greater engagement by the Mediterranean Partners within the OSCE PA. Key among his recommendations was to convene a seminar in Washington, which would establish a framework to direct the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as other institutions of the OSCE, on how to improve relations with the partner States.

In meetings with parliamentarians and government officials throughout his tour, Representative Hastings shared his dissatisfaction with current limitations on participation which do not optimize the potential contributions from Mediterranean Partners. He insisted that participants from Mediterranean Partners have tremendous experience in the realm of security cooperation and other endeavors that would greatly benefit ongoing conflicts currently in deliberation throughout OSCE forums. Likewise, the Mediterranean Partners would stand to gain significantly from renewed engagement with the various dimensions of the Helsinki Process. Government officials and parliamentarians of the Mediterranean Partners expressed their desire to renew their engagement with the OSCE throughout Representative Hastings tour. Thus, the "CSCE Seminar on OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement" was convened in Washington, D.C. in the United States of America on July 22 and 23, 2009 to facilitate candid dialogue on the future of the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension.





PARTICIPANTS LIST

PARTNERS FOR COOPERATION

Country	Name	Title
Algeria	BOUHARA, Abderazak	Vice President, Council of the Nation
Algeria	HARCHAOUI, Abdelkirm	Member, People's Assembly
Algeria	MIDOU, Mohamed	First Secretary - Washington, DC
Egypt	BASIOUNY, Mohamed Abdelaziz	Chairman, Arab, Foreign Relations and National Security Committee, Shura Council
Egypt	EL FEKI, Mostafa Mohamed	Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee, People's Assembly
Egypt	SHERDY, Mohamed Mustafa	Member, People's Assembly - Al Wafd Opposition Party
Egypt	SAIF, Mostafa Elwi Mohamed	Director, Center for Parliamentary Research and Training
Egypt	SOLIMAN, Amin Abdel	Member, People's Assembly
Egypt	ZAHRAN, Motaz	Counselor - Washington, DC
Egypt	YOUSSEF, Omar Amer	Counselor - Washington, DC
Egypt	ANIS, Khaled Sameh	First Secretary - Washington, DC
Egypt	HANAFI, Mohamed Waguih	Third Secretary - Washington, DC
Israel	ZEEV, Boim	Member, Knesset
Israel	EZRA, Aviv	Counselor - Washington, DC
Israel	HERSHKOVITZ, Shalom	Legislative Analyst - Washington, DC
Israel	MERON, Daniel	Minister Counselor - Washington, DC
Jordan	MUASHER, Rajai	Senator, House of Notables
Jordan	RAJI, Haddad	Member, Chamber of Deputies
Jordan	ABDULAH, Zureikat	Member, Chamber of Deputies
Jordan	QUDAH, Sufyan	Counselor - Washington, DC
Morocco	NARJISSE, Hamid	Vice President, Chamber of Representatives
Morocco	IDRISSI, Reda Oudghiri	Political Counselor - Washington, DC
Tunisia	MANSOUR, Habib	Ambassador of Tunisia to the United States
Tunisia	YOUSSEF, Tarek Ben	Counselor - Washington, DC

OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES

Country or Organization	Name	Title
United States of America	ADERHOLT, Robert B.	U.S. Representative (AL-04)
United States of America	CARDIN, Benjamin L.	U.S. Senator (MD)
United States of America	ELLISON, Keith	U.S. Representative (MN-05)
United States of America	HASTINGS, Alcee L.	U.S. Representative (FL-23)
United States of America	HOYER, Steny	U.S. Representative and Majority Leader (MD-05)
United States of America	ISSA, Darrell E.	U.S. Representative (CA-49)
United States of America	MC INTYRE, Mike	U.S. Representative (NC-07)
United States of America	MOORE, Gwen	U.S. Representative (WI-04)
United States of America	PAYNE, Donald M	U.S. Representative (NJ-10)
United States of America	PELOSI, Nancy	U.S. Representative and Speaker of the House (CA-08)
United States of America	PITTS, Joseph R.	U.S. Representative (PA-16)
United States of America	RAHALL, Nick J., II	U.S. Representative (WV-03)
United States of America	TANNER, John S.	U.S. Representative (TN-08)
Greece	KYVETOS, Dionyssios	Deputy Chief of Mission - OSCE
Greece	KONSTANTINOS, Karamousalis	Third Secretary - Vienna, Austria/OSCE
Kazakhstan	SAUDABAY, Meruert	Counselor - Washington, DC
Kazakhstan	KHUSSAINOVA, Dana	Third Secretary - Washington, DC
Portugal	COSTA, Antonio Sabido	Political Counselor - Washington, DC
Portugal	PAIXAO, Nuno	Staff - OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Delegation
Sweden	HAFSTROM, Jonas	Ambassador of Sweden to the U.S.
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Secretariat	OLIVER, Spencer	Secretary General

SPEAKERS

Country or Organization:	Name	Title
Canada	GRAFSTEIN, Jerry	OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice President
Gallup Center for Muslim Studies	MOGAHED, Dalia Mogahed	Executive Director
German Marshall Fund of the U. S.	LESSER, Ian	Senior Transatlantic Fellow
Greece	ROUSSOS, Sotirios	GREEK CiO Special Representative for Mediterranean Affairs
OSCE Secretariat	FRITCH, Paul	OSCE Secretariat
Portugal	SOARES, Joao	OSCE PA President
Sweden	LENNMARKER, Goran	OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Emeritus
U.S. Department of State	HUDSON, William	Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near East Affairs
U.S. National Security Council	PAVEL, Barry	Senior Director for Defense Policy and Strategy

GUESTS

Organization	Name	Title
Gallup Center for Muslim Studies	BOUGH, Jason	Administrative Coordinator
German Marshall Fund of the United States	COMEAU, Maia	Director, Congressional Affairs
U.S. National Security Council	WALFORD, Carolyn	
U.S. Army - NGB	GATES, Jay	Analyst
U.S. Army - NGB	DANKYAN, Matthew	Africa Desk Officer
U.S. Army - NGB	NAVARRO, Ruben	Superintendent Branch Support



SEMINAR SUMMARY

United States Representative Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Co-Chairman of the United States Helsinki Commission (CSCE) and Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA), recently convened the "CSCE Seminar on OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement," July 22 and 23 at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. The seminar hosted more than 50 participants from the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia, as well as Members of the United States Congress, U.S. government officials, non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives, and special guests.



Delegations of the Mediterranean Partner States consisted of parliamentarians and representatives from their Washington-based diplomatic corps. Special guests included representatives of Greece, the current Chair-in-Office of the OSCE, and delegates from Kazakhstan which will chair the OSCE in 2010, staff representation of the OSCE and OSCE PA International Secretariats, as well as representation of the Swedish Presidency of the European Union.

Congressman Hastings opened the seminar with words of welcome for the Mediterranean Partners and special guests, and challenged them to use the event for a frank discussion and exchange of ideas on how to strengthen the OSCE's partnership

with its Mediterranean neighbors. He also chaired each session of the two-day event. Presentations were also given on the first day by OSCE PA President João Soares of Portugal, OSCE PA President Emeritus Göran Lennmarker of Sweden, OSCE PA Vice President Jerry Grafstein of Canada, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General Paul Fritch, and Barry Pavel of the National Security Council. Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and U.S. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer hosted the delegation for a reception to conclude the first day of proceedings. The second day's sessions included presentations by Dalia Mogahed of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, Ian Lesser of the German Marshall Fund, OSCE Personal Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Sotiris Roussos and additional contributions by OSCE PA President João Soares.

OPENING SESSION

The opening session consisted of a panel discussion which began with remarks from Representative Alcee L. Hastings and Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and OSCE PA Vice President. OSCE PA President João Soares, OSCE PA President Emeritus Göran Lennmarker, and OSCE PA Vice

President Jerry Grafstein delivered keynote presentations for this panel. In sum, the presentations established a framework for the proceedings of the seminar by characterizing the historical developments of Mediterranean Partner engagement in the OSCE and identifying key priorities for enhanced engagement with the partners.

Representative Hastings stressed the importance of convening the seminar, specifically to return due prominence and functionality to the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension, which he has long advocated in the OSCE PA and during his recent tenure as its president. Hastings noted that similar goals have been recently prioritized by other multilateral institutions. Senator Cardin noted the considerable work of Helsinki Commissioners in the realm of OSCE Mediterranean Partner engagement through Congressional delegation visits to both current and potential partners as well as hearings in Washington. Cardin also emphasized what he sees as an opportunity to strengthen the OSCE's relationship with its Partners for Cooperation by the addition of new regional partners in both the Mediterranean and in Asia, namely Lebanon, Syria, and Pakistan.

President Soares commended the emergence of several formal documents and proposals for empowering the partnership submitted by the Mediterranean Partners. Soares' remarks centered around the importance of the OSCE as the most qualified international organization to address challenges within the OSCE region and its partners, proven through its successes in Central Asia and the Caucasus. He also emphasized the importance of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly which perpetuates that spirit of dialogue embodied in the Helsinki Final Act, whose principles he asserted will help achieve the goals of the countries of the Mediterranean region.



President Emeritus Lennmarker explored how the OSCE, as a key mechanism through which Europe engages its own persisting challenges, could serve as a powerful model for mitigating the tremendous economic, human, and political costs of conflicts in the Mediterranean region and the Middle East. The President Emeritus cautioned against protectionism in the region and offered the enhancement of the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension as a vehicle to promote prosperity. The Opening Session concluded with remarks by Vice President Grafstein who urged the creation of regional trade agreements to spur economic growth and promote political stability in the region.

WORKING MEETING ON OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

OSCE Mediterranean Partner States continue to be actively engaged in the activities of the OSCE and send strong delegations to ministerial level gatherings and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly events. Mediterranean Partners also send delegations to OSCE election monitoring missions and participate in technical exchanges to build capacity. Recent years have seen an increase in opportunities for engagement by the Mediterranean Partners, but there are still a number of challenges to overcome. The working meeting of the seminar sought to explore methods to improve participation by the Mediterranean Partners and expand engagement in OSCE activities. Topics of discussion included prioritizing implementation of OSCE agreements related to the Mediterranean Partner States, identifying uses for the OSCE Partnership Fund, and procedures to increase engagement in the executive structures of the OSCE. Guiding questions for the discussion included:

- How can we prioritize implementation of the OSCE agreements and initiatives related to Mediterranean Partner States?
- What should be the priorities for the OSCE Partnership Fund? How can Mediterranean Partner States become more engaged in the executive structures of the OSCE and other tangible partnerships?

Paul Fritch of the OSCE Secretariat guided the working meeting by describing the mandate of the OSCE Partners for Cooperation and characterizing the current level of engagement by the Partner States. He identified key considerations and challenges that should be addressed, as well as the successes of Mediterranean Partner Engagement with the OSCE on matters of tolerance, anti-terrorism cooperation, and migration management.

Participants made the following recommendations:

- The Mediterranean Partners must translate their valued relationship with the OSCE into engagement across the entire span of work in all three dimensions of the OSCE – political-security, economic, and human – building on their successful contributions in anti-terrorism cooperation, migration management, and tolerance.
- The OSCE Partnership Fund should continue to be utilized to inspire ownership of the process of partnership. Specifically, the Fund should foster civil society engagement in the activities of the Mediterranean Partners and be used to promote Partner participation in all activities of the OSCE.
- The OSCE must build synergy with other regional cooperation mechanisms such as NATO, the European Union, and others, as well as promote cooperative initiatives affiliated with these institutions. The OSCE must clearly negotiate its role and articulate its contributions to the States engaged in the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation. Currently, extensively overlapping mandates with other international initiatives inhibits the potential for tangible achievements of the Partnership.
- Expectations of engagement from Mediterranean Partners States must be clearly defined, especially the role of parliamentarians. Appropriate measures should then be taken to facilitate further engagement. Inversely, the OSCE must clearly define what it gains from the engagement of the Mediterranean Partners States.
- Efforts should be made to promote appropriate diplomatic exchanges with the OSCE through a formalized mechanism, internship, or fellowship to offer training to the diplomatic corps and civil service of Mediterranean Partner States regarding the principles of the Helsinki Process, the organization and functions of the OSCE and the potential to use OSCE institutions and mechanisms to promote economic development and political stability.



of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, ODHIR, Strategic Police Matters Unit, Gender Unit, Office of the Coordinator for Environmental and Economic Activities, Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the Office of the Special Representative on the Freedom of the Media.

•Increased Mediterranean Partner engagement in the Environmental and Economic Dimension of the OSCE should be further explored, particularly with respect to water security and water management, as well as trade enhancement. Mechanisms to promote regional food security should also be examined.

•Cooperation among the Mediterranean Partners

must be strengthened prior to consideration of additional States for entry as partners of the OSCE; specifically, the Partnership could be utilized for the implementation of confidence building mechanisms.

- Efforts should be made to galvanize the potential of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership as a forum to expand political will for reconciliation of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

SESSION 1: EXPERT SEMINAR ON SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The engagement of OSCE Mediterranean Partners in the activities of the OSCE has largely emphasized opportunities for cooperation and capacity development on hard and soft security matters. The most recent 2008 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Amman emphasized the importance of increased public diplomacy efforts, further

cooperation with civil society in counter-terrorism efforts, and enhanced cooperation with other regional cooperation mechanisms. Barry Pavel of the National Security Council engaged participants on the regional security priorities of the Obama Administration and the outlook for regional initiatives. Points for this discussion included:

- What developing transnational trends (environmental, economic, demographic, energy/resource scarcity) are of most concern to Mediterranean Partner States from a broad security perspective?
- What particular challenges and opportunities arise from the blurring between clearly foreign and domestic policy security issues?
- How can engagement with other regional cooperation mechanisms, such as NATO and the European Union, increase the security of the Mediterranean Partner States?

Key recommendations and themes emanating from this session included:

- President Barack Obama's Cairo speech was recognized as a noteworthy start to the United States' relations with the countries of the Middle East. However, quick action is required for the

momentum to be maintained. The speech expressed many concerns shared by people in the Arab world. More specifically, the time frame for peace talks is critical for a number of reasons. In January, 2010 the term of the current Palestinian Authority Chairman ends. Moreover, experience has shown that the first year of an American presidency is the time for action. Afterwards, other items on the President's agenda will demand more attention.

- Food security, the financial crisis, immigration, and development are priority issues for the region that must not be neglected. Answers must be sought as to why people are risking their lives to leave their countries.
- The Obama Administration should not reverse course on free trade with the region. Prior U.S. leadership in free trade compelled other nations to engage the Middle East in trade.
- The OSCE should be used to assist in the peace process and economic development for the region. The U.S. must appoint an ambassador to the OSCE quickly.
- Europe has a critical role to play. Economic engagement must be stepped up and protectionist urges resisted. The rise of Islamophobia is also a problem Europe must address to promote mutual understanding and security in the Mediterranean Region



and beyond.

SESSION 2: EXPERT SEMINAR ON CURRENT ISSUES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: “YOUTH OF THE OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS: ASSETS, CHALLENGES, AND THE WAY FORWARD”

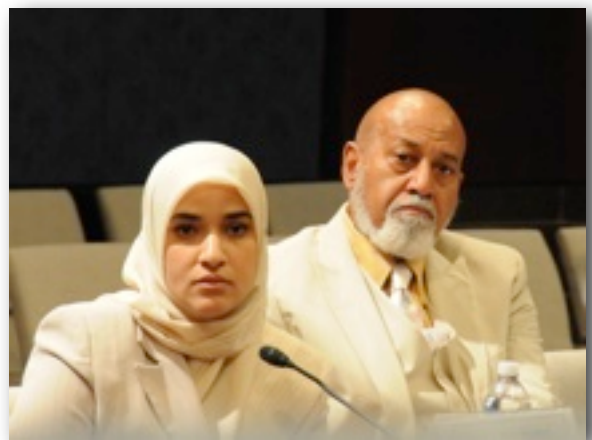
Youth throughout the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States are often seen as a demographic time bomb, making up a 40-60% of their nation's population. This session of the seminar emphasized the solidarity of the Mediterranean Partners in addressing the current demographic needs. Dalia Mogahed of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies helped the participants conceptualize the young men and women of the region as its greatest resource and defined strategies for harnessing their energy to promote prosperity. Questions addressed in this session:

- What are the main assets of this group on which to build?
- What challenges do they face in contributing to their society?
- What recommendations does the research suggest will best unleash their potential?



Key recommendations and themes emanating from this session included:

- Conduct studies throughout the OSCE Mediterranean Partner region to further investigate issues relevant to youth and identify challenges and country-specific solutions to providing a quality education, requisite job training, essential computer skills, access to capital for entrepreneurship, student exchanges, and opportunities for dialogue with government leaders while ensuring freedom and democracy.
- Strengthen the relationships between OSCE Mediterranean Partner States, the Arab League, and organizations that conduct these studies, e.g. the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt, and share findings and recommendations in the Arab League's Annual Report.
- Address the inadequacies of the education system in each of the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States and make comprehensive reforms to ensure that all graduates have the education necessary to attain jobs that maximize their potential, utilize their assets, allow them to contribute to their societies, and help realize their personal and professional goals.
- Increase access to job training while reevaluating its role in respect to education.
- Consult and engage youth in the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States about issues important to them, especially concerning conflict, through youth councils and provide them with opportunities for continuing dialogues with government leaders.
- Listen to the concerns and recommendations of other countries within the OSCE and around the world concerning issues of mutual interest and share innovative ideas.



- Consider declaring 2010 a “world year” and hold a youth conference under the auspices of the United Nations to affirm global values.
- Invest in programs together with the private and public sectors to provide cell phones, computers, and Internet access to communities and schools to increase computer literacy and close the digital divide.
- Bring computers, computer skills, Internet connectivity, job training, and jobs to rural areas in the Mediterranean.
- Reduce government and market corruption, as well as nepotism in each of the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States.
- Simplify the bureaucratic process for entrepreneurship and increase access to capital.
- Address different levels of freedom and democracy in each of the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States.
- Continue to collect accurate and useful data that reflects the needs and desires of youth in the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States in order to drive effective policy development by governments and practical engagement with the private sector.
- Promote student exchange programs for students of all ages to foster understanding, solidarity, and the sharing of ideas between the youth of the OSCE Mediterranean Partner states and the world.

SESSION 3: EXPERT SEMINAR ON ISSUES IN THE OSCE REGION

In recent years, OSCE Mediterranean Partner States have had an opportunity to contribute to ministerial documents and proposals on reform of the OSCE. However, appropriate venues for the Mediterranean Partners to offer their perspectives on challenges, conflicts, and priorities within the OSCE region remain infrequent. Topics explored in this session included:

- What experiences in security cooperation among the Mediterranean Partners inform current initiatives in the OSCE region?
- What partnerships and exchanges within the OSCE and beyond can be prioritized to offer expertise from Mediterranean Partners to confront challenges within the OSCE region?

Ian Lesser of the German Marshall Fund of the United States facilitated this session to provide an opportunity for Mediterranean Partner delegations to offer their expertise and experience to assist in confronting challenges within the OSCE region. He specifically characterized shared challenges in security between the OSCE region (consistency of capitalization) and Mediterranean Partners, as well as the outlook for their combined geopolitical region. This outlook consisted of future challenges in maritime security, migration, resource conflicts, cascading nuclear and arms proliferation, as well as environmental degradation. The discussion evolved into further exploration of mechanisms for cooperation between the Mediterranean Partners and the OSCE participating States, building on the themes of the Working Meeting on the first day of the seminar.

Key recommendations from this session included:

- Capacity development for institutions facilitating cooperation must be prioritized. Frequent opportunities for dialogue exist within the multiplicity of “Mediterranean” frameworks affiliated with the European Union, NATO, and other international organizations. Capacity development for institutions affiliated with these international organizations should focus on avoiding a duplication of efforts and extensive competition over resources.
- New institutions for cooperation do not need to be developed. Existing institutions must be utilized in a more rational and effective manner throughout the OSCE region.
- Increased commercial activity and resource exchanges among the OSCE participating States and with their Mediterranean Partners would promote regional stability.

The participating States of the OSCE should recognize the unique expertise of the Mediterranean Partners in thwarting challenges to maritime security and generate alliances and technical exchanges to address piracy and other security concerns.

CONCLUDING SESSION

Participants in the CSCE Seminar on OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement synthesized their perceptions of the seminar during the final session of the seminar. Conclusions offered by the participants included:

- The success of cooperative initiatives between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners will require greater leadership and agenda development from the Mediterranean Partners.
- Distinguishing appropriate and distinct roles for the various regional cooperation mechanisms in the Mediterranean region will be contingent on robust participation from the Mediterranean Partner delegations in the meetings and planning discussions of the different entities.
- More tangible progress toward cooperation will be made between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners if events and conferences have a singular focus, rather than attempting to address all aspects of human security. Fewer priorities that are clearly articulated will make conferences more manageable and implementation more effective.
- A platform should be developed for closer OSCE institution interaction with regional cooperation mechanisms for the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East.
- Micro-institutions or task forces must be developed for the implementation of agreed upon initiatives and recommendations emanating from conferences.



CONCLUSION

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe Seminar on OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement achieved its intended purpose of generating a space in which the delegations of the Mediterranean Partner States could frankly engage the current and future leadership of the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on ways to enhance participation in events, processes, and initiatives.

The seminar also served as a forum for Partner State delegations to discuss potential collaborative opportunities with the U.S. Administration and Members of Congress. Congressman Alcee L. Hastings, Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs and Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, Chairman of the Helsinki Commission committed to working with the OSCE and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly leadership and international secretariats to implement the recommendations of the seminar. Congressman Hastings also committed to traveling once again in the coming year to the Mediterranean Partner States to follow up on the discussions of the seminar.



HEARING SUMMARY

THE FUTURE OF THE OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR COOPERATION

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM July 23rd 2009 - 210 Cannon House Office Building

Witnesses:

Panel 1: Ambassador William Hudson

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs

Panel 2: Mr. Sotiris Roussos

OSCE Personal Representative on Mediterranean Partner Affairs

The Hon. João Soares

President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



INTRODUCTION

Following the CSCE Seminar on OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement, an official hearing of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe was convened. This hearing established an official record in the United States Congress for the proceedings of the seminar, with a particular emphasis on how participation mechanisms for OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation can be optimized and improved to promote greater regional cooperation. Ambassador William Hudson, Deputy Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, Mr. Sotiris Roussos, Personal Representative on Mediterranean Affairs to the Greek Chair-in-Office of the OSCE, and the Honorable João Soares, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, all testified before the U.S. Helsinki Commission during this hearing. Commissioners participating included Chairman Benjamin L. Cardin (MD), Co-Chairman Alcee L. Hastings (FL-23), Representative Robert Aderholt (AL-4), Representative Darrel Issa (CA-49), and Representative Mike McIntyre (NC-7). Representative Gwen Moore (WI-4) of the Committee on Financial Services and Committee on Small Business also participated in the hearing.

The hearing reiterated the recommendations emanating from the CSCE Seminar on OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement within the context of U.S. policy toward the region and priorities of the current leadership of the OSCE and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

WITNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recognition of the role of the OSCE and its Mediterranean dimension for its potential to develop capacity for a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the Middle East. The activities and events of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation generate one of the few spaces in which Israeli and Arab officials can convene open dialogue and consistently cooperate.
- The United States government looks forward to engaging the Mediterranean Partners on the reintegration of Iraq into the community of nations and on ways to resolve tension over oil and gas supply and demand issues in Eastern Europe.
- The United States government looks forward to further partnership with the Mediterranean Partners on migration, counter-terrorism, economic cooperation, and regional security.
- The United States government has contributed to the OSCE Partnership Fund to support NGO involvement in Mediterranean Partner events and Mediterranean Partner delegation and government training on human rights work in Warsaw through the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Support for similar efforts should continue.
- The prospect of a separate Helsinki Process for the Middle East or an Organization for Security and Cooperation in the Middle East has been an idea circulated in recent years, but the use of a consensus process like that of the OSCE might not be optimal for the region.
- The Mediterranean Partners and other countries in the region have been involved in various regional organizations and processes revolving around similar core issues of the political military environment, the regional economy, and human development. More diverse priorities must be articulated by any division of labor that might be negotiated among international organizations and process.
- A mechanism or standing committee to facilitate coordination and collaboration among the principal international organization processes and dialogues in the Mediterranean region should be developed to prevent the duplication of initiatives and counter diminishing regional interest.
- A renewed focus on the environment and the economy in the Mediterranean region through the OSCE framework would help build capacity for cooperation and common ground for a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and other Middle East security challenges.

- The expansion of markets, global communication infrastructure development, and improved educational access within the Mediterranean Partner States present greater opportunities for regional economic cooperation.
- The Arab-Israeli conflict greatly influences Mediterranean Partner engagement. Thus, regardless of outcome, a prompt response on the request of the Palestinian Authority's request to join the OSCE Mediterranean Partner should be prioritized. Some believe that inclusion of the Palestinian Authority would expand a paradigm of confidence building and conflict resolution.
- The visibility of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership should be enhanced and coupled with an expansion of initiatives to engage young leaders and young diplomats from the Mediterranean region.
- OSCE Partnership Fund initiatives should be coordinated for tangible results and mutual benefit of OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners.
- The flexibility and capacity for adaptation makes the OSCE one of the best international instruments for conflict resolution and it should be further utilized in the Mediterranean region.
- OSCE engagement can help advance the role of parliamentarians within Mediterranean Partner States.
- The OSCE Partnership Fund should be utilized for initiatives to empower women and promote entrepreneurship.
- Mediterranean Partner delegations should continue to be engaged in OSCE region election observation efforts and consider more frequent reciprocal exchanges.

REP. ALCEE HASTINGS

CO-CHAIRMAN, US HELSINKI COMMISSION

It's my distinct honor to convene this hearing of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe on "The Future of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation." I welcome you all here today – and so does the thunder, apparently – and commend the leadership of my good friend who will be here shortly – who is here now – of Senator Ben Cardin, who serves as chair of the Helsinki Commission, and my fellow commissioners. We've been joined by Mr. McIntyre and others are coming, I believe.

As many of you know, for the past several years I have served as Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly's special representative for Mediterranean affairs. And I've had the distinct pleasure of having been appointed by President Emeritus Lennmarker in that capacity, and by the now-president of the parliamentary assembly, João Soares, also, to the same capacity.

The objectives are to enhance the long-standing relationship between the OSCE participating states and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation that extends back to the Helsinki act of 1975 of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, now the OSCE.

In the succeeding decades the OSCE Participating States and their Mediterranean partners have worked to increase mutual confidence and develop economic and environmental cooperation in order to promote security and stability throughout Europe and the Mediterranean basin. It is through this unique forum that Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco – as my friend from Morocco enters the room – and Tunisia continue develop their capacity for leadership in the region, all the while exchanging expertise with the OSCE participating states.

Near the end of 2008, I toured all of the Mediterranean Partner states, with the exception of Jordan – which I have visited on many occasions. During discussions with my interlocutors, beginning in Morocco, that I proposed bringing them and asking them to come to Washington to have a candid discussion about participation mechanisms for their partnership with the OSCE and how these might be improved.

Over the past two days, the proposal that I made last December became a reality. High-level delegations of parliamentarians and dignitaries and academics from the OSCE Mediterranean Partner states – of all of the partner states – gathered here in the Capitol Visitor Center for the Helsinki Commission’s “Seminar on OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement.”

These delegations were joined by the gentleman who’s walking there, now – my president of the OSCE parliamentary assembly, João Soares of Portugal – and by previously-mentioned president-emeritus Goran Lennmarker of Sweden and vice president of the OSCE, Jerry Grafstein of Canada, and representatives of the Greek chair in office, and representatives of the future Kazakh chair in office, and Ambassador Jonas Hafström on behalf of the Swedish presidency of the European Union.

Sessions for this seminar included notable panelists, such as Paul Fritch of the OSCE Secretariat, an exciting presentation this morning by Dalia Mogahed of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, Barry Pavel of the National Security Council, and a very thought-provoking professor, Dr. Ian Lesser, of the German Marshall Fund.

Our discussions with these panelists centered on OSCE Mediterranean Partner participation mechanisms, security in the Mediterranean, youth empowerment and challenges of the OSCE region, respectively.

I’m going to ask unanimous consent that the rest of my statement be made a part of the record in the interest of time and because so many of my colleagues are here. But we are joined by distinguished witnesses who will help us to synthesize the topics discussed throughout our seminar as well as share their vision for future or empowerment of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners.

I’ll identify our panelists after I hear from colleagues and I’d like now to ask the chair of the CSCE, my good friend from the U.S. Senate, Senator Cardin, if he would make opening remarks.

SEN. BENJAMIN CARDIN

CHAIRMAN, US HELSINKI COMMISSION

Well, to Congressman Hastings: First let me thank you for arranging the Mediterranean Partners meeting here in Washington. It was an extremely important opportunity for our partners to get together and exchange their views. I also want to thank you for chairing today’s hearing as we in the U.S. Helsinki Commission look at the Mediterranean Partners and ways in which we can enhance our effectiveness within OSCE.

Let me apologize from the beginning that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will be meeting shortly with the prime minister of Iraq so I’m going to have to excuse myself to attend that meeting. But engagement with our colleagues representing the OSCE Mediterranean Partner countries has been a particular focus of the OSCE parliamentary assembly for many years as evidenced by the work of its successive special representatives on Mediterranean affairs and the assembly’s annual Mediterranean seminars, which are a critical part of the agenda of the assembly’s fall meetings.

We and our Mediterranean Partners have paid particular attention to the issues of security and economic cooperation. In 2002, the parliamentary assembly convened its first conference dedicated to ensuring peace, democracy and prosperity in the Mediterranean region. Since 1993, security, trade and economic cooperation have been the subjects of debate during the assembly’s annual sessions and have been addressed in the final declarations of those meetings.

Most recently, the Vilnius Declaration ratified at the conclusion of the parliamentary assembly’s annual meeting this month in Lithuania includes a resolution on Mediterranean free trade authored by our good friend Senator Jerry Grafstein of Canada. This resolution calls for the creation of the Mediterranean Economic Commission with the mandate to reduce trade barriers and facilitate the transition to a knowledge-based economy in the countries of the region. It also recommends the creation of a Mediterranean agricultural marketing board with the aim of creating jobs in the agriculture sector for young people, which could be a very valuable part of the security in that region.

During my service as chair of the parliamentary assembly's committee on economic affairs, science, technology and environment, the committee also focused on trade and economic cooperation in the Mediterranean region. As many of you may recall, during the 2005 annual session of the parliamentary assembly in Washington, D.C., our committee hosted a panel discussion on developing trade and economic cooperation with our Mediterranean partners, which featured an address by the ambassador of Morocco to the United States. The Washington declaration adopted at the conclusion of the 2005 annual session contained a resolution addressing both soft and hard threats to security, enhancing economic cooperation, dealing with the challenges of migration and promoting tolerance in the Mediterranean region.

So as you can see, within the OSCE and within the OSCE parliamentary assembly, we've made significant progress in advancing the interests of our Mediterranean partners within the context of the commitments within OSCE. What I have urged is taking a look at how we can further that process.

It's interesting, Mr. Chairman, that the commission held a hearing in 1993, the U.S. Helsinki Commission. At that time, we looked at creating an OSCME, an Organization for Security and Cooperation in the Middle East because we thought that the Helsinki process was so valuable that the direct adoption of that process by the countries within the Middle East could have direct benefit as it had within Europe.

So we suggested that. I do recall we heard from, Abba Eban, the former foreign affairs minister of Israel. We also heard from the distinguished ambassador from Egypt, Ahmed Maher, el-Sahad (sic: el-Sayed), at that time, both very favorable towards the concept. I have since travelled to the region many times and have talked to the leaders of the countries in the region. They all think that this makes great sense so – and I think we have one or two options that I really do encourage the witnesses today to comment on this.

We could try to strengthen the role of the Mediterranean Partners in the countries within the region within the OSCE framework. We could look at a separate framework, which incorporates similar ideas although there's no cookie-cutter approach. I know we have to tailor it towards specific needs of the region. But I do think, looking at the historic problems in the Mediterranean and in the Middle East, that using the experience since 1975 with what we've been able to do in CSCE gives us hope that we could make further advancements in this area. And I look forward to the witnesses today and I hope that we'll be able to continue to make progress in promoting peace, security and economic well-being within the Mediterranean area.

WILLIAM HUDSON

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

Thank you very much. Distinguished chairman, members of the commission, I want to thank you for calling this important hearing and for providing us an opportunity to participate in this exchange on engagement of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe with our Mediterranean partners. I also welcome the interest of our partners in participating in this forum with members of the United States Congress on an issue that is vital to many of our shared interests.

The OSCE's special relationship with the six Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation goes back to the start of the Helsinki process. In 1975, the Helsinki final act included a Mediterranean chapter emphasizing the close links between the security of Europe and the security in the Mediterranean region. This security link has been underscored in subsequent OSCE documents such as the 1999 charter for European security and the 2003 strategy to address threats to security and stability in the 21st century. The OSCE participating states have committed themselves to exploring new avenues of cooperation and interaction as well as to explaining the scope of broad exchanges on OSCE norms, principles and commitments.

Through ongoing dialogue and joint activities with the Mediterranean partners, the OSCE has successfully shared its unique, comprehensive, three-dimensional approach to security with the Mediterranean partners on a number of topics including confidence and security-building measures, OSCE as a platform for dialogue in fostering norms of behavior, the 21st-century threats to security and state stability, protecting human rights and fun-

damental freedoms as well as linkages between the environment and security, media and new technologies and migration and integration policies.

The annual OSCE Mediterranean conferences, which are usually hosted by the partner state, provide the opportunity to exchange views and contribute to further developing the relationship between the OSCE and the Mediterranean partners. The conferences are also attended by international organizations, parliamentarians, academics and importantly, NGOs, leading to a unique cross-fertilization of ideas and recommendations.

In fact, a number of very interesting recommendations came out of the 2008 conference in Amman, Jordan, including suggestions to promote closer involvement of civil society in counterterrorism efforts to address climate change and desertification through regional cooperation and to support the creation of civil society networks in the Mediterranean region. The United States is very interested in following up on these and other recommendations.

Mediterranean partners have many opportunities to get involved in the work of the OSCE. In addition to attending and participating in a wide range of OSCE meetings and conferences, they are also invited to send observers to electoral missions of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, who have received training in Warsaw to that end. Thanks to the OSCE's partnership fund, we now have increased opportunities for conducting joint projects. The United States already has used this fund to support two projects and hopes to be able to contribute to it more in the future.

We are particularly encouraged by a lively discussion at the June 2009 workshop conducted in Vienna on the topic of media. This workshop, which was based on a suggestion made by Egypt, brought together more than 35 experts from the OSCE and the Mediterranean regions to discuss challenges and best practices in setting up and promoting mechanisms to encourage free speech. Such exchanges provide us with an opportunity to learn and work together to foster security and stability in our countries.

The United States is interested in increasing cooperation with the Mediterranean partners in all three OSCE dimensions and in hearing Mediterranean perspectives on broader issues as well. We sincerely look forward to engaging with our partners on issues such as their approach to the reintegration of Iraq into the community of nations and to ways to resolve tensions over oil and gas supply and demand issues in Eastern Europe.

The Mediterranean Partner countries are at the crossroads of Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Their historical and existing ties with other regions have distinctively positioned them to play a key role on issues ranging from regional conflicts such as Chad and Sudan to Middle East peace, migration, terrorism and more. The Mediterranean Partners have played a positive role in both the regional and the world arena and have the potential to make an even greater contribution. We believe the onset of a new U.S. administration offers a new chance to engage in the OSCE partnership and to intensify and reinforce our relationships in this critical area.

The Obama administration has shown its willingness to listen and to think critically about the United States foreign policy priorities and objectives. In President Obama's June 4th speech in Cairo, he said that he had come to seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world, one based on mutual interest and mutual respect. We have seen a promising start to the new administration's engagement with the Mediterranean. Secretary Clinton met with the foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia on the margins of the Gaza Reconstruction Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh in March.

She used that opportunity to discuss regional cooperation and other concerns of mutual interest. Special envoy for Middle East peace, Senator Mitchell, subsequently visited the region to solicit their ideas and support for



peace. We continue to look for opportunities to engage our North African partners bilaterally and regionally on a wide range of issues, including migration, terrorism economic cooperation and regional security.

In doing this, we are committed to working with the OSCE via the Mediterranean Partners as well as other multi-lateral fora arrangements, to ensure that our efforts with the countries of the region are consistent and mutually reinforcing. The OSCE participating states and the Mediterranean Partners should work together productively to confront the challenges at hand, and promote security, stability, and individual freedoms throughout the region and throughout the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I'm happy to take any questions that you may have.

SOTIRIS ROUSSOS

OSCE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE ON MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER AFFAIRS

Thank you very much. It is great honor and pleasure to attend and witness to this hearing of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to share views on how we can work together in order to make the Mediterranean Partnership of the OSCE even more effective by enhancing its potentials and fostering the ties between the organization and our common Mediterranean neighborhood.

In this regard, Greece as an OSCE participating state of the Mediterranean attaches great importance to the strengthening of relations with our Mediterranean partners and to the promotion of their engagement with the OSCE activities and mechanisms.

My appointment is underlining the strong will of the Greek chairmanship to further upgrade these ties as it (emerges ?) the strategic importance of the region for the Euro-Atlantic security. I would like last to share some reflections and to present some ideas to be thought upon by the partners honoring on our contribution on the triptych of synergy, symmetry and strategy.

Our times are marked by the most profound technical revolution in global communications which transcends national cultural boundaries. International partners of mass consumption with global brand names have become symbolic. Market-oriented reforms and improvements in the business and investment climate are facilitating these changes all through the past decade.

In the Mediterranean, the role of the market forces in the private sector of the economy is expanding although sometimes it seems not so much. Governments are privatizing state-owned corporations and the banking, telecommunications and utilities sections. Trade systems are opening and restrictions on foreign exchange transactions are being eased.

Moreover, in response to these changes, development indicators are beginning to improve, especially in the past decade: Extreme poverty, people living on less than \$1 per day fell by 20 percent by 2000 and 2004. Over the past 15 years, life expectancy has increased in the region from 60 to 70 years, while the total fertility rate has fallen by 1.8 births per woman, the largest decline of any region in the world.

Nearly 90 percent of children completed primary education in 2005, up from 77 percent in 1990. About 90 percent of the population now has access to electricity and improved water resources.

Additionally, the enormous explosion in tourism, travel, commerce, international media and the translation publishing industries arrive at impressive cross-cultural transactions and nexuses. Side by side with this cultural



globalization we have the most xenophobic and, in total, manifestations of narrow-minded nationalists and religious revivals.

According to a study by the joint project of the Dubai School of Government at the Wilson Center for Development at Brookings, although there was an economic revival between 2002 and 2008, however there were also other results. The same study points out that the situation seems more complicated since education is not a guarantee against unemployment in the Middle East.

In fact, unemployed rates in some countries are higher among those youth with relatively high levels of educational attainment. In Egypt, for example, the unemployment of university graduates reaches 25 percent whereas amongst illiterates and those of intermediate education is five and 10 percent respectively.

The same more or less tendencies can be traced in Jordan and Lebanon. Furthermore, employment prospects for youth in urban areas remain particularly bleak; near by 76 percent of unemployed Moroccan youth live in urban areas.

Urban unemployment nearly doubled between 1982 and 2000, rising from 12 to 22 percent. About 60 to 70 percent of the youth in Egypt, Jordan and elsewhere thought this is a bad time, a bad period, for seeking a job in the Mediterranean and perhaps this is the beginning of thinking of migration as a serious alternative.

In both banks of the Mediterranean – not only the south, also in the north bank of the Mediterranean, in our countries – much higher education produces instead of conditions of prosperity, a proletarianized, impoverished intelligentsia deprived and resentful, directing its resentment against the elites as well as the other – in the face of the migrant, of the different which is seen as the agent of invasion, cultural and economic.

But the most startling effect of mass education is the collapse of earlier hierarchical notions of religious authority based on claims to demonstrate of fixed bodies of religious texts, even in countries with state-appointed religious authorities.

The erosion of traditional religious authorities allows a wider debate on religion and science, democracy, modernity, gender, religious and ideological tolerance. The same absence of authority gives, however, the opportunity to radical and terrorist networks – personalities and institutions to hijack religious discourse and fastly (ph) undertake the role of champion of the true believers around the world.

Mediterranean societies have been saved through a large extent by a complex cultural and social texture created by the combination of elements of modernity and tradition. Moreover, identities in the Mediterranean have been and are still being saved through the construction of separate bodies of knowledge in – (inaudible). And intercultural dialogue should be brave enough to discuss recent changes in the makeup, activity and the strategy of religious movements in Islam.

It's attack the role of migration communities in shaping an intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean and all over the world. Such a dialogue should cope with a new process of pluralism and multiculturalism emerging in the great seats of Europe and through the explore of dynamic interaction between conflict and coexistence in multicultural cities in the Mediterranean and Europe.

There is a great importance in the role of press and mass media in supporting neutral understanding, the role of non-state actors in shaping ideological visions that affect state policies in the regions. The media have a serious impact of how ethnic national identities and social parties influence regional cooperation in the Mediterranean.

Moreover, the means of information technology and wired society combined with mass education are capable of involving Mediterranean people in the discourse and debate about the role of the state and non-state actors and thus create an institutional and legal perquisites for the development of the open and interacting Mediterranean civil society.

The role of gender in the development of such a civil society and intercultural dialogue is indispensable, especially the role of women as primary socializer for youth and childrens and the importance of women participation in activism in all walks of life.

Women empowerment can not only increase households' income but they can become a remedy for social dislocation and the most useful tool for equitable growth and social cohesion. It should not and could not however come as an imported recipe from other parts of the world but it should be homegrown, based on genuine social forces and the rich cultural tradition of the area.

Last but not least, the Arab-Israeli conflict and especially the Israeli-Palestinian tract influences Mediterranean participation of the OSCE a great deal. Of course OSCE framework could not solve these issues but it could exploit the momentum given by the U.S. leadership initiatives in order to expand the model of Helsinki, to expand the culture of dialogue, tolerance, comprehension and human rights despite essential political differences.

At this particular moment, expanding membership of OSCE Mediterranean Partnership, especially the case of the Palestinian Authority is not simply to add new countries, but to expand a paradigm of confidence building and conflict resolution. Now it is more necessary than ever.

Summarizing through all recent discussions and papers, we can discern three main principles: flexibility, visibility, tangible results. Flexibility – it is beyond any doubt that flexibility is increasing effectiveness, overcoming sensitivities and various practical obstacles. It has been a well-taken point in both the Egyptian and the Moroccan paper that we can concentrate on fewer items. Greece and personally the foreign minister Ms. Bakoyannis has worked very effectively on women empowerment through local and regional entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, an issue that combines human dimension and economy.

Visibility – it is important to increase the visibility of the OSCE Mediterranean partnership in the societies of the partners. We also believe that a young leaders forum would also provide the partnership with the – (inaudible) – prominent young people in all walks of life. The first joint seminar of young diplomats from OSCE Mediterranean partners organized by Greece last year is a case in point.

Tangible results – concentration on certain issues and cross-dimensional items can produce recommendation and results, which might lead to micro-projects funded partly by the fund and partly by the Mediterranean governments aiming to promoting the finds of the conference of the Mediterranean societies and of the OSCE Mediterranean partnership.

Last, I'd like to share a personal reflection. Our Mediterranean basing can provide us with materials of dual use. We can use them to erect walls of division but with the same materials, build bridges of understanding. We all opt for the latter. Thank you very much.

JOÃO SOARES

OSCE PA PRESIDENT

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm very pleased to be invited to this CSCE hearing on the future of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, which I believe to be very timely. I'm also pleased with the leadership that Congressman Hastings has shown, and his willingness to continue to be so active in his role as OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs.

There are several aspects that I would like to touch on, all of which, in my opinion, speak to the benefit of continued and increased engagement between the OSCE and our Mediterranean Partners. Both us, and our Partners benefit from increased co-operation.

The OSCE's experience in comprehensive security is very



relevant to the Mediterranean, and warrants greater attention in the region. In the last thirty years the approach to security has been enriched by new dimensions, which have substantially modified our vision of security. At the same time new concepts and definitions emerged, new methodologies of how to avoid and/or prevent conflicts became a major issue of discussion. It looks to security not only in military terms but it takes into account other aspects such as the economy, sustainable development and the environment.

Comprehensive security is an approach that sees security as a complex topic focused not only in territorial integrity and military issues but also in economic, social, political, environmental, and cultural dimensions. It gives great importance to the needs of human beings as well as it expresses its concern about the lack of social justice and inequality. It considers that security actors are no longer limited to states, but also new actors are becoming increasingly important, such as NGOS, and international organizations, such as the United Nations or the OSCE.

The OSCE is the classic institution exemplifying the concept of comprehensive security, and so we have a degree of expertise to offer our Partners in this field. The OSCE, which initially was a process to reduce tensions between East and West, became finally an active actor in reducing tensions as well as being relevant in the different peace processes that took, and still take place, in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. I think that much of this success is thanks to the approach which looks to security as a broader issue not limited to military terms and territorial integrity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before addressing what I think should be the future of our partnership, I would like to briefly look at some former work by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. First and foremost, I have been very pleased with the active work of Representative Hastings as Special Representative who has clearly made efforts to enhance, in the meetings of the OSCE PA and beyond, the dialogue between the parliamentary delegations of the Mediterranean Partners.

But we should be clear that from the very beginning of the Helsinki process, close co-operation with the Mediterranean region was envisioned. The chapter on the Mediterranean contained in the Helsinki Final Act was a clear recognition of shared historical, cultural, economic ties with the then CSCE region (today's OSCE). This relationship has been reinforced since, enabling the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation ñ as they are now called ñ to participate regularly in OSCE events, including those in the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

The Parliamentary Assembly has reiterated this important dimension, and we have also several times discussed and subsequently passed resolutions related to our co-operation with the Mediterranean region. The Assembly is clearly on record, for example in our Rotterdam Declaration of 2003, of calling on the OSCE to enhance its role in the Mediterranean region by further promoting its Mediterranean dimension to achieve closer co-operation with the Mediterranean partners.

In this and at other times, we have encouraged the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to use the framework and mechanisms of the OSCE, including those devoted to conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation, as a model for enhancing security, promoting co-operation and protecting human rights in the region.

Over the last years the OSCE has engaged in an increasingly intensified dialogue with its partners for co-operation from the Mediterranean region and Asia. I believe there is a growing awareness in the OSCE that only a free, democratic, prosperous and undivided Europe will be able to promote security, stability and prosperity in the adjacent area and also that European security will benefit from positive developments in other regions, including the Mediterranean.

As a representative of the OSCE PA, I would also like to comment that the Mediterranean dialogue in the OSCE has become an example of good co-operation between the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. We have been pleased to have high-level input each year at our Mediterranean Forum by representatives of the governmental side of the organization, for example, during our last such meeting in Toronto.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Looking more clearly to the future, I believe that European security in the Mediterranean should be based on the implementation of policies of co-operation with the countries in the Southern Regions destined to contribute to the elimination of the social and economic causes of instability; to the reinforcement of democratisation; to the

restoration of an inter-cultural dialogue; and to the promotion of energy security. In effect, we should advance the comprehensive security approach that the OSCE itself has implemented.

However, I would like to underline that although democracy cannot be imposed or exported, democratic values can be imported. The OSCE principles and practices are a good example of what can be achieved in this region.

In this context I would like to welcome the appointment of Senator George Mitchell as the Special Envoy to the Middle East. This appointment is a clear indication that President Barack Obama, and his Administration, intend to engage both Israel and the Palestinian Authority in a lasting peace process with two independent states living side by side.

Increasing communication and co-operation among the different international organisations focusing on security in the Mediterranean is also essential to harmonise such a notion of security while increasing confidence between Western Countries and countries in the Southern Mediterranean.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will continue to engage actively on these issues, particularly through our annual Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum. This annual event is clearly placed on our agenda and in our Rules of Procedure.

I will continue to support side meetings on the Mediterranean, involving parliamentarians from the Partner States, organised on the margins of the Assembly's meetings. If I am to point to a single priority that I would like to see fulfilled, it is increased participation by parliamentarians from the Mediterranean in our meetings. Not only from our Partner States, but also from Libya, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine.

I will continue to support an intensification of our contacts and exchanges with our Parliamentarians from the Partner countries. Alcee Hastings has been most active in forwarding this agenda. In recent years, parliamentarians from Partner States have expanded their participation in some activities of the Assembly, most notably in the election observation that we conducted to the general elections in this country last year. I hope that such co-operation will continue.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is an excellent forum in which new ideas can be tried if we are not hampered by the consensus rule in the same way the governmental side in Vienna is. So, for example, we were able to include parliamentarians from Libya in one of our meetings, and I would encourage further such participation. This is one way that the Organization can explore whether further co-operation with other Mediterranean States is possible and worthwhile.

In conclusion, efforts aimed at enhancing our contact in the Mediterranean will receive my full support, both on the governmental and parliamentary sides. Both the OSCE and the Mediterranean region benefit from this co-operation.

I say this with full respect for the fact that the Mediterranean region possesses its own specific dynamics and security challenges. The OSCE model of co-operative security can be proposed to, but not imposed upon the Mediterranean region.

The work ahead is not easy, but we must always remember that parliamentarians directly elected by the people can provide an important input to the process. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as a unique OSCE Institution promoting parliamentary involvement in the activities of the OSCE and facilitating inter-parliamentary dialogue will do its utmost to enhance the Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE and the relations with our Partners for Co-operation in the South Mediterranean.

Thank you

FULL HEARING TRANSCRIPT

The transcript for the hearing proceedings can be found at <http://www.csce.gov> in the Hearings section.



APPENDICES

Recommendations Summary	30
H. Res 654	32
Delegation Reference Documents	42





RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

SESSION 1: SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

- President Barack Obama's Cairo speech was recognized as a noteworthy start to United States relations with the countries of the Middle East. However, quick action is required for the momentum to be maintained. The speech expressed many concerns shared by people in the Arab world. More specifically, the time frame for peace talks is critical for a number of reasons. In January 2010 the term of the current Chairman of The Palestinian state ends. Moreover, experience has shown that the first year of an American presidency is the time for action. Afterwards other items on the President's agenda will demand more attention.
- Food security, the financial crisis, immigration, and development are priority issues for the region that must not be neglected. Answers must be sought as to why people are risking their lives to leave their countries.
- The Obama Administration should not reverse course on free trade with the region. Prior U.S. leadership in free trade compelled other nations to engage the Middle East in trade.
- The OSCE should be used to assist in the peace process and economic development for the region. The U.S. must appoint an ambassador to the OSCE quickly.
- Europe has a critical role to play. Economic engagement must be stepped up and protectionist urges resisted. The rise of Islamophobia is also a problem Europe must address to promote mutual understanding and security in the Mediterranean Region and beyond.

SESSION 2: EXPERT SEMINAR ON CURRENT MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES

- Conduct studies throughout the OSCE Mediterranean Partner region to further investigate issues relevant to youth and identify challenges and country-specific solutions to providing a quality education, requisite job training, essential computer skills, access to capital for entrepreneurship, student exchanges, and opportunities for dialogue with government leaders while ensuring freedom and democracy.
- Strengthen the relationships between OSCE Mediterranean Partner States, the Arab League, and organizations that conduct these studies, e.g. the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt, and share findings and recommendations in the Arab League's Annual Report.
- Address the inadequacies of the education system in each of the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States and make comprehensive reforms to ensure that all graduates have the education necessary to attain jobs that maximize their potential, utilize their assets, allow them to contribute to their societies, and help realize their personal and professional goals.
- Increase access to job training while reevaluating its role in respect to education.
- Consult and engage youth in the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States about issues important to them, especially concerning conflict, through youth councils and provide them with opportunities for continuing dialogues with government leaders.
- Listen to the concerns and recommendations of other countries within the OSCE and around the world concerning issues of mutual interest and share innovative ideas.
- Consider declaring 2010 a "world year" and hold a youth conference under the auspices of the United Nations to affirm global values.

- Invest in programs together with the private and public sectors to provide cell phones, computers, and internet access to communities and schools to increase computer literacy and close the digital divide.
- Bring computers, computer skills, internet connectivity, job training, and jobs to rural areas in the Mediterranean.
- Reduce government and market corruption, as well as nepotism in each of the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States.
- Simplify the bureaucratic process for entrepreneurship and increase access to capital.
- Address different levels of freedom and democracy in each of the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States.
- Continue to collect accurate and useful data that reflects the needs and desires of youth in the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States in order to drive effective policy development by governments and practical engagement with the private sector.
- Promote student exchange programs for students of all ages to foster understanding, solidarity, and the sharing of ideas between the youth of the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States and the world.

SESSION 3: EXPERT SEMINAR ON CURRENT ISSUES IN THE OSCE REGION

- Capacity development for institutions facilitating cooperation must be prioritized. Frequent opportunities for dialogue exist within the multiplicity of “Mediterranean” frameworks affiliated with the European Union, NATO, and other international organizations. Capacity development for institutions affiliated with these international organizations should focus on avoiding a duplication of efforts and extensive competition over resources.
- New institutions for cooperation do not need to be developed. Existing institutions must be utilized in a more rational and effective manner throughout the OSCE region.
- Increased commercial activity and resource exchanges among the OSCE participating States and with their Mediterranean Partners would promote regional stability.
- The participating States of the OSCE should recognize the unique expertise of the Mediterranean Partners in thwarting challenges to maritime security and generate alliances and technical exchanges to address piracy and other security concerns.

CONCLUDING SESSION

- The success of cooperative initiatives between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners will require greater leadership and agenda development from the Mediterranean Partners.
- Distinguishing appropriate and distinct roles for the various regional cooperation mechanisms in the Mediterranean region will be contingent on robust participation from the Mediterranean Partner delegations in the meetings and planning discussions of the different entities.
- More tangible progress toward cooperation will be made between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners if events and conferences have a singular focus, rather than attempting to address all aspects of human security. Fewer priorities that are clearly articulated will make conferences more manageable and implementation more effective.
- A platform should be developed for closer OSCE institution interaction with regional cooperation mechanisms for the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East.
- Micro-institutions or taskforces must be developed for the implementation of agreed upon initiatives and recommendations emanating from conferences.



H. RES 654

HONORING THE OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR COOPERATION

FULL TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION AND DISCUSSION FROM THE
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD FOLLOWS.



111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 654

Honoring the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. ISSA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. WATSON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. TANNER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Ms. ROSELEHTINEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Honoring the Organization for Security and Cooperation in
Europe Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation and for
other purposes.

Whereas the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and subsequent agreements and the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as well as its Parliamentary Assembly and affiliated institutions, encompass what is referred to as the Helsinki Process;

Whereas the 1975 Helsinki Final Act included a specific section on “Questions relating to Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean” in recognition of the interrelation

between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean region;

Whereas the long-standing relationship between the participating states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, currently Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia, dates back to the origins of the Helsinki Process and is rooted in the important geographical, historical, cultural, economic, and political links between them and the states of the Mediterranean region;

Whereas the OSCE participating states have declared their intention to promote the development of cooperative relations with the Mediterranean Partners and to encourage the development of mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields of economic activity and have sought to increase mutual confidence so as to promote security and stability in the Mediterranean region as a whole;

Whereas, since its establishment by the 1990 Charter of Paris, the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE has called for enhanced engagement with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation and their constituent assemblies in the pursuit of improved economic cooperation, and security and stability in the Mediterranean region;

Whereas in the 1992 Helsinki Document, the leaders of the OSCE participating states committed to widening cooperation and increasing dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners as a means to promote social and economic development in order to narrow the prosperity gap between Europe and its Mediterranean neighbors and to protect the Mediterranean ecosystems;

Whereas in the 1999 Istanbul Document, the OSCE participating states encouraged the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to draw on the expertise of the participating states in setting up structures and mechanisms in the Mediterranean region for early warning, preventive diplomacy, and conflict prevention;

Whereas the 2003 Maastricht Ministerial recognized that threats originating or evolving in adjacent regions are of increasing importance, and therefore the OSCE will intensify its cooperation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Cooperation, and also encouraged the Partners for Cooperation to embrace the principles and commitments of the OSCE;

Whereas the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation participate as observers in the annual meetings of the OSCE Ministerial Council as well as the regular meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council and Forum for Security Cooperation;

Whereas, the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation actively participate in the work of the Contact Group within the Permanent Council, as well as OSCE yearly events, including the Annual Security Review Conference, the Economic Forum, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, and the Annual, Fall and Winter Sessions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;

Whereas since 1995, the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation have organized annual Mediterranean Conferences to provide the opportunity for the OSCE participating states and the Mediterranean Partners to exchange views on matters of mutual interest and to strengthen their cooperative relationship;

•HRES 654 IH

Whereas in 2001, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the first Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, Mr. Michel Voisin of France, in order to enhance engagement of members of parliament from the 56 participating states of the OSCE with members of parliament from the Mediterranean Partner states;

Whereas since 2001, successive OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representatives on Mediterranean Affairs have been appointed by former Assembly Presidents, Mr. Bruce George of the United Kingdom, and Mr. Goran Lennmarker of Sweden, as well as by current President, Mr. Joao Soares of Portugal, reaffirming the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's commitment to the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation;

Whereas, under the leadership of then-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Bruce George of the United Kingdom, the Parliamentary Assembly convened its first conference dedicated to ensuring peace, democracy, and prosperity in the region of the Mediterranean in Madrid in 2002; and

Whereas the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has convened Mediterranean Seminars at its fall meetings since 2003, with the active participation of members of parliament representing the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation:
Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) honors the People's Democratic Republic of
- 3 Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of
- 4 Israel, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the King-
- 5 dom of Morocco, and the Tunisian Republic for their

•HRES 654 IH

1 participation in the Organization for Security and
2 Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as Mediterranean
3 Partners for Cooperation;

4 (2) welcomes the representatives of the OSCE
5 Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to Wash-
6 ington, DC, on the occasion of the Commission on
7 Security and Cooperation in Europe Seminar on
8 OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement, July
9 22–23, 2009;

10 (3) encourages the OSCE to re-evaluate its past
11 practices and ongoing activities in the Mediterranean
12 dimension in order to further empower the OSCE
13 Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation in the work
14 of the OSCE, and to support the Partners' leader-
15 ship on matters which impact their citizens, their
16 governments, and the region; and

17 (4) encourages the OSCE Mediterranean Part-
18 ners for Cooperation to continue to work with the
19 OSCE participating states to enhance trade, eco-
20 nomic development, security, and stability in the
21 Mediterranean region, and to embrace existing
22 OSCE commitments, including those in the Human
23 Dimension.

Æ

•HRES 654 IH

Guthrie	Marshall	Rothman (NJ)
Gutierrez	Massa	Roybal-Allard
Hall (NY)	Matheson	Royce
Hall (TX)	Matsui	Ruppersberger
Halvorson	McCarthy (CA)	Rush
Hare	McCaul	Ryan (OH)
Harman	McClintock	Ryan (WI)
Harper	McCollum	Salazar
Hastings (FL)	McCotter	Sánchez, Linda T.
Hastings (WA)	McDermott	Sanchez, Loretta
Heinrich	McGovern	Sarbanes
Heller	McHenry	Scalise
Hensarling	McHugh	Schakowsky
Herger	McIntyre	Schauer
Herseth Sandlin	McKeon	Schiff
Higgins	McMahon	Schmidt
Hill	McMorris	Schock
Himes	Rodgers	Schrader
Hinchee	McNerney	Schwartz
Hinojosa	Meek (FL)	Scott (GA)
Hirono	Meeks (NY)	Scott (VA)
Hodes	Melancon	Sensenbrenner
Hoekstra	Mica	Serrano
Holden	Michaud	Sessions
Holt	Miller (FL)	Sestak
Hoyer	Miller (MD)	Shadegg
Hunter	Miller (NC)	Shea-Porter
Inglis	Miller, Gary	Sherman
Inslaw	Miller, George	Shimkus
Israel	Minnick	Shuler
Issa	Mitchell	Shuster
Jackson (IL)	Mollohan	Simpson
Jackson-Lee	Moore (KS)	Sires
(TX)	Moore (WI)	Skelton
Jenkins	Moran (KS)	Slaughter
Johnson (GA)	Moran (VA)	Smith (NE)
Johnson (IL)	Murphy (CT)	Smith (NJ)
Johnson, E. B.	Murphy (NY)	Smith (TX)
Johnson, Sam	Murphy, Patrick	Smith (WA)
Jones	Murphy, Tim	Snyder
Jordan (OH)	Murtha	Souder
Kagen	Myrick	Space
Kanjorski	Nadler (NY)	Speier
Kaptur	Napolitano	Spratt
Kennedy	Neal (MA)	Stark
Kildee	Neugebauer	Stearns
Kilpatrick (MI)	Nunes	Stupak
Kilroy	Nye	Sullivan
Kind	Oberstar	Sutton
King (IA)	Obey	Tanner
King (NY)	Olson	Ortiz
Kingston	Oliver	Teague
Kirk	Ortiz	Terry
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
Kissell	Pascarell	Thompson (PA)
Klein (FL)	Pastor (AZ)	Thornberry
Kline (MN)	Paul	Tiahrt
Kosmas	Paulsen	Tiberi
Kratovil	Payne	Tierney
Kucinich	Pence	Titus
Lamborn	Perlmutter	Tonko
Lance	Perriello	Towns
Langevin	Peters	Turner
Larsen (WA)	Peterson	Upton
Larson (CT)	Petri	Van Hollen
Latham	Pingree (ME)	Velázquez
LaTourette	Pitts	Visclosky
Latta	Platts	Walden
Lee (CA)	Poe (TX)	Walz
Lee (NY)	Polis (CO)	Wamp
Levin	Pomeroy	Wasserman
Lewis (CA)	Posey	Schultz
Lewis (GA)	Price (GA)	Waters
Linder	Price (NC)	Watson
Lipinski	Putnam	Watt
LoBiondo	Quigley	Weiner
Loebach	Rahall	Welch
Lofgren, Zoe	Rangel	Westmoreland
Lowe	Rehberg	Wexler
Lucas	Reichart	Whitfield
Luetkemeyer	Reyes	Wilson (OH)
Lujan	Richardson	Wilson (SC)
Lummis	Rodriguez	Wittman
Lungren, Daniel E.	Roe (TN)	Wolf
Lynch	Rogers (AL)	Woolsey
Mack	Rogers (KY)	Wu
Maffei	Rogers (MI)	Yarmuth
Maloney	Rohrabacher	Young (AK)
Manzullo	Rooney	Young (FL)
Marchant	Ros-Lehtinen	
Markey (CO)	Roskam	
Markey (MA)	Ross	

NOT VOTING—9

Arcuri	Cassidy	McCarthy (NY)
Buchanan	Granger	Thompson (MS)
Carter	Honda	Tsongas

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain on this vote.

□ 1648

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON H.R. 3288, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Mr. OLIVER, from the Committee on Appropriations (during consideration of H.R. 2920), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-218) on the bill (H.R. 3288) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

HONORING OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR COOPERATION

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 654) honoring the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 654

Whereas the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and subsequent agreements and the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as well as its Parliamentary Assembly and affiliated institutions, encompass what is referred to as the Helsinki Process;

Whereas the 1975 Helsinki Final Act included a specific section on "Questions relating to Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean" in recognition of the interrelation between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean region;

Whereas the long-standing relationship between the participating states of the Organi-

zation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, currently Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia, dates back to the origins of the Helsinki Process and is rooted in the important geographical, historical, cultural, economic, and political links between them and the states of the Mediterranean region;

Whereas the OSCE participating states have declared their intention to promote the development of cooperative relations with the Mediterranean Partners and to encourage the development of mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields of economic activity and have sought to increase mutual confidence so as to promote security and stability in the Mediterranean region as a whole;

Whereas, since its establishment by the 1990 Charter of Paris, the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE has called for enhanced engagement with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation and their constituent assemblies in the pursuit of improved economic cooperation, and security and stability in the Mediterranean region;

Whereas in the 1992 Helsinki Document, the leaders of the OSCE participating states committed to widening cooperation and increasing dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners as a means to promote social and economic development in order to narrow the prosperity gap between Europe and its Mediterranean neighbors and to protect the Mediterranean ecosystems;

Whereas in the 1999 Istanbul Document, the OSCE participating states encouraged the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to draw on the expertise of the participating states in setting up structures and mechanisms in the Mediterranean region for early warning, preventive diplomacy, and conflict prevention;

Whereas the 2003 Maastricht Ministerial recognized that threats originating or evolving in adjacent regions are of increasing importance, and therefore the OSCE will intensify its cooperation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Cooperation, and also encouraged the Partners for Cooperation to embrace the principles and commitments of the OSCE;

Whereas the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation participate as observers in the annual meetings of the OSCE Ministerial Council as well as the regular meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council and Forum for Security Cooperation;

Whereas, the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation actively participate in the work of the Contact Group within the Permanent Council, as well as OSCE yearly events, including the Annual Security Review Conference, the Economic Forum, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, and the Annual, Fall and Winter Sessions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;

Whereas since 1995, the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation have organized annual Mediterranean Conferences to provide the opportunity for the OSCE participating states and the Mediterranean Partners to exchange views on matters of mutual interest and to strengthen their cooperative relationship;

Whereas in 2001, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the first Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, Mr. Michel Voisin of France, in order to enhance engagement of members of parliament from the 56 participating states of the OSCE with members of parliament from the Mediterranean Partner states;

Whereas since 2001, successive OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representatives on Mediterranean Affairs have been appointed by former Assembly Presidents, Mr.

Bruce George of the United Kingdom, and Mr. Goran Lennmarker of Sweden, as well as by current President, Mr. Joao Soares of Portugal, reaffirming the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's commitment to the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation;

Whereas, under the leadership of then-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Bruce George of the United Kingdom, the Parliamentary Assembly convened its first conference dedicated to ensuring peace, democracy, and prosperity in the region of the Mediterranean in Madrid in 2002; and

Whereas the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has convened Mediterranean Seminars at its fall meetings since 2003, with the active participation of members of parliament representing the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of Israel, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Tunisian Republic for their participation in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation;

(2) welcomes the representatives of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to Washington, DC, on the occasion of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe Seminar on OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement, July 22–23, 2009;

(3) encourages the OSCE to re-evaluate its past practices and ongoing activities in the Mediterranean dimension in order to further empower the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation in the work of the OSCE, and to support the Partners' leadership on matters which impact their citizens, their governments, and the region; and

(4) encourages the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to continue to work with the OSCE participating states to enhance trade, economic development, security, and stability in the Mediterranean region, and to embrace existing OSCE commitments, including those in the Human Dimension.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 654, which honors the Organization For Security and Cooperation in Europe for its cooperation with Mediterranean partners. I wish to thank my good friend from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for introducing this resolution. I would also like to commend him for his excellent leadership for many years in the Helsinki Commission, both

as past President of the Parliamentary Assembly, and as the current Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs. The important relationship between the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners dates back to the founding of the organization in 1975. The Helsinki Final Act rightly recognized the connection between European and Mediterranean security, as well as the deeply rooted geographical, historical, cultural, economic and political ties between the states in this region. In particular, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia have been active partners in this OSCE partnership.

Since the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was established in 1990, it has called for enhanced collaboration between Members of Parliament from the participating states of the OSCE and Mediterranean legislators in order to promote regional stability and economic cooperation. The House of Representatives is pleased to welcome the representatives of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to Washington, D.C. later this week for a seminar on further strengthening ties between OSCE and this region.

In addition to the European Union's Euro-Mediterranean partnership and NATO's Mediterranean dialogue, this OSCE initiative provides another valuable forum in which Israel and its Arab neighbors can discuss issues of common regional concern, both formally and informally. It also gives these Mediterranean and Middle Eastern states an opportunity to learn firsthand about neighboring Europe's ongoing security needs and to benefit, through example, from Europe's hard-won success in establishing viable security structures, looking to the day when a peaceful Middle East will perhaps want to establish its own OSCE-like security architecture.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the OSCE for its efforts to engage more closely with the Mediterranean region and to encourage the Partners for Cooperation to further their efforts to enhance trade, security and economic development. I strongly support this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this resolution, which highlights the efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and its Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation. Twenty years ago the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation recognized that, in an increasingly globalized world, the security challenges confronting them in their respective regions were increasingly linked. As a result, they agreed to formalize a diplomatic mechanism to facilitate closer cooperation on a range of issues, including the development of a model strategy to address 21st century security threats and improve sta-

bility in the Mediterranean region. The efforts toward this cooperation have already borne fruit, with the Partnership addressing issues such as migration and integration and exchanging information on "best practices" in order to develop strategies which reduce feelings of exclusion and estrangement among immigrant populations which, as we've all seen, can contain the potential to motivate some individuals to embrace extremist ideologies.

I note that representatives of the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners will meet in Washington this week to discuss further expansion of relations and to hold a dialogue on shared concerns. Dialogue on these complex but critical issues is a meaningful way to enhance the stability and economic growth of both the OSCE member-states and the countries of the Mediterranean region. I support the resolution which underlines the worthy endeavors being undertaken by the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me thank the distinguished gentleman from Florida. There are two distinguished gentlemen from Florida, the manager of this particular legislation, H. Res. 654, and my dear friend who has been leading the Organization for Security and Cooperation for a number of years.

I rise to support this resolution in honor of the efforts by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation because I believe, as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the efforts of collaboration that we have addressing the questions of peace and security are crucial.

I'd like to acknowledge some of the aspects of the OSCE's work. The 1999 Istanbul document, the OSCE participating states encourage the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to draw on the expertise of the participating states in setting up structures and mechanisms in the Mediterranean region. As well, you can also believe or manage to see that the OSCE provides the kind of bridge of cooperation that is very, very important. We welcome the representatives of OSCE that are here. I want to thank Mr. HASTINGS for his great leadership in this effort.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution today which honors the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. And I do want to express deepest respect and gratitude to ALCEE HASTINGS for his groundbreaking work with each of those six partners. Mr. HASTINGS is the

former President of the Parliamentary Assembly, and now serves as Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, and is trying to bring the Helsinki process, the three baskets of the Helsinki Final Act, which emphasize economic issues, human rights issues and security issues and, really, to bring that good, positive process that has worked wonders over the years in election reform. Mr. HASTINGS has observed—how many is it now, ALCEE?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Eleven.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Eleven different elections overseas, usually as the head of the delegation. And we're trying to inculcate those kind of values and to say to our partners, learn from the Helsinki process. It works. It has yielded tremendous results and progress in the area of human rights. And so I want to, again, thank him for his work and again for this resolution.

I'd also like to welcome the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Joao Soares, as well as Goran Lenmarker, who is the immediate past President of the Parliamentary Assembly; Jerry Grafstein, our good friend from Canada, who's also here, who has done yeoman's work again.

Everybody knows about NATO, Mr. Speaker. They don't necessarily, at least in the United States, know about the good work that the OSCE has done all these years. The Parliamentary Assembly was formed in the early 1990s to be, really, the voice of Members of Parliament and Congresses around the 56 countries that make up the OSCE. And we have really become friends. I was Chairman of the Helsinki Commission for 12 years. I've been on it since my second term in 1983, and now serve as ranking member. And Mr. HASTINGS and BEN CARDIN are serving as co-chairs. This is a remarkable organization that, again, far too few people know the contributions that it makes, particularly in the area of human rights.

So again, I want to thank Mr. HASTINGS and wish him great success with the conference that's underway, but especially for the hard work and very under-appreciated work in reaching out to those partners in the Mediterranean to say, learn from the OSCE and maybe even provides some insights also as to how we can improve our work as well.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Mr. SMITH from New Jersey may manage the rest of this resolution and the remainder of the Foreign Affairs resolutions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. POE of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the sponsor of the bill, the gentleman and my good friend from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank my good friend and geographic soul

mate. Our districts abut each other in South Florida. And I am especially grateful to my good friend from New Jersey for his kind remarks regarding not only the OSCE, but his compliment to me and the work that I've done that could not have been done but for the extraordinary work that he and others that are Members of the CSCE referred to as the Helsinki Commission here in Washington undertake. CHRIS has been the Special Representative on a subject of vital concern to the world, and that is human trafficking. And he has no peer, not only in this institution, but in the 56 participating states he is fully recognized in that regard.

□ 1700

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation.

My good friend, Majority Leader STENY HOYER, and I introduced H. Res. 654 with 16 other colleagues to recognize the contributions of a unique partnership of the OSCE which engages Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia in supporting security and stability in the Mediterranean region.

I would truly like to thank my friends of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, especially Chairman HOWARD BERMAN and Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and Subcommittee Chairs GARY ACKERMAN, ROBERT WEXLER, DONALD PAYNE, BILL DELAHUNT, and ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, as well as Ranking Members CHRIS SMITH and DANA ROHRBACHER, who all supported this resolution and demonstrated the pivotal geopolitical importance of positive partnerships with North Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, it is also my pleasure to welcome representatives of these states to Washington, D.C., for the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe Seminar on OSCE Mediterranean Partners. As I speak, a reception is ongoing, being hosted by the Speaker of the House for these members who are here for this seminar, and I thank our Speaker as well.

High-level delegations from all of the Mediterranean partner countries are participating in this seminar, along with the president of the OSCE parliamentary assembly, representatives of the Greek chairmanship of the OSCE in office, and other OSCE participating states, including Kazakhstan has representatives here. They're the next chair in office.

Mr. Speaker, for the past several years, I have served as parliamentary assembly special representative for Mediterranean affairs, and it's through this work that I have sought, along with others, to enhance the long-standing relationship between the OSCE participating states and the Mediterranean partners.

In the interest of time, I would put my full statement in as a part of the RECORD, but I would point out since 1975 much has been accomplished. However, much more needs to be done.

The commission seminar seeks to support these efforts and reprioritize the potential of this essential partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends again for their support and urge my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 654 to truly sustain vital diplomatic instruments and partnerships which bring greater stability and prosperity to our world.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation.

My good friend Majority Leader STENY HOYER and I introduced H. Res. 654 with 16 other colleagues to recognize the contributions of a unique partnership of the OSCE which engages Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, in supporting security and stability in the Mediterranean Region.

I would truly like to thank my friends of the Committee on Foreign Affairs especially Chairman HOWARD BERMAN, Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Subcommittee Chairs GARY ACKERMAN, ROBERT WEXLER, DONALD PAYNE, BILL DELAHUNT, ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, as well as Ranking Members CHRIS SMITH and DANA ROHRBACHER who all supported this resolution and demonstrated the pivotal geopolitical importance of positive partnerships with North Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, it is also my pleasure to welcome representatives of these States to Washington, DC for the "Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe Seminar on OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement," which will take place tomorrow and Thursday, here in the Capitol.

High-level delegations from all of the Mediterranean Partner countries will participate in the seminar, along with the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, representatives of the Greek Chairmanship of the OSCE and other OSCE participating States. I invite all of my colleagues to attend and actively participate in the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, for the past several years, I have served as OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative for Mediterranean Affairs and it is through this work that I have sought to enhance the long-standing relationship between the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation.

This relationship dates back to the origins of the Helsinki Process with the signing of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, now the OSCE. The Final Act recognized this unique and important relationship in a specific section on "Questions relating to Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean."

In the succeeding decades the OSCE Participating States and their Mediterranean Partners have worked to increase mutual confidence and develop economic and environmental cooperation in order to promote security and stability throughout Europe and the Mediterranean basin. It is through this unique forum that Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia continue to develop their capacity for leadership in the region, all the while exchanging expertise with the OSCE participating States.

Since 1975 much has been accomplished, however, much more needs to be done. The

Commission's seminar seeks to support these efforts and reprioritize the potential of this essential partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends again for their support and urge my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 654 to truly sustain vital diplomatic instruments and partnerships, which bring greater stability and prosperity to our world.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 654.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENCOURAGING SELECTION OF CHICAGO AS THE 2016 OLYMPIC HOST CITY

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 538) supporting Olympic Day on June 23, 2009, and encouraging the International Olympic Committee to select Chicago, Illinois, as the host city for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 538

Whereas Olympic Day, June 23, 2009, celebrated the Olympic ideal of developing peace through sport;

Whereas June 23 marks the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement, the date on which the Congress of Paris approved the proposal of Pierre de Coubertin to found the modern Olympics;

Whereas for more than 100 years, the Olympic movement has built a more peaceful and better world by educating young people through amateur athletics, by bringing together athletes from many countries in friendly competition, and by forging new relationships bound by friendship, solidarity, and fair play;

Whereas the United States and Chicago, Illinois, advocate the ideals of the Olympic movement;

Whereas hundreds of local governments from across the United States are joining together to show their support for bringing the Olympic Games to Chicago, Illinois, in 2016;

Whereas Olympic Day will encourage the development of Olympic and Paralympic Sport in the United States;

Whereas Olympic Day encourages the participation of youth of the United States in Olympic and Paralympic sport;

Whereas Olympic Day will encourage the teaching of Olympic history, health, arts, and culture among the youth of the United States;

Whereas Olympic Day will encourage the youth of the United States to support the Olympic movement and the selection of Chicago, Illinois, as the host city for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and

Whereas enthusiasm for Olympic and Paralympic sport is at an all-time high: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports Olympic Day and the goals that Olympic Day pursues; and

(2) encourages the International Olympic Committee to select Chicago, Illinois, as the host city for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for introducing this resolution supporting Olympic Day and encouraging the International Olympic Committee to select Chicago as the host city for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic games.

H. Res. 538 provides an opportunity for the House to celebrate the Olympic ideal of peace through sport and to recognize Olympic Day, the founding anniversary of the modern Olympic games. For over a century, the modern Olympic games have brought together athletes from all around the world and in the process has helped forge countless relationships found by friendship, solidarity and fair play.

Olympic Day promotes the Olympic ideal by encouraging the teaching of Olympic history, health, arts, culture to students across the country. It also encourages a new generation of American athletes to take part in Olympic and Paralympic sports.

As we support the ideals of Olympic Day, it is only fitting that we also urge the International Olympic Committee to support the City of Chicago's bid to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic games. Last year, the IOC named Chicago one of the finalist cities to host the games, and the winning city will be selected this October.

Hosting the 2016 games would bring significant benefits to Chicago, one of our Nation's truly world-class cities, and would provide an excellent opportunity for American athletes to compete in the summer Olympic and Paralympic games in front of a home crowd for the first time since 1996.

I congratulate the gentlelady from Illinois for her tireless efforts, along with the other members of the delega-

tion, to promote their city's bid to host the 2016 summer games and to urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 538, supporting Olympic Day and encouraging the International Olympic Committee to select Chicago, Illinois, as the host city for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic games, and I congratulate my good friend and colleague Ms. SCHAKOWSKY for sponsoring this, bringing it to the floor today. I think it sends a very clear message of the solidarity that we have that this be the venue for the 2016 Olympic games.

Last month, the world observed the 61st annual Olympic Day, a celebration commemorating the creation of the International Olympic Committee. Olympic Day was first observed in 1948, 54 years after the founding of the International Olympic Committee. As the only annual, worldwide event of the Olympic movement, Olympic Day is a fitting tribute to the ideals of the Olympic charter.

These are: "to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles," and "to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of man," and I would add woman, "with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity."

The theme of this year's Olympic Day is "Move, Learn and Discover," and it was celebrated last month with the 22nd annual Olympic Day run sponsored in various locations around the world by over 150 national Olympic committees.

This resolution also encourages the selection of Chicago, Illinois, as the host city for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic games.

Selected in April of 2007 as the United States bid city for the summer Olympics in 2016, Chicago is a thriving example of our Nation's heartland, its urban vitality, and its remarkable diversity.

The contributions of international sport to personal fitness and international understanding deserve our recognition, and I thank again my distinguished colleague from Illinois for introducing this resolution which deserves our unanimous support.

I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), one of the sponsors of the bill and a great fan of Chicago and who is ready to go.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 538, a bipartisan resolution I introduced to express the support of the House of Representatives for the City of Chicago's bid to host the summer Olympics in 2016.



DELEGATION REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

All the following documents were prepared by seminar participants for inclusion in the proceedings and are presented as-is; any ideas, recommendations or positions are their own and are not necessarily that of the US Helsinki Commission.



Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON THE OSCE PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, welcome the increased engagement by the Partners for Co-operation in the OSCE, noting that, over the years, a solid foundation has been laid for a strengthened partnership. We should build further on the Helsinki Final Act 1975, Helsinki Document 1992, the Budapest Document 1994, the Charter for European Security 1999, the 2003 OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04 on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation, and other relevant documents and decisions, which underlined the importance of dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation, exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with them.
2. We remain concerned about threats to security and stability within and around the OSCE area. We reiterate the interdependence between the security of the OSCE area and that of the Partners for Co-operation, and we encourage further efforts to strengthen the relationship between the Partners for Co-operation and the participating States in order to increase our ability to respond to new and traditional threats to security.
3. We support the efforts of the Partners for Co-operation to promote the OSCE's norms, principles and commitments in their regions, and encourage them to take further steps towards their voluntary implementation. We call on the Partners for Co-operation to report on their implementation in appropriate OSCE meetings. We advocate the development of the annual Mediterranean Seminars and Conferences with the Asian Partners for Co-operation into effective channels of communication between countries in different regions. We encourage the Partners to continue engaging on issues of common relevance to the OSCE and their regions. We also advocate increased sharing of the OSCE's experience in preventive diplomacy and confidence-building measures as well as further interaction with relevant regional organizations.
4. We encourage the OSCE Chairmanship to make full use of the possibility to invite Partners for Co-operation to attend meetings of the decision-making bodies, as well as of relevant informal subsidiary bodies on a case-by-case basis, and to make oral and/or written contributions, in accordance with the OSCE Rules of Procedure. In this respect, we commend the efforts undertaken by the Chairmanships of the Permanent Council and of the Forum for Security Co-operation to facilitate regular attendance by the Partners for Co-operation in the meetings of the two bodies.

MC15EW13

5. We will, through the respective Contact Groups, keep the Partners for Co-operation regularly informed on discussions on relevant Ministerial Council decisions. We invite the Chairpersons of the Contact Groups to inform the Permanent Council about topical matters and to submit yearly reports to the Ministerial Council. In the spirit of paragraph 49 of the Charter for European Security, we also encourage the Permanent Council to examine the recommendations emerging from the Contact Groups and the Mediterranean Seminars and the OSCE Conferences with the Asian Partners for Co-operation.
6. We proceed from the understanding that further OSCE engagement with the Partners for Co-operation will be carried out within available resources and avoid duplication of efforts by other international organizations.
7. We take note with appreciation of the outcome of the 2007 OSCE-Mongolia Conference on Strengthening the Co-operative Security between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation. We call for examination of the wider applicability of the recommendations and suggestions stemming from this Conference. We look forward to the next OSCE conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation.
8. We equally look forward to the 2007 Mediterranean Seminar on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, to take place in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 18 and 19 December 2007.
9. We welcome the initiative taken by the Chairmanships of the Contact Groups in organizing the first Joint Meeting of the Contact Groups to assess the state of co-operation between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation.
10. We encourage the Partners for Co-operation to increase their interaction with the participating States and the OSCE executive structures in all three dimensions. In this context, the exchange of information on best practices and lessons learned could be further enhanced, in particular, by creating opportunities to involve experts from the Partners for Co-operation in OSCE activities. We stand ready to examine requests from the Partners for Co-operation for assistance in areas where the OSCE has particular expertise.
11. We welcome the decision by the Permanent Council on the establishment of a Partnership Fund, which will facilitate further promotion of the engagement of the Partners for Co-operation. We encourage the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to contribute to it.
12. Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 233 of 11 June 1998, we invite the Partners for Co-operation to send observers to participate in election observation missions, and call on the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to make arrangements to include them in election monitoring organized by the OSCE.
13. We welcome the initiative by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to hold an annual Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean, and encourage it to consider holding Asian Forums as well. We also encourage the Partners for Co-operation to participate in these events.

14. We encourage the OSCE Chairmanship and the chairpersons of the Contact Groups, together with the Secretary General, to continue supporting the dialogue with the Partners for Co-operation and to facilitate their contacts with OSCE executive structures in order to address common threats to security and stability and to promote the voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments.

15. Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 430 of 19 July 2001, we remain open to considering future applications for partnership from interested countries.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.DEC/812
30 November 2007

Original: ENGLISH

690th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 690, Agenda item 1

DECISION No. 812 ESTABLISHMENT OF A PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Permanent Council,

Recognizing the increasing importance of the well-established co-operation between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 571/Corr.1, on further dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others,

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04, of 7 December 2004, on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation, underlining the importance of the report PC.DEL/366/04/Rev.4,

Wishing to promote the engagement of the Partners for Co-operation,

Decides to:

1. Establish a specific fund exclusively financed through extrabudgetary contributions, hereinafter referred to as the Partnership Fund, to foster deeper relations with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation and aimed at financing:
 - After consultation with the Partners for Co-operation, participation by representatives from the Partners for Co-operation in such activities related to existing OSCE programmes as OSCE conferences, seminars, workshops and other meetings, or OSCE-related conferences, seminars, workshops and other meetings held by the Chairmanship, the FSC Chairmanship or an executive structure, as well as internships, visits, briefings and training courses, organized in accordance with the OSCE rules of procedure (MC.DOC/1/06);
 - Such activities related to existing OSCE programmes as OSCE conferences, seminars, workshops and other meetings or OSCE-related conferences, seminars, workshops and other meetings held by the Chairmanship, the FSC Chairmanship or an executive structure in the territory of a participating State that are designed to encourage the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement OSCE norms, principles,

PCOEW2155

commitments and best practices, as well as internships, visits, briefings and training courses, organized in accordance with the OSCE rules of procedure (MC.DOC/1/06);

- Contribution toward the costs of the OSCE Mediterranean seminar and the OSCE conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation;
2. Further decides that this Fund shall be set up and managed in accordance with the OSCE's Financial Regulations and its Common Regulatory Management System (CRMS). In accordance with the principles of fund accounting applied by the OSCE, this Fund will be a multi-year fund, with balances carried forward from one year to the next, subject to agreement by the donor(s) and duration of the activity;
3. Requests the Secretary General:
- As Fund Manager, to administer the Fund in accordance with the Financial Regulations;
 - To report to the Permanent Council on the operation of this Fund once a year or at the request of the Permanent Council;
 - To establish the operational modalities of the Partnership Fund, and to inform the participating States and the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation of these modalities by means of a circular note;
4. The Partnership Fund will not be used to finance the organization of OSCE-related conferences, seminars, workshops, other meetings and activities outside of the OSCE region without an appropriate decision by an OSCE decision-making body;
5. Encourages the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to contribute to the Partnership Fund.

PC.DEL/427/09
8 June 2009
OSCE+
ENGLISH only



**ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ
ЕҚЫҰ ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ**

**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE**

1010 Vienna, Wipplinger Strasse 32, tel. 241 41 47, fax 241 41 83
e-mail: osce@kazakhstan.at

Date: 8 June May 2009
To: Delegations of OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation
Subject: Report of the Contact Group meeting with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, Vienna, 24 April 2009

Item 1: Discussion on current issues (PC.GAL/51/09)

The Greek Chairwoman of the Permanent Council introduced Professor Sotiris Roussos, Personal Representative of the CiO for the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, inviting him to share some thoughts on the implementation of his mandate.

Prof. Roussos stated his readiness to work together with the MPCs to make the partnership more effective and developing full potential. He mentioned the strategic importance of the Mediterranean region for the European security. Prof. Roussos described his approach as shaped by three principles: flexibility, visibility and tangible results. Flexibility would aim at increasing effectiveness in overcoming existing differences. In this context, he referred to the papers presented by Egypt and Morocco supporting the proposal of dedicating the Mediterranean Conference to a single issue examined across the three dimensions of security, mentioning as possible themes integrated water management as regional CSBM, migration or women empowerment. He also commented that naming Conference the Mediterranean annual event constituted an upgrading of the partnership and that reviewing the format of participation of civil society could also be considered. Then he turned to the importance of enhancing the visibility of the OSCE partnership in the Mediterranean societies, by involving young leaders and civil society as well as by organizing events on the territory of the Mediterranean Partners. He concluded by calling for concrete results to be pursued by financing with the Partnership Fund projects designed to follow up to recommendations on cross dimensional issues emerging from the annual Conferences and from proposals by the civil society in the participating and Partner States.

The Kazakh Chair congratulated Mr. Roussos on assuming the duties of Personal Representative of the CiO for the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation as well as thanked the Greek Chairmanship for taking such an important and timely decision. Kazakh Chair stated its readiness to co-operate in full with the Personal Representative.

In the reactions from the floor, several pS and MPCs welcomed and expressed full support to the Personal Representative. One MPC expressed hopes that the Personal Representative would submit a report on the status of the Partnership and recommendations to the PC by the end of the year.

proposal of ensuring follow-up to the conclusions of the Mediterranean Conferences. He reminded the role of the OSCE in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination and agreed on assuring follow up to the 2007 Cordoba conference on “Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims” held under the aegis of the Spanish Chairmanship. He reminded that Kazakhstan would organize a seminar on tolerance and non-discrimination which would take place in Astana, on 30 June, on the eve of the Third Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. The Ambassador pointed also to the importance of the co-operation in combating terrorism and recalled the suggestions made by Mr. R. Perl, Head of the Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU), at the second MCG on 27 March. He expressed interest for the Moroccan proposals of establishing a water resource information, analysis and management centre and invited Morocco to formulate specific proposals. He concluded by stating the agreement by the Kazakh Chairmanship of the Contact Group to present reports on the OSCE cooperation with the Mediterranean partners to evaluate the status of co-operation and propose improvements.

The Ambassador of one pS stated that the Moroccan proposals were received with great interest in his capital and expressed support for several points: the establishment of a Mediterranean Research Network on security issues; the translation of OSCE relevant publications and manuals of best practices in Arabic; the accent on tolerance and non-discrimination; co-operation on anti-terrorism and on environmental and economic issues as well as the presentation of periodic reports to the PC. The proposal on migration issues deserved deeper examination.

The Ambassador of one MPC stated that his capital fully supported the Moroccan approach, in particular the ideas of promoting translation into Arabic of OSCE tools and the establishment of a water resource information, analysis and management centre.

The Ambassador of another pS welcomed the idea of more concrete work, but strongly emphasized the value of the political dialogue. He identified areas of specific interest for his country in: participation of NGOs, tolerance and non-discrimination, anti-terrorism co-operation, water management and land degradation, the establishment of Mediterranean Research Institutes and universities network on soft and hard security issues, the translation of OSCE relevant publications and manuals of best practices in Arabic, referring to his country’s sponsorship of the Arabic version of the OSCE best practices manual on SALW. Regarding the structural and procedural aspects, he noted that further discussion would be required and that the OSCE should not overburden other forums at the expenses of the MCG, underlining the need to raise the output of the MCG.

The Ambassador of a third pS expressed interest in hearing the views of the PR on the Moroccan proposals.

The Ambassador of a fourth pS expressed the readiness of his country to contribute to the implementation, especially to the proposals related to environment, tolerance and the establishment of an information analysis and management centre on water resources.

The Ambassador of a fifth pS appreciated the Moroccan Paper, noted a broad coincidence of views and expressed readiness to participate in consultations on concrete proposals, without prejudice to the political dialogue in the MGC.

The Ambassador another MPC said that the paper deserved to be studied and supported in particular the Moroccan proposals regarding tolerance and non-discrimination, the strengthening of the three PRs on tolerance and ensuring practical follow-up to the annual conferences. He noted that Partners should further discuss such proposals, and not focus

exclusively on determining the venue of the Conference. He also supported the expansion of the Partnership assessing that it would strengthen it and enhance co-operation.

The representative of a sixth pS assessed the Paper as a good basis for enhancing the Mediterranean partnership. In this respect, he suggested making more intense use of the Partnership Fund by proposing project ideas. He stated his country's particular interest on projects related to tolerance and non-discrimination and migration issues, focusing on integration. He shared the proposals of involving Mediterranean Partners in the negotiation of relevant decisions and of changing the arrangements for the Ministerial Troika meetings.

The Ambassador of a third MPC expressed his appreciation for the Moroccan proposals. He also welcomed the proposal done in 2008 by Greece to host a ministerial meeting between the Quintet and Mediterranean Partners and the appointment of the Personal Representative as positive contributions to strengthening the Partnership. He further stressed that the partnership was a two-ways street, to which both OSCE and MPCs contributed. As examples of fields where MPCs had significant experience to share, he mentioned migration and combating trafficking in human beings. He supported the proposals of establishing of a centre on water resources; activities in the field of tolerance and the establishment of a Mediterranean Research Institutes and universities network on security issues. He regretted that deciding the venue of the annual Conference diverted attention from substantial discussions and called for agreeing on a rotation system of hosting the annual event.

The representative of a seventh pS joined others in thanking Morocco for its useful contribution.

The representative of another pS appreciated the ambitious and constructive Moroccan proposals. In this respect, the Partnership Fund provided an excellent framework for action. She cited the organization of the Seminar on Media Self Regulation as an example. She expressed her country's support for the translation of OSCE relevant publications and manuals of best practices in Arabic and for the creation of a Mediterranean academic network.

The Ambassador of Morocco thanked the delegations for the support and looked forward further discussion in the MCG and starting working together on implementation, guided by the Kazak Chairmanship. Noting that some issues were simple, while other would require more time, he proposed taking a step-by-step approach. In particular, he suggested that a task force could start working on the proposals and its progress report to be kept as constant item on the agenda of the MCG.

The Kazak Chairmanship assured adequate follow-up, encouraged the MPC to continue considering the proposals discussed and asked the Secretariat to take note.

The Kazakh Chair Ambassador K. Abdrakhmanov thanked H.E. Ambassador Omar Zniber for his and his team's tireless efforts in preparing the valuable paper **"The future of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership - the Moroccan vision"**. He said that the Moroccan document deserved thorough study, for it, while underlining the Contact Group's achievements, raised several issues that are aimed at putting more substance and content into the Contact Group's work. In a nutshell and if to use with usual OSCE expression - the paper is quite thought provoking. The Kazakh Chair expressed understanding of Ambassador Zniber's concerns as regards the implementation mechanisms and concrete measures in order to strengthen the interaction between the OSCE and Mediterranean Partners. The Kazakh Chair shared the assessment that OSCE plays an important role in

promoting tolerance and non-discrimination and requested the OSCE Secretariat to take note of the Moroccan proposal “to assure the follow up of Cordoba conference **“Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims” under the aegis of the OSCE**”. In line with the Moroccan proposal to widen cooperation in combating the terrorism, the Kazakh Chair drew attention of the partner countries to the suggestions that were made by Mr. R. Perl, Head of the Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) made at the second meeting of the Contact Group on the 27th March. The Kazakh Chair also took note of the suggestion of the Moroccan delegation to draw attention to deepening interaction in economic and environmental issues as well as in the field of migration. The Kazakh Chair agreed with the proposal “to present reports by the Contact Group Chair on the OSCE cooperation with the Mediterranean partners to evaluate the state of our co-operation and seek for better ways of future co-operation”.

Item 2: Exchange of ideas with Ms. Eva Biaudet, OSCE Special Representative on Trafficking in Human Beings.

The Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings thanked the Kazakh Chairmanship for the opportunity of addressing MCG. She stressed that combating human trafficking had become more difficult in recent years as almost all OSCE participating and partner States represented a mixture of countries of origin, transit and destination, while at the same time internal trafficking, not yet covered by adequate national and international instruments, was on the rise. She referred to the linkages between human trafficking and legal and irregular migration stressing that the current economic crisis provoked xenophobia and general negative attitudes towards migrants, potentially affecting negatively also victims of trafficking. Sexual exploitation made up to 80% of all identified cases and added that almost 80% of the victims identified worldwide were women and girls. Over 90% of the victims had been physically assaulted or forced into sexual acts and all forms of sexual abuse. The Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating THB regretted that only a few States such as The Netherlands, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Sweden, and Finland had established a proper reporting function, some even by introducing new legislation. She noted that no Mediterranean Partner State had a proper National Reporting Function and stressed the importance of the work of the Moroccan Migration Observatory, mandated to make recommendations to the authorities on measures to fight trafficking. She pointed to the vulnerability of children and referred to examples of child victims of trafficking being arrested and deported. She noted the great risk of re-trafficking and reprisal from traffickers and gave the example of teenage girls exploited in prostitution. She noted also a problem of gender discrimination in many countries. She mentioned Morocco’s example where two third of the persons suspected of committing trafficking offences were women. The Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating THB expressed her concern at the negative attitude of some OSCE countries towards female and sometimes child victims of sexual exploitation. She pointed to corruption and involvement of officials in human trafficking. She stressed the negative attitude of trafficked victims who had little trust in the authorities. She noted that the victims had to get adequate reflection delay before cooperation with the police. She stressed that the Council of Europe Convention against THB sets the minimum time at 30 days, wherefore it could take 3 or even 6 month before victims could cooperate adequately. She noted that almost all OSCE States had ratified the UN anti-trafficking convention, but in the southern Mediterranean region there was no equal progress. She mentioned the rise of internal THB and that Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt had reports about national children being exploited in prostitution, including sex tourism. She mentioned that in Israel internally trafficked women did not receive the same rights as foreign victims. She stated that internal trafficking was not reflected properly in the legislation of many States, including EU-countries. She noted reports from Jordan, Tunisia,

Egypt and Israel about young girls and women, both foreigners and nationals, being exploited as domestic workers and reports about forced marriages for example from Algeria and Morocco. She stressed the importance of political will to fight human trafficking and the need to reduce demand for both sexual services and cheap labour. Finally she announced the upcoming Technical Seminar on trafficking for labour exploitation focusing on the agricultural sector.

The Ambassador of one MPC thanked the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating THB for her report and informed that his country had established a Committee for creating awareness on THB. He also informed that his country was part to the Convention on Transnational Crime and to the Protocol on combating THB. His country was also taking steps to translate into national legislation international norms and co-operating with UNIFEM in creating a mechanism of regional co-operation to combat THB and eradicate forced labour.

The representative of another MPC rejected the reports of members of the police forces taking part in human trafficking in her country and announced that she would subsequently provide more information.

The Ambassador of a third MPC reflected on the importance of OSCE role in this domain and on the assistance and expertise that OSCE could share with Mediterranean partners. He referred to the recent visit by the Director of the Moroccan Council for Human Rights to the Special Representative and provided some examples of problems his country was dealing with, such as the internal migration to urban areas by young girls for domestic work, girls kidnapping and sex tourism, being dealt with in co-operation with Spain.

The Ambassador of a fourth MPC agreed on the importance of political will and good legislation to address human trafficking. He informed about the work in his country of the National Co-ordination Committee on THB, a consultative body in charge of drafting a national plan and an annual report on the issue. The Committee was also drafting a law against trafficking with a victim centered approach. Also, a special unit on THB existed in the National Council for Women and training programs on victims' protection were planned, as well as a regional meeting for Arab experts in combating THB. He recalled the campaign "end trafficking now" led by his country's first lady and his Country's participation in relevant OSCE events. He concluded inviting the SR to maintain communication with the MPCs for adequately exchanging relevant information.

The Ambassador of a fifth MPC noted that his Country adhered to all relevant international human rights instruments, including the one on transnational crime, that adequate follow-up was given to reports issued by UN bodies and that further information on anti trafficking actions would be provided.

The Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating THB thanked all the delegations for the comments and information provided, stating that it was important to share experiences and best practices as well as to be frank about shortcomings.

Item 3: Presentation of the outcome of the Second Forum Meeting of the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, Istanbul, 2-3 April 2009 (Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE)

The Deputy Head of Mission of Turkey informed that on 2-3 April 2009, over 1,000 participants - including several Heads of Government, over 50 Ministers as well as policy-makers, foundations, media and NGOs, convened in Istanbul to take part in the second Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. He noted that the purpose of the

Forum was to forge new partnerships and generate ideas aimed at building trust and cooperation among diverse communities. The Forum also served as an opportunity to take stock of the initiatives developed by the UN Alliance of Civilizations and to launch several practical projects in collaboration with civil society and corporate partners. The Second Forum, together with its decisions, initiatives and newly presented projects constituted a further important milestone in the process of its institutionalization. He also informed that in addition to the existing five National Plans, nine more countries announced their National Plans to advance the objectives of the Alliance. Furthermore, the Alliance of Civilizations had signed agreements with seven international organizations. He noted the Alliance's initiatives in the fields of youth and media and the potential interest for MPC. In conclusion, he suggested to the Greek Chairmanship of the PC to consider inviting Mr. Sampaio, High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, to report to the PC.

The representative of one pS congratulated Turkey for the high level of participation, content and results of the event and supported the proposal of inviting the High Representative to the PC.

The Secretary General confirmed his positive impression from the Istanbul Forum and that he would soon present his report to the PC on the Forum's outcome.

Item 4: Briefing by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) on the preparations for the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum-Part II (on Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in OSCE region) to take place in Athens on 18-20 May 2009.

The representative of the OCEEA briefed the delegations about the draft agenda of the upcoming Economic and Environmental Forum focusing on "Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region".

Any other Business

The representative of the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media distributed copies of the agenda of the planned seminar on media self regulation.

The Chairman of the MCG noted that no progress had been made in identifying the venue of the annual Mediterranean Conference and that he would like to hear the views of MPC and pS. He added that work on deciding the agenda should be initiated and stated his country's support for TND issues.



EM

The Future of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership THE MOROCCAN VISION

Introduction

The present document has as its main goal to present a concrete and practical proposals aiming to strengthen the OSCE Mediterranean partnership in the benefit of a mutual security.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco would like to present its vision of the future of this partnership, having in mind the progress achieved in the last few years, in particular since the Maastricht Ministerial Council and the adoption on 2 December 2003 of the Permanent Council Decision 571 (Further dialogue and cooperation with the Partners for cooperation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others), and also the recommendations of Mediterranean seminars and Conference held since then.

I) The Realizations

First of all this Mission would like to reiterate its strong attachment to the Mediterranean Partnership and notes with satisfaction the progress achieved.

Over the years, the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation shared their views and experiences with the OSCE participating states on a number of topics with the goal to better define fields of cooperation. Accordingly, there was a common perception to work on human dimension commitments such as the fight against all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and intolerance, on the Security issues, concerning inter-alia fight against terrorism and human trafficking, and last but not least on the economic and environmental challenges, Migration and Development, desertification and water scarcity.

After many and deep debate on this important questions, and in line with the concrete proposals of the Mediterranean countries listed in document PC.DEL/379/05 of 13 May 2005, developed since then, and in accordance with several suggestions made by our Permanent Mission, Morocco stressed, in many occasion, on the need to reorient the Partnership towards **concrete actions to give relevant essence to our cooperation, whereas it remains until now, a forum for discussion.**

The Moroccan Delegation takes this opportunity to underline in particular the involvement of Spain during its Chairmanship in the implementation of several proposals aiming at strengthening the cooperation with the partners, not only at the level of protocol

or symbolism, but also at the level of practical matters, **like the invitation of the partners to express their suggestions relating to the format and content of the Madrid Ministerial Council «Document the Road to Madrid.»** (cio.gal/66/07 dated 30 April 2007).

The Moroccan Permanent Mission appreciate the involvement of the partners in the drafting of the “Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Cooperation” (MC.DOC/1/07 of 30 November 2007), in which further efforts to strengthen our relationship to the participating States was encouraged.

Recalling the PC decisions PC.DEC/812 on the establishment of the Partnership fund, the delegation of Morocco considers this achievement **as one of the most important realization**, as a financial means for providing further assistance to Partner States for greater benefits from the OSCE experience and expertise.

This Mission value the contribution of Greece, Kazakhstan and all the formers OSCE Chairmanship to enhance the cooperation with the Mediterranean partners, inter-alia, Spain, Finland, Belgium, Slovenia, Bulgaria .

In this respect, it is important to highlight the significant improvement of the status of the partners, who are now invited to the PC, FSC, to several OSCE seminars and conferences, and last but not least the invitation of the parliamentary representatives from the Mediterranean Partners to the winter, fall and annual meeting carried out by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. In this regard, Morocco is represented by an important parliamentary delegation to these activities, and also to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Mediterranean Forum.

The Moroccan Delegation notes with satisfaction the active participation of the Mediterranean NGOs in the Mediterranean Annual seminars and Conferences and call for strengthening civil society involvement in the OSCE Mediterranean partnership.

II) What we need to do now is to undertake tangible cooperation on concrete projects.

This Mission reiterates the necessity of establishing mechanisms for the implementation of the Mediterranean Seminars recommendations and decisions, and also for the follow up of “Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for cooperation”.

It recalls also its proposal concerning:

The establishment of Mediterranean Research Institutes and universities network involving in soft and hard security issues.

The translation of OSCE relevant publications and manuals of best practises in Arabic, and their distribution to Mediterranean institutions, research centres and universities involved in security matters.

The Moroccan Delegation would appreciate that progress be achieved particularly in the following fields:

A-Tolerance and Non Discrimination

This Mission would like to underline the important role of the OSCE in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, in particular the work of the BIDDH and the three Personal Representatives on these issues.

The Moroccan Delegation notes however a great hesitation concerning the discrimination against Muslims, while the statistics showed a growing and worrying phenomenon of discrimination against Muslims in the geographical space of the Organization. **It is worth to recall in this regard that given the lack of consensus, Spain had no choice than to organise the Cordoba Conference under its chairmanship and not under the aegis of the OSCE.**

In this respect, the Moroccan Permanent Mission expresses its appreciation of the organisation by the BIDDH of a series of round tables relating to the discrimination against respectively Christians, Muslims and Jewish and commends Spain for the organization of the important Conference on «Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims» held in Cordoba from 9 to 10 October 2007. However for the sake of fair and equal treatment and in order to avoid any sort of amalgams, this Mission count on the CIO's wisdom to convince the participating states to assure the follow up of Cordoba conference «Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims» under the aegis of the OSCE, like the one of **Bucharest on «combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding»**, which was an occasion to follow up the implementation of the recommendations of the Conferences of Berlin and Cordoba against the anti-Semitism, **which is also a priority for the Kingdom of Morocco .**

Further more, the Moroccan Delegation proposed at many occasion to set up a **Centre of collecting data on all forms of discrimination, intolerance and discrimination, involved also in establishing an overview of judiciary procedures applied on such issues.**

B- Anti-Terrorism Cooperation

This Mission reiterates the importance of the international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, including the cooperation with OSCE.

It is also worth to recall the speech of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI at the 11th OIC summit held in Dakar 13 March 2008: “It is incumbent upon us all to adopt a comprehensive strategy to fight terrorism; a strategy which must be based on coordination and regional and international cooperation, as well as on respect for the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. Concurrently, there has to an enlightened cultural and information campaign to sensitize public opinion. True Islam has nothing to do with terrorism, of which Muslims are the double victims; not only are they the primary target of terrorism, but they, more than any other community, are accused of perpetrating terrorist acts. It is common knowledge that fundamentalism and extremist ideas are not restricted to a particular faith or community”.

In line with its interactivity and interaction with OSCE, Morocco participates to all the OSCE conferences and workshops relating to the fight against terrorism and to *the Annual Security Reviews*. This Mission would like also to mention in this regard that Morocco hosted an Euro-Mediterranean workshop on “mechanisms for international cooperation in criminal matters in the fight against terrorism: UN conventions, EU mechanisms (Eurojust), regional experiences in North Africa and South-East Europe” organized in Rabat from 5 to 6 May 2007 under the aegis of the Slovenian EU Presidency with the European Commission, UNDCP and the Moroccan authorities.

The OSCE participate to this important event which brought together hundreds of experts from twenty-six countries and eleven international organizations: judges, officials from ministries of justice and interior, diplomats. One of the mechanisms discussed was that of liaison judges, initiated by France in 1993, adopted and codified by the European Union in 1996 and since extended to several non-European countries: these representatives of the judicial institution established in embassies have given a new impetus to mutual assistance in criminal matters.

C- Economic and Environmental Issues

* **Water Management and Desertification:** the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco expresses its support for sharing expertise and best practices within and around the OSCE area. On the Environmental issues in the field of desertification and water resources in relation with security, this Mission **recall the Moroccan proposal for the establishment of a information analyse and monitoring centre on energy and water resources.**

* **Migration:** this Mission welcomes the wise decision of the Chairmanship concerning the topic of the Economic and Environmental Forum 2009 dedicated to the issues of Migration Management "Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region".

The Moroccan Delegation has always militated for the establishment of a **working Group on "Migration" as it was recommended at the Action Plan of Rabat Mediterranean Seminar on 2005 and reiterated at the Mediterranean Seminar of Sharm El Sheikh.** This Mission proposes that the mandate of this working Group to be focused on concrete actions to promote the migrants role as bridge between cultures and civilizations, bearing in mind that they constitute an important actor in the reinforcement of mutual comprehension which is in our view key element of the stability and security.

At the same time, careful attention should be paid to the public discourse and actions taken on migration issues in order to avoid increased social tensions involving migrants or making the migrants carry the heaviest burden of the economic downturn as this in turn can generate security risks(as it was highlighted on the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (namely the first preparatory Conference on 16-17 October 2008 in Prague and the first part of the Forum on 19-20 January 2009 in Vienna, and the second part in Tirana), and during the 2009 Brdo Seminar.

It is, in this respect, crucial to establish an overview, at the experts level, on the challenges and the responsibilities shared on this issue (in accordance **with Ljubljana Ministerial Decision on Migration (MC.DEC/2/05), the recommendations of the Action Plan and Declaration of Rabat Mediterranean Seminar 2005, those elaborated during the Economic Forum of Prague and the Seminar of Sharm El Sheikh,.....**), having in mind the demographic challenges.

In the Framework of its interactivity with OSCE on Migration issues, Morocco hosted on December 2007 the **Launch Seminar on the Mediterranean edition of the OSCE-IOM-ILO "Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies».** The main

objective of the seminar is to enhance dialogue and cooperation among OSCE participating States and countries of the Northern and Southern Mediterranean on recognizing the mutual benefits of legal migration, developing effective labour migration policies in countries of origin, transit and destination, reducing irregular migration and promoting fair treatment and integration of migrants through the exchange of good practices and innovative approaches.

This Mission hopes also that a political impetus can be given under the OSCE Greek Chairmanship in a **comprehensive, concerted and integrated approach of migration management**.

III) Enhancing the Mechanisms of the Mediterranean Partnership

A- Mediterranean Seminars and Conferences

With regard to the Egyptian "Food for Thought Paper on 2008 Mediterranean Conference" (PC.Del/1004/08 dated 17 November 2008) , the Moroccan delegation would like to recall that the Moroccan Permanent Mission sent on 14 July 2008 a letter to H.E Ambassador Mrs MARA MARINAKI, in her quality as chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group, on the proposed draft Agenda of the 2008 OSCE Mediterranean Conference as of 10 July 2008, in which it «reiterate the Moroccan delegation conviction, expressed in the Contact Points Meetings , on the fact that we cannot deal deeply with all the important themes

proposed, such as «The OSCE experience on CSBMs, «co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners in countering terrorism», «Linkages between the environment and security in the Mediterranean», "The OSCE human rights and tolerance commitments and their relevance to the Mediterranean partners" in less than two days, in fact 7 hours of concrete debates and meetings". In addition, the Permanent Mission stresses on the fact that it is possible « to deal with the three dimensions of the OSCE during this conference across dimensional theme in order to avoid dispersion, so that we make sure that the conference will have an added value, and will ensure **continuity to the previous seminars and capitalize on their recommendations, taking care to explore ways to implement them, particularly in the perspective of the meeting of the Quintet with the Foreign Ministers of the Mediterranean Partners.**».

This Mission would like to size this opportunity to propose the adoption of conclusions of the Mediterranean Conferences, and **stresses on the necessity of their follow up, and their implementation.**

B-The Mediterranean Contact Group

The creation of the Mediterranean Contact Group in 1994 was an important illustration of the substantial improvement of the OSCE Mediterranean partnership.

In this regard, the Moroccan delegation believes that it would be necessary to review the working methods of the Contact Group, by further directing them towards action, whereas it remains until now, a forum for discussion : -It is worth to recall that **Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the Partners for cooperation stipulate on paragraph 5** the following :

"In the spirit of paragraph 49 of the charter for European Security, we encourage the PC to examine the recommendations emerging from contact Groups and the Mediterranean Seminars and the OSCE conferences with Asian Partners for cooperation".

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco appreciate highly the organisation of the joint meetings of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups initiated by the Korean delegation and expresses its conviction that the implementation of the concrete proposals and suggestions made at the last joint meeting on "the implementation of the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the Partners" would have a positive impact for enhancing a co-operative endeavour from both Partners and Participating States under the wise leadership of the Finnish and Kazakh Presidency of the Asiatic and the Mediterranean Contact Groups , for the benefit of the security and stability within and around the OSCE area .

In this regard, we propose to set up a «Task Force» composed by the Mediterranean and Asian Partners and the Troika having as prerogative to ensure the effective implementation of the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the Partners.

- We ask the President of the Contact Group to present Reports to the PC on the OSCE cooperation with the Mediterranean partners to evaluate the state of our co-operation and seek for better ways of future co-operation..

-It would be advisable that the Secretary General of the OSCE present also a report to the PC at least twice a year on the evolution of the co-operation with the Mediterranean partners.

C- The Troika Meeting of the OSCE with the Mediterranean Partners

Our delegation attaches great importance to the Troika meeting of the OSCE with the Mediterranean Partners. However, it deplores the fact that this meeting has never been very suitable in insuring an appropriate attendance of ministers. This Mission urge, in this regard the Greek Chairmanship to spare no effort in order to accommodate the date of the meeting and proposes **to fix that date on the last day of the manifestation when the Mediterranean partners' declaration are well programmed.**

It would be also very significant and clear improvement that partners be invited to the meeting of the preparatory committee particularly those which deal with decisions concerning directly or indirectly the partnership.

Conclusion

The present contribution of the Permanent Mission of Morocco is motivated by the fact that despite of the achievements mentioned, and the many important proposals and recommendations of the Mediterranean seminars and conferences, the Mediterranean Partnership stalled due to **lack of mechanisms of implementation** and the lack of strong political willingness to improve this partnership **on the ground.**

This contribution is an expression of the Moroccan delegation willingness to overcome the inertia and the atmosphere of scepticism concerning the inclusiveness of the OSCE partners, illustrated particularly by lack of clear answer to the Palestine's request to

join the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership, having in mind the fundamental process that seems to be launched in the OSCE on the background of the emergence of a new concept of security architecture in Europe.

The Delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco would finally like to highlight the fact that institutions and organisations that are interested in topics related to security and stability such as EU and OTAN realize concrete achievements in the framework of the Mediterranean partnership, and would like to express its conviction that the Greece chairmanship will bring a new impetus for the broadening of comprehensive cooperation between the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. **The appointment of CIO's Mediterranean Personal Representative illustrates this willingness.**

Morocco welcomes also Greece Decision to organize under its presidency a ministerial-level meeting between the quintet (Spain, Finland, Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania) and the Mediterranean Partners of the OSCE, in order to give new impetus to this partnership.

Food for Thought Paper prepared by Egypt on the 2008
Mediterranean Conference

1. The 2008 Mediterranean Conference was held in Amman, Jordan on 27 and 28 October. 35 participating states and all six Mediterranean Partners, as well as 3 Asian partners took part in the conference.
2. Egypt is thankful for Greece's efforts to engage the Mediterranean partnership component of the OSCE.
3. Egypt's participation in this year's conference, as well as our active participation in previous sessions of the Mediterranean seminar, which Egypt has hosted in the past 4 times the last of which was in Sharm El Sheikh in 2006, indicates our commitment to this event.
4. This yearly event marks the highlight in the activities of the OSCE with its Mediterranean Partners. In this view we wish to share these thoughts and reflections on this component of our work.
 - As already noted this year's Mediterranean Conference - saw an extremely high level of participation. And while Egypt appreciates the positive intention of the name changing to conference this year, we have not witnessed any impact this has had on the workings and proceedings of the event. We rather think that going back to the original format of a seminar will allow a more informal atmosphere, thus enabling participating states as well as the partners to engage in an open, and fruitful discussion.
 - While Egypt recognizes the importance of the three dimensions of the work of the OSCE in its comprehensive approach to security, and the importance of their reflection in the yearly event with the Mediterranean partners, Egypt is of the view that there is a need to concentrate on a smaller number of issues and items of discussions on the agenda of the seminar/conference, in order to provide adequate time for a thorough discussion of the issues. There needs to be a general theme of the seminar/conference that should be subdivided into not too many side items.
 - Another issue which we consider of great importance, is the need to provide a more balanced list of speakers between participating states and partners in the event. In this regard

there is a need to limit the number of speakers in each session, in order to allow for a more time for discussions.

- We also believe in the importance of submitting the Report of the Rapporteurs in due time and in more detail to allow the participants the time to suggest any additions or alterations, as well as possible discussion on some of the issues, in order for the consolidated summary to honestly reflect the proceedings of the conference/seminar.
- The Amman conference saw the organization of a side event with Mediterranean NGOs, which was held on the eve of the conference. While Egypt encourages the participation of NGOs in such side events of the OSCE, there is a need to organize the participation of NGOs. Since a number of these NGOs were allowed to participate and intervene in the proceedings of the last session of the conference itself, there needs to be some form of organization for this participation.
- Finally, there is a need to have a methodology for benefiting from those kind of events by the follow up of its recommendations.

Mediterranean Contact Group Meeting

27 March 2009

Exchange of Ideas with the Head of the Action against Terrorism Unit

- Background information -

Developments in some of the ATU's programmes in 2008 - Highlights

1/. In 2008, the ATU's travel document security programme has further consolidated and diversified. Work goes now far beyond the ATU's close, long-standing collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on document upgrade and the integrity of the handling and issuance process. The ATU has organized last year three national intensive train-the-trainer courses on forged documents detection, building on the success of a first such training late 2007. Several participating States have expressed interest in this training and at least three other courses are now planned for this year. Besides, the ATU's co-operation with Interpol on the promotion of its lost and stolen travel documents database has reached a new qualitative level. The ATU has engaged in concretely facilitating, through the provision of IT equipment and document readers, the deployment of the Interpol's technical platforms that enable real-time access to the database at border control. A large-scale project is already under way in Moldova, thanks to generous extra-budgetary contributions by Norway and the Czech Republic. The ATU has also conducted in 2008 need-assessment visits with Interpol in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for the provision of similar assistance, which we expect to launch in the course of this year.

2/. 2008 confirmed the strong support and interest among participating States for the promotion of public-private partnerships in countering terrorism by the OSCE. After a second successful OSCE-wide conference in Vienna on 15-16 September last year, the ATU is now looking at organizing PPP activities on specific topics, and down to the national level. Helsinki Ministerial Council Decision [No.10/08](#) underscores the importance of PPPs in further promoting the OSCE's action in countering terrorism, and notably calls upon PPP activities in such areas as co-operating with civil society and the media in countering terrorism; promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue in countering terrorism; protecting non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks; and combating the financing of terrorism and money laundering. The follow-up 2008 OSCE PPP conference also identified tourism security as another possible topic for a PPP workshop, which might be of interest to both the Mediterranean and Asian Partners. Besides, in 2008 the promotion of PPPs was taken down to the *sub-regional* level for the first time, with a conference for Central Asia organized at the request of the Kyrgyz authorities by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek with the ATU's assistance (4-5 November, Bishkek). This year, *national* PPP events are already planned in two participating States.

1(3)

3/. 2008 also saw the first expert workshop organized within the framework of the OSCE on **violent extremism and radicalization** that lead to terrorism. This is a strategic area for sustainable counter-terrorism efforts, and the OSCE Madrid Ministerial Statement on *Supporting the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy* ([MC.DOC/3/07](#)) affirmed the desire of participating States to see the OSCE continue its activities in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. An expert workshop was thus organized, at the initiative of the United Kingdom, to work towards a shared understanding of the drivers of radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism, and to identify concrete initiatives to address these issues. There was general agreement that these phenomena pose a serious threat to the OSCE area, and participants exchanged ideas and good practices in both a national and international context. Subsequent to the workshop, [MC.DEC/10/08](#) called upon OSCE participating States to make use of the OSCE executive structures in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism in their respective countries. The ATU stands now ready to assist requesting participating States with the organization of follow-up activities in this field in 2009 and beyond.

4/. In 2008, the ATU also tried to clarify the possible value that the OSCE could add to existing international efforts to enhance the **protection of critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks**. The ATU organized, jointly with the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) an informal brainstorming meeting with representatives from other international organizations and the private sector to assess and discuss the threats and challenges in protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack, as well as to explore possible OSCE contributions and opportunities for co-operation between the OSCE and relevant international entities. Drawing on this meeting, the OSCE Secretary General submitted to participating States a report identifying possible OSCE contributions and opportunities for co-operation [SEC.GAL/202/08] in terms of 1) mobilizing political support, 2) promoting co-operation and 3) enhancing national capabilities. The report suggests that the OSCE is particularly well positioned to serve as a platform to support a comprehensive approach to critical energy infrastructure protection, since no other organization seems to be doing so and the OSCE has a comprehensive security mandate as opposed to the more narrow, specialized mandates of other organizations. The ATU is now looking at organizing in 2009 a first OSCE-wide expert workshop with a tabletop simulation on protecting non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure, in accordance with [MC.DEC/10/08](#). Discussions are still ongoing in this respect among delegations on the basis of a food-for-thought paper circulated by the United States of America [PC.DEL/40/09].

5/. In the course of 2008, the ATU also conducted a lot of background work towards a **comprehensive OSCE approach to enhancing cyber security**, addressing “traditional” uses of the Internet by cybercriminals and terrorists as well as new trends relating to cyber-attacks. These efforts came to fruition with the adoption in October 2008 of a decision by the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC.DEC/10/08) for the organization of an *OSCE Workshop on a Comprehensive OSCE Approach to Enhancing Cyber Security*. This workshop was held on 17-18 March with the assistance of the ATU. It followed suit to the first *National Expert Workshop on Combating Terrorist Use of the Internet / Comprehensively Enhancing Cyber-security*, organized by the ATU for Serbia on 25-26 February. This national event was the first of its kind and the ATU hopes to use it as a model for future such events.

2(3)

Suggestions for specific ATU activities with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation through the Partnership Fund

Through the Partnership Fund, under the guidance of the Greek Chairmanship and the Kazakh Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group, the ATU could alternatively organize:

- An Expert Workshop on an Integrated Approach to Supply Chain Security for the Mediterranean Region , as was suggested by Greece last year during its Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group;
- A Sub-Regional Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for the Mediterranean Region, in line with the recommendations and suggestions emanating from the 2008 Mediterranean Conference which emphasized the need to promote PPPs in countering terrorism*;
- An intensive train-the-trainer seminar on forged document detection, in Vienna, for up to three national experts per Mediterranean Partners.

Office of the Secretary General Action against Terrorism Unit

Wallnerstrasse 6
A - 1010 Vienna

Tel: +43 1 514 36 6702
Fax: +43 1 514 36 6687
Mail: atu@osce.org

www.osce.org/atu

* 2008 Mediterranean Conference, Consolidated Summary [[SEC.GAL.233/08](#)], page 23:

*"- promoting closer involvement of civil society in action against terrorism;
- strengthening public-private partnership, with a view to closer interaction of States with civil society and public opinion that could lead to the creation, in a broader context, of some kind of confidence-building measures;"*



REPRESENTACION PERMANENTE
DE ESPAÑA ANTE LA OSCE
VIENA

PC.DEL/677/08
24 July 2008
OSCE+
ENGLISH only

Food-for-thought paper

WHAT THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY COULD DO FOR THE OSCE AND WHAT THE OSCE COULD DO FOR THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY. ADVANTAGES OF A MUTUAL PARTNERSHIP

Last June 24th a Conference in Support of Palestinian Civil Security and the Rule of Law was held in Berlin. Alongside economic development, a particular focus was made to establishing Palestinian state structures. The Berlin Conference tells us of the renewed efforts for peace between Israelis and Palestinians at a grand scale (as a result of the Annapolis Conference) as well as of the need to carry out grass-root projects that improve the live of ordinary people in the zone of conflict.

Following that trend, this paper summarily unfolds one thesis: the OSCE can benefit for having the Palestinians on board now, as the peace process gains momentum, and the Palestinians can benefit from our political support, as well as from the grass-root activities in which the OSCE possesses a widely recognized expertise.

POLITICAL ASPECTS OF A PA-OSCE PARTNERSHIP

1. The PA would be exposed to the OSCE's commitments and values, requiring them, as all other Partners for Cooperation, to implement them in due time. As Spain expressed in its FFT issued May 16th, integrating the PA within the OSCE structures would also require a deepening of the Mediterranean Partnership.
2. The PA and Israel would be side to side in a context that provides regular exchanges of information and best practices. This sort of cooperation would be complementary to other forums like the Barcelona Process/Union for the Mediterranean.
3. The political profile of the OSCE could thus be enhanced as a result of two factors:
 - The OSCE would expand its range of activities to one particularly relevant geopolitical zone. It should not be said that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict lies too far from our shores. OSCE Documents refer once and again to the indivisibility of the Euro Mediterranean Security. And it can hardly be denied that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict poses a threat to Euro Mediterranean Security
 - The activities of the OSCE with Mediterranean partners could gain momentum as well, for its political importance would be much increased. Their interest in the Partnership would be reinforced. The sessions of its Groups will not be barren and politicized, but politicized (on occasions) and therefore vivified.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF A PA-OSCE PARTNERSHIP: THE OSCE'S ABILITY TO DELIVER

The OSCE has a proven expertise, developed over years in myriad fields and countries, which could be easily exported towards the territories administered by the PA and which could be attuned to what other IOs are currently doing in them through the necessary consultation and coordination mechanisms. The OSCE should not aspire at all to become pivotal in the International Community efforts to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but to act as an honest technical worker devoted to tasks and programs affecting ordinary people. In a nutshell, the OSCE could deliver humble yet important results.

The OSCE could assist the PA in the following areas:

First/Third Dimension. Security and governance. There is a natural niche for OSCE activities in fields like law and order, fight against terrorism, or border control and management.

Possible areas of involvement in the security sector would include:

1. Provision of police training in areas to be identified by SPMU.
2. Capacity building for border and customs services.
3. Travel document security and other ATU programmes.

All of these activities, if so decided, could have an element of on-the-ground mentoring attached. The experience of Bosnia in de-commissioning leftover small arms is a case in point here.

4. Voluntary implementation of the Code of Conduct and other CSBMs.

Possible areas of involvement in the governance sector could include:

1. Human rights and gender mainstreaming
2. Local administration restructuring, to provide a service-driven administration, based upon regular popular consultation mechanisms to identify local priorities and to give a sense of ownership by the local population toward its administrators.
3. Education.
4. Assistance in electoral issues.

Second Dimension issues:

1. Promoting Small and Medium Enterprises and economic development at the grass-root level.
2. Fighting against environmental threats.

These few initial thoughts may seem overambitious. They are not, as they simply collect the wide range of options at the OSCE's disposal. It is up to their participating States, together with our Israeli and Palestinian partners, to decide to what extent the OSCE could assist them, choosing these or other agreed activities to be developed by the OSCE through the appropriate means, from seminars to monitoring activities.



PC.DEL/400/08
26 May 2008
OSCE+
ENGLISH only

*Representación Permanente de España ante la Organización para la
Seguridad y la Cooperación en Europa*

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT PAPER ON THE MEDITERRANEAN OSCE
PARTNERSHIP. THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY AS OSCE'S
MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER FOR COOPERATION**

In the last few weeks, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, as the internationally recognized movement which represents the Palestinian people, has renewed its efforts to be granted OSCE-Mediterranean-Partner-for-Cooperation status. This demarche is in line with the political view expressed by H.E. the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Mr. Amr Moussa, as well as various Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation (Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Morocco), during the Permanent Council session held on April 17th. According to their line of thinking, not only should the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) be granted such status, but Syria, Lebanon and Libya should be too. This, in their view, could only result in the overall benefit of those concerned and the whole Organisation.

The present FFT ponders on the possibilities offered by such course of action, and more broadly on how to reinforce the OSCE-Mediterranean partnership, with a special reference to the case of the Palestinian National Authority.

1. THE POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW: WHAT TO DO?

On July 19th, 2001, PC Decision 430 took note of the so-called **Ladsous Report** (PC.DEL/344/01/Rev.3 of June 21 2001) **on recommendations concerning future applications for partnership. This report consists of a series of recommendations** which set down not only criteria and procedures to admit new partners, but actually **devise a strategy on external cooperation for the OSCE**, based on stability in relations with partners, possible admission of new ones, and the development of relations with other regional organisations. This report was complemented and buttressed by the provisions contained in the Harkonnen report (PC.DEL/366/04/Rev 4 of November 26th, 2004).

With regard to possible new partners, the report states that, **in assessing the adequacy of the applicant to the Partner Status, strict criteria should be avoided and each candidacy should be considered on a case by case basis.** In a very general way, whether the applicant shares the OSCE principles, values and goals as well as the wish to actively participate in the work of the Organization, is what needs to be politically asserted.

As for the Mediterranean Partners, it indicates that cooperation between

the Mediterranean Partners and the OSCE had to be further promoted and enhanced, especially by means of the Contact Group.

In this regard, the report clearly states that **the OSCE has the priority, under Chapter VIII of the U.N. Charter, to develop relations with other regional organizations**. A flexible procedure, once more, is what the report proposes.

Adding up to this underlying idea of flexibility, the report goes on to state that its recommendations can be subject to revision whenever considered necessary, meaning that any implementation, any interpretation, is in the hands of the OSCE participating States.

To sum up, the set of guiding political recommendations contained in the report point to one end and devise one strategy: in our moving and ever-changing world, the OSCE cannot be still, but evolving in its relations with that world. The OSCE tends to a wider sharing of its norms, principles and commitments outside the OSCE region. It is only too natural for the OSCE to develop further, deeper relations with adjacent areas and neighboring regional organizations, as well as to consider new pledges for admission as partners for cooperation, and enhance the cooperation with them within the OSCE. **The only limits to this strategy are those of consensus-gathering and political timing.**

OSCE relationship with the Mediterranean region

Following this open political strategy, the OSCE cooperation with Mediterranean Partners for cooperation has been stepped up and deepened. The OSCE is also establishing an increasing relationship with the Arab League, as well as with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, many of whose member States are considered to belong to the Mediterranean region.

Spain has traditionally supported OSCE Partners for Cooperation. This steady support was very much shown during its 2007 Chairmanship. Particularly, Spain provided for a **seating arrangement** in the PC and the FSC as of January 2007, so that now the Partners for Co-operation sit at the main table together with the participating States, and pushed for the adoption of the **Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the Partners for Co-operation**. Under the Spanish Chairmanship a **new Partnership Fund** was set up.

Spain is of the view that the OSCE could explore ways to go further in this direction. With respect to the Mediterranean Partners, the OSCE could keep up with this momentum by means of:

1. **A reinvigorated political dialogue with Partners**, including, as was recently suggested, visits of the Chair of the Contact Group to the Partners themselves, in order to enhance the political significance of the works of the Groups and prepare the Ministerial conversations.
2. **An extensive use of the Partnership Fund.**
3. **The consideration for admission as new Mediterranean Partners for**

Cooperation of the Palestinian National Authority and, upon their request, Lebanon, Syria and Libya.

2. THE CASE OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY

On November 2004, the Palestine Central Electoral Commission (independent and neutral administrator to the electoral Palestinian process) addressed a letter to the Bulgarian OSCE Chairman-in-Office, formally inviting OSCE to observe the Palestinian elections. Later that year, **the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, addressed another letter to the CIO** insisting on the invitation to attend the Presidential elections and, **also, asking OSCE to grant it status as Mediterranean Partner for Cooperation**. At that time, the Spanish Permanent Mission to the OSCE issued another FFT paper on the convenience to associate the PNA to the OSCE works.

In April 2008, the PLO Mission to Finland has made a new demarche to assess what can be done so that the PNA be granted Mediterranean partner for Cooperation status.

On both requests, the PNA has indicated it shares the goals of the OSCE, in that it aims at stability and security in the Mediterranean. The PNA adheres to the principles, values and objectives of the Organization, and claims that it would participate very actively in the activities of the OSCE.

The political question lies on whether it is in the OSCE's interest to associate the Palestinian National Authority to our works. And then, if technically it is feasible to do so.

In the political field, Spain is of the view that **having the PNA on board would be greatly and mutually beneficial for both the OSCE and the PNA:**

1. The whole idea of Partnership is based on an ongoing process of **acceptance of the OSCE's common acquis**. Indubitably, a Palestinian National Authority progressively coming to terms with that acquis is much better off than one which is not.
2. The OSCE and its Participating States would thus send a **powerful political message in support of the new prospects for peace** arising from the Annapolis Conference and the ensuing process which has resulted from it.
3. **The OSCE is a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII** of the United Nations Charter, with the vocation of **developing relations with its adjacent regions**, as a means to promote security on its own. **In order to fully interact with** one of those adjacent regions, **the Mediterranean, it is necessary to encompass its whole reality. For that purpose, it is beyond doubt that having the PNA on board is necessary.**
4. **Some critics would argue that** if the PNA is granted Mediterranean Partner status, then **the work of the Mediterranean Contact Group would be irreparably politicized. This position cannot be sustained, since the OSCE, if anything, is a political organization.** Therefore, it would be only serving its main purpose as forum for dialogue on those political issues of importance which need to be debated among

participating States and Partners.

On the contrary, it could be argued that the relevance of the Mediterranean Contact Group would be much enhanced, for it would turn out to be one of the few restricted forums having the PNA and Israel side by side, discussing how to apply the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security.

The technical question: how to do it?

From a political point of view, Spain considers it is about time for the OSCE to approach the PNA. **Technically, Spain deems that there is enough reason to consider the PNA/PLO a candidate for Partnership according to paragraph II.A.14 of the Rules of Procedure.**

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is an autonomous national entity, not a State. As provided by the Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles signed on 13 Sep 1993 and upon the Agreement signed on 4 May 1994, the PNA is a transitional administration body which guarantees interim self-governing and a phased transfer of powers and territories. Negotiations on the permanent status, which could end in a Palestinian State, are under way. Nowadays, thus, the Palestinian people are represented abroad by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

Within the UN, the PLO has been granted observer status, under the name of Palestine, at the meetings and works of all the international conferences under the auspices of all other bodies of the UN in 1974, through General Assembly Resolution 3237 (XXIX). At the same time, ECOSOC adopted Resolution 1949 (LVIII), introducing an amendment in its rule of procedure number 73 in order to allow participation of all liberation movements as observers in its deliberations. In April 1977 the Economical and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) adopted resolution number 36 (IV), recommending ECOSOC change the ESCWA's terms of reference in order to permit the PLO to be included among its members.

Against this background, it should be remembered that paragraph II.A.14 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure refers to partners without forcefully designating them as States. In other words, nothing in the existing norms regulating the run of things within the OSCE prevents the PNA/PLO from pledging Mediterranean Partner for Cooperation status. It is perfectly legitimate for them to do so, and there is no need to change the rules. A PC Decision would suffice.

In accepting that request, the OSCE would be in line with other organizations such as the UN or the EU. The Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean is a case in point here.

There have been some voices claiming that, by granting the PNA some sort of status, the OSCE could be establishing a dangerous precedent, which could be used in turn by stateless entities, in order to pledge for some kind of status or representation within the OSCE. In Spain's view, facts, politics and international law do not seem to assert that criticism.

1. The PNA happens to be an **interim entity created by two internationally**

recognized parties, the PLO and Israel, by means of accords carried out in accordance with International Law.

2. The PLO itself, which in practice would be representing the PNA within the OSCE, is widely recognized across the world, and it possesses observer status in the UN and the EU.

3. The efforts of the International Community are aimed at solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict under the basis of a two-State solution. The claims for statehood of the Palestinian people are so equally recognized as legitimate ones.

4. Politically, the PNA plays a pivotal role in the OSCE Mediterranean region: it is in our interest to associate the PNA to the works of the Organization.

Spain does not know any other stateless territory with such credentials aspiring to be granted some kind of status within the OSCE.

3. Conclusion:

The evolving strategy of external cooperation of the OSCE is based on **two political premises: flexibility and timing.**

Spain is of the view that both premises could be used to enhance the cooperation with our Mediterranean Partners. The OSCE should explore ways to found a vigorous OSCE-Mediterranean Partnership, including through a reinvigorated political dialogue, an extensive use of the newly created Partnership Fund, and the consideration for admission of new partners.

Among those, the case of the Palestinian National Authority is very relevant. Twice has the PNA knocked at our door. **The time is now ripe for a response on our part, bearing in mind that associating the PNA is both in the interest of the OSCE and in the interest of the PNA.** In order to fully interact with the Mediterranean region and to enhance the political value and significance of the Mediterranean Contact Group, associating the PNA as a Partner for Cooperation, engaged with the OSCE acquis, would prove to be of importance and would only benefit the Organisation as a whole.



Rev 1.

ASTANA DECLARATION

OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

ASTANA, 29 JUNE to 3 JULY 2008

RESOLUTION ON A MEDITERRANEAN FREE TRADE AREA

1. Reiterating the fundamental importance of the economic and environmental aspects of the OSCE concept of security,
2. Recognizing that without economic growth there can be no peace or stability,
3. Recalling the importance that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly accords to the development of international trade, as underlined by the Assembly's fifth economic conference on the theme of *Strengthening Stability and Co-operation through International Trade*, which was held in Andorra, in May 2007,
4. Maintaining that creating a free trade area will, inter alia, contribute significantly to the efforts to achieve peace,
5. Recalling that the European Union itself was made possible by the establishment of free-trade areas, first the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951 and then the European Economic Community in 1957,
6. Recalling the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, in which OSCE participating States expressed their intention "to encourage with the non-participating Mediterranean States the development of mutually beneficial co-operation in the various fields of economic activity" and to "contribute to a diversified development of the economies of the non-participating Mediterranean countries",
7. Recalling the Helsinki Final Act, in which OSCE participating States recognized "the importance of bilateral and multilateral intergovernmental and other agreements for the long-term development of trade" and undertook "to reduce or progressively eliminate all kinds of obstacles to the development of trade",
8. Celebrating the decision made at the OSCE Summit in Budapest in 1994 to create a Contact Group with Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation,
9. Expressing support for the Barcelona Declaration of 1995 regarding the establishment of a free trade area between the members of the European Union and all Mediterranean states by 2010,
10. Saluting the American Middle East Free Trade Area Initiative (MEFTA) launched in 2003,
11. Concerned by the slow pace of economic development in the Middle East, especially in the agriculture sector and the knowledge-based economy, where two-thirds of the population is under the age of 35,
12. Considering the obstacles to economic growth posed by agricultural trade and tariff barriers, as discussed at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Rhodes in 2004,

13. Considering the lack of direct foreign investment in Middle Eastern Arab countries and the concentration of such investment in a small number of these countries,
14. Noting that despite the efforts made in the Middle East to stimulate free trade, economic growth in Mediterranean countries is markedly stronger in the Israel-Europe-North America axis than among countries in the region, and
15. Encouraged by the increased literacy rate and the increased participation of women in the domestic economies of countries in the Mediterranean basin,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

16. Recommends the creation of a Mediterranean Economic Commission whose objective would be to quickly reduce trade barriers and facilitate the transition to a knowledge-based economy in countries in the region;
17. Recommends the creation of a Mediterranean Agricultural Marketing Board whose objective would be to create jobs in the agriculture sector for young people in the region;
18. Invites OSCE participating countries and partner states for co-operation to intensify their efforts under the Barcelona Process and to more fully benefit from the MEFTA Initiative in order to expedite the establishment of a free-trade area among all Mediterranean countries.



AS (09) D 1 E

**VILNIUS
DECLARATION
OF THE
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
AND
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED
AT THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION**

VILNIUS, 29 JUNE to 3 JULY 2009

RESOLUTION ON MEDITERRANEAN FREE TRADE

1. Reiterating the fundamental importance of the economic dimension of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, which acknowledges the relationship between economic growth and peace or stability,
2. Recalling the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, in which OSCE participating States expressed their intention "to encourage with the non-participating Mediterranean States the development of mutually beneficial co-operation in the various fields of economic activity" and to "contribute to a diversified development of the economies of the non-participating Mediterranean countries",
3. Recalling the Helsinki Final Act, in which OSCE participating States recognised "the importance of bilateral and multilateral intergovernmental and other agreements for the long-term development of trade" and undertook "to reduce or progressively eliminate all kinds of obstacles to the development of trade",
4. Recalling the importance that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly accords to the development of international trade, as underlined by the Assembly's seventh economic conference on the theme of The World Financial Crisis, held in Dublin, Ireland in May 2009,
5. Expressing support for the Barcelona Declaration of 1995 regarding the establishment of a free trade area between the Member States of the European Union and all Mediterranean States by 2010,
6. Recalling the OSCE PA's 2008 Astana Declaration and the resolution it adopted on Mediterranean free trade,
7. Concerned at the slow pace of economic development in the Middle East, especially in the agriculture sector and the knowledge-based economy, where two thirds of the population is under the age of 35,
8. Further concerned about the impact of the current global financial crisis on the economies of the Mediterranean area, whereby commodity prices have fallen significantly, export demands have weakened, finances have been strained, and tourism to the region has declined,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Asserts that the creation of a free trade area will, inter alia, contribute significantly to the efforts to achieve peace in the Mediterranean region;

10. Expresses its support for the European Union's Mediterranean Union Initiative and the declaration of July 2008 adopted at the Paris Summit which set out, among others, such priorities as Alternative Energies and a Mediterranean Solar Plan, a Euro-Mediterranean University, and the Mediterranean Business Development Initiative;
11. Welcomes the initiatives of other participating States and their support for the promotion of free trade and investment in the Mediterranean area, including, as reported in the Astana Follow-Up Report, the United Kingdom, the American Middle East Free Trade Area Initiative (MEFTA) launched in 2003, Canada's recently concluded negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Canada's exploratory discussions with Morocco towards a possible Free Trade Agreement;
12. Reiterates its recommendation contained in the 2008 Astana Declaration that a Mediterranean Economic Commission be established with the aim of quickly reducing trade barriers and facilitating the transition to a knowledge-based economy in the countries of the region;
13. Also reiterates its recommendation contained in the 2008 Astana Declaration that a Mediterranean Agricultural Marketing Board be established with the aim of creating jobs in the agriculture sector for young people in the region;
14. Encourages participating States and Partner States for Co-operation to intensify their efforts under the Barcelona Process in order to expedite the establishment of a free-trade area among all Mediterranean countries.

YOUTH OF THE OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS GALLUP SURVEY

Youth of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners:
Assets, Challenges and the Way Forward

Overview

- How we hear the Voices of Arab Youth?
- Youth as Assets
- Youth Challenges
- Recommendations



hilatech™
Young People... Experiences... Employment...

GALLUP

How we hear the Voices of Arab Youth?

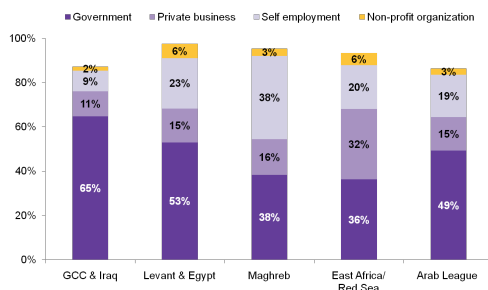
- Representative sample of nationals
- Youth: 15-29
- Men and women of all economic and educational backgrounds
- City and Country side
- Organized into regions

Youth as Assets

hilatech™
Young People... Experiences... Employment...

GALLUP

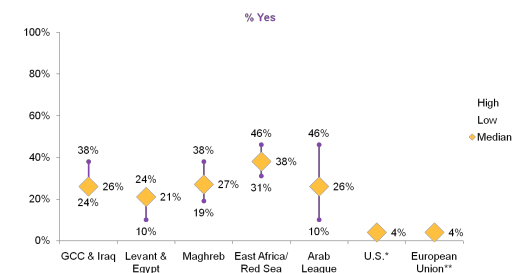
Assuming the pay and work conditions were similar, in general where would you prefer to work?



hilatech™
Young People... Experiences... Employment...

GALLUP

Are you planning to start your own business in the next 12 months, or not?



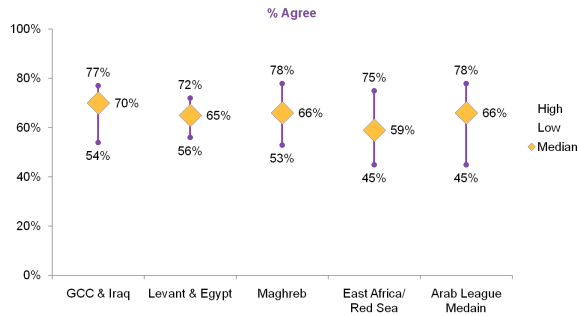
* 2008 data of U.S. Youth

** 2008 data of youth from 17 countries of the European Union Youth

hilatech™
Young People... Experiences... Employment...

GALLUP

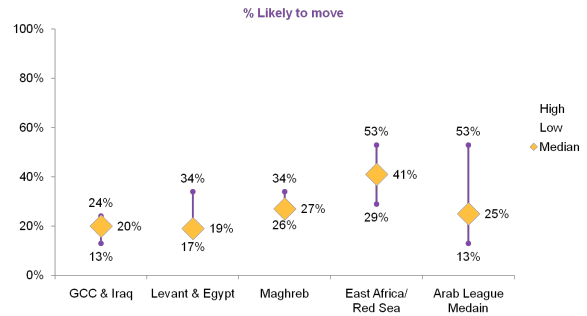
In general, do you mostly agree or mostly disagree with the following? Entrepreneurs help create jobs?



Oilatech™
Young People... Enterprise... Employment...

GALLUP®

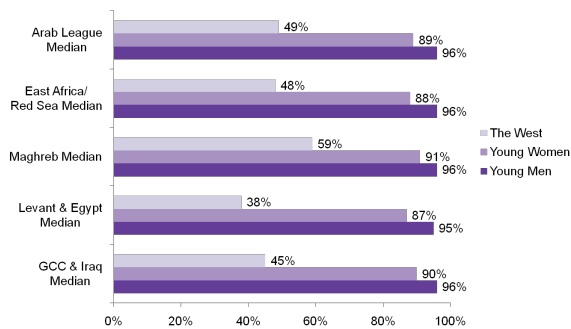
In the next 12 months, are you likely or unlikely to move away from the city or area where you live?



Oilatech™
Young People... Enterprise... Employment...

GALLUP®

In your opinion, can the following help (Country in SA) make substantial progress in the next ten years? -%Yes



Oilatech™
Young People... Enterprise... Employment...

GALLUP®

Which of the following is the most important thing for you in the next 10 years: Career, family, faith, or something else?

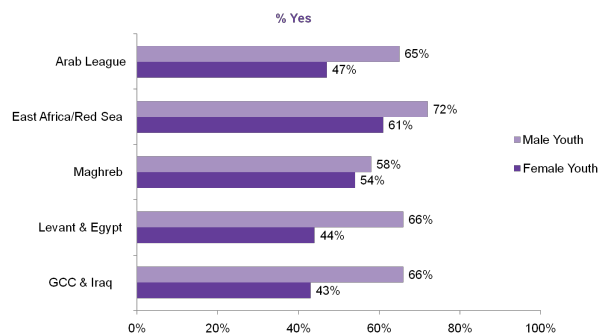
GCC & Iraq	Levant & Egypt	Maghreb	East Africa/Red Sea
Career, Family and Faith (55%)	Career, Family and Faith (39%)	Career, Family and Faith (48%)	Career, Family and Faith (43%)
Faith (14%)	Faith (18%)	Career and Family (11%)	Family and Faith (12%)
Family and Faith (8%)	Family and Faith (16%)	Career Only (10%)	Career and Family (12%)

Oilatech™
Young People... Enterprise... Employment...

GALLUP®

Youth Challenges

In general, if you were offered an attractive job today, would you be willing to relocate to another area within this country?



Oilatech™
Young People... Enterprise... Employment...

GALLUP®

What is the primary obstacle in **(Country in Sa)** for a youth to get a job or a better job that enables them to start a family?

- **Market Readiness:** *Lack of good jobs available*
- **System Readiness:** *Jobs given only to people who have connections*
- **Labor Force Readiness:** *Lack of proper training*



GALLUP®

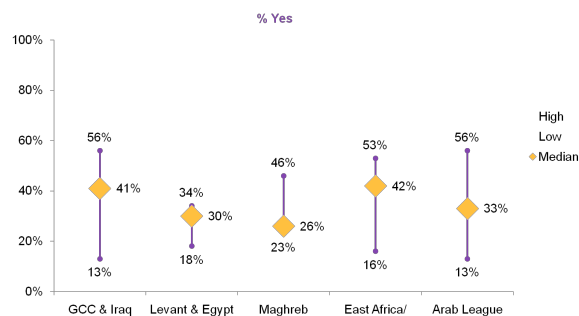
In your opinion, what is the primary obstacle for people in **(Country in Sa)** in receiving job training?

- **Cost:** *They cannot afford it*
- **Distance:** *There is no training offered close enough to where they are*
- **Prerequisite Training:** *They do not have the necessary experience or qualifications*
- **Family Obligations:** *They do not have time because of family obligations*



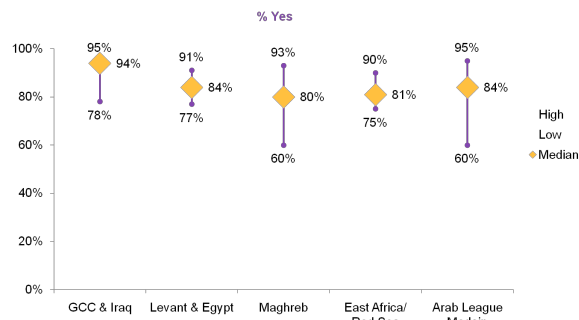
GALLUP®

In general, does the government make paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business, or not?



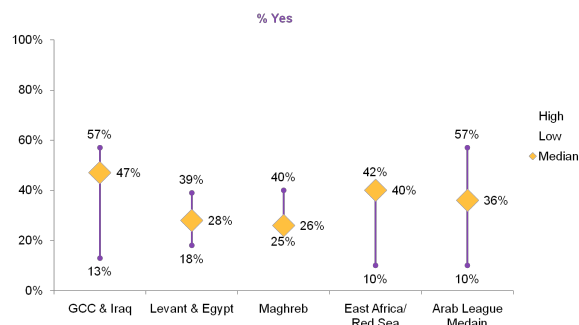
GALLUP®

Do you think that taking part in regular job training increases people's chances of getting a job or getting a better job in **(Country is SA)**?



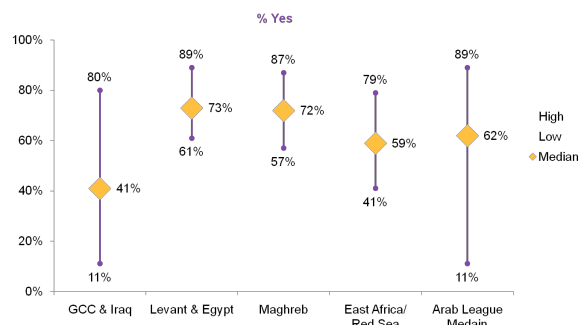
GALLUP®

In general, is it easy for anyone to obtain a loan to start a business in **(Country is SA)**, or not?



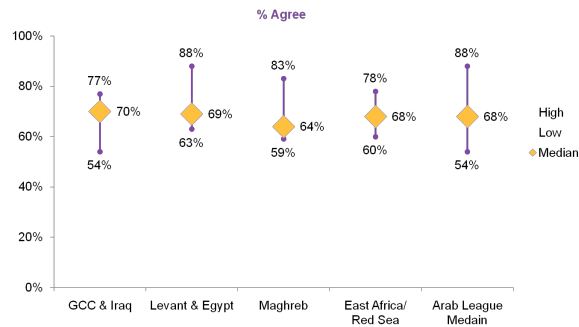
GALLUP®

Is corruption widespread within businesses located in **(Country in SA)**, or not?

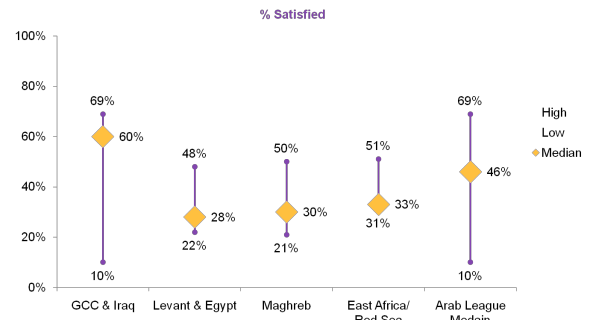


GALLUP®

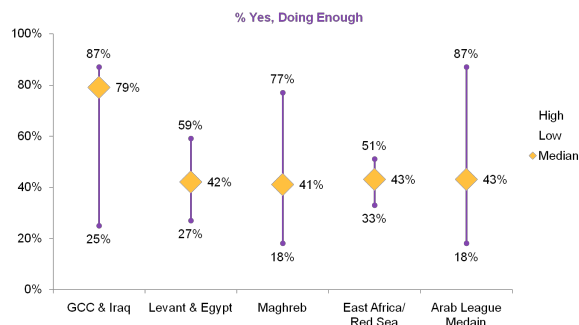
In general, do you mostly agree or mostly disagree with the following: Knowing people in high positions is critical to getting a job in (Country in SA)? (wasta)



In (Country in SA), are you satisfied or dissatisfied with: Efforts to increase the number of quality jobs?



Do you think the government of your country is doing enough to fight corruption, or not?



Recommendations

Mindset Recommendations

Obstacle	Recommendations
Resistance to employment relocation, especially for women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Re-examine societal support for employment relocation •Invest in high tech job training enabling virtual/telecommuting, and home-based business, especially for young women

Access Recommendations

Obstacle	Recommendation
Lack of access to networks and mentors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provide merit based access to networking events with business leaders and mentors •Institutionalizing best-practice in job matching
Lack of access to demand-driven skills training due to cost, distance, family obligations, lack of awareness, and lack of requisite skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Skills training designed in partnership with enterprise •Invest in well advertised on-line skills training and job placement services •Provide on-line pre-training

Policy Recommendations

Obstacle	Recommendation
Paperwork difficult for new business	Simplify procedures and co-locate support services

Summary

Arab youth are **entrepreneurial, self reliant** and **interested in enterprise**

Obstacles to full contribution include **lack of quality jobs, lack of job readiness, and high level of perceived corruption/nepotism**

Recommend investment in **market-driven training, merit based hiring and mentorship programs, and entrepreneurial development**

PARTICIPATING STATES



UNITED STATES



CANADA



GREECE



KAZAKHSTAN



PORTUGAL



SWEDEN

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS



ALGERIA



EGYPT



ISRAEL



JORDAN



MOROCCO



TUNISIA

