

2019 OSCE Mediterranean Conference

The 25th Anniversary of the Mediterranean Contact Group: Achievements, Challenges, and Future Opportunities for the Partnership

Tirana, Albania, 24-25 October 2019

Annotated agenda

Introduction

The OSCE foreign ministers reaffirmed in Milan the relevance and value of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership. They declared that the link between security in the OSCE area and the Mediterranean region has become all the more relevant since the 2014 Basel Ministerial Meeting, as has the co-operation between the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners, especially in light of the growing range of challenges and opportunities stemming from the Mediterranean region and beyond.

The foreign ministers also called for greater engagement in advancing a common approach in tackling challenges, many of which transnational and cross-dimensional in nature, and in seizing emerging opportunities, in a spirit of genuine partnership, co-operation, and ownership.

Against this background, the 2019 Mediterranean Conference will look into ways to further our common security in the Mediterranean through dialogue and co-operation on issues of mutual interest and concern.

In this context, the event will take a cross-dimensional approach, consistent with the OSCE's comprehensive security concept, focusing on topics included in the Milan Ministerial Council Declaration on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (MC.DOC/4/18) and that reflect the priorities identified for the work of the Mediterranean Contact Group under the 2019 Albanian Chairmanship.

The event shall consist of a high-level political session, allowing for a broader, political discussion, and three subsequent working sessions, where the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners can discuss opportunities for co-operation and exchange experiences and good practices on how to address common challenges.

The Conference will provide a platform to discuss ways to transform the current level of engagement with the Mediterranean Partners into enhanced action-oriented dialogue and to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the Partnership's achievements, as called for by the Milan Declaration.

Thursday, 24 October 2019

08.30–09.00 Registration of participants

09.00–09.30 Opening remarks

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Igli Hasani, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna

Speakers:

1. H.E. Gent Cakaj, Acting Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania
2. H.E. Lukáš Parížek, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
3. H.E. Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the Union for Mediterranean
4. H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary
5. Mrs. Marina Sereni Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
6. H.E. Ambassador Saja Majali, Secretary-General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
7. H.E.Mr. Rachid Bladhane, General Secretary (Deputy Minister) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria

09.30 –10.00 Coffee break

10.00 –12.30 Political segment: The 25th anniversary of the Mediterranean Contact Group: achievements, challenges and future opportunities for the Partnership

The CSCE/OSCE provided one of the earliest multilateral platforms for addressing the link between European and Mediterranean security. It has since offered a seminal experience on how to pursue and operationalize the notion of comprehensive security among a plurality of states across the OSCE three dimensions.

Twenty five years after the establishment of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group, what has been achieved and what is still missing in the relationship between the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation? As a follow up to the Milan Ministerial Council Declaration on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (no.4/2018), what proposals could be explored to further develop and strengthen the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership?

Chair: H.E. Gent Cakaj, Acting Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania

Rapporteur for Opening Remarks and Political Segment: Philippe Tremblay, Head of External Co-operation, Office of Secretary General, OSCE

13.30–14.30 Lunch hosted by the OSCE

13:00-14:00 Side event: “The OSCE’s Engagement in promoting socially-impactful business models”, organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (PC.INF/29/19)

14.30 **Photo opportunity**

14.35–16.00 Session I: Joint efforts in countering terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism – good practices, challenges and the way forward

The challenge posed by violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism knows no borders. Over the years, the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation have developed a close dialogue on this topic as well as engaged in a number of practical co-operation activities aimed at enhancing their knowledge and capabilities.

What should be the priorities going forward? What initiatives could be launched or stepped up to address specific issues, for instance the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and what tools would need to be activated to support an increasingly action-oriented dialogue?

Chair: Ambassador Paul Bekkers, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General

Speakers:

1. Agron Sojati, National Coordinator for Countering Violent Extremism, Director of the Coordination CVE Center, Albania
2. Amb. Assia Alaoui, Ambassador at Large, Kingdom of Morocco
3. Guenther Sablatnig, Adviser to the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator
4. Mr. Vladimir Tarabrin, Head of the Department for New Challenges and Threats of the Russian Foreign Ministry

Rapporteur: Fejzo Numanaj, Deputy Head, Action against Terrorism Unit, TNTD, OSCE

16.00–16.30 Coffee break

16.30–18.00 Session II: Promoting youth participation and engagement to enhance dialogue and co-operation in the Mediterranean

Youth is both the future and the present of our societies. Promoting youth participation and engagement provides a powerful catalyst for prosperity as well as greater security as youth is a key to economic, social, and political development; when disenfranchised, young people are at a particular risk of violent radicalization.

What formats should be promoted to ensure that youth from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation have the opportunity to share their experiences and identify joint priorities and possible common lines of action? What initiatives could be launched to

ensure that Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation can fully benefit from the growing youth agenda of the OSCE?

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Igli Hasani, Permanent Representative of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna

Speakers:

1. Ms. Alba Brojka, OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office Special Representative on Youth and Security
2. H.E. Leena Al-Hadid, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the OSCE
3. Ms. Avital Leibovich, Director, AJC Jerusalem

Rapporteur: Alberta Borg, Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Republic of Malta

19.30–21.30 Official dinner hosted by the Republic of Albania, Palace of Brigades

Friday, 25 October 2019

08.30 – 9.45 Side Event: Breakfast – Discussion about the results of the Middle East Mediterranean Summit 2019 in Lugano/Switzerland, organized by Albania, Spain and Switzerland (SEC.DEL/457/19, 10 October 2019)

10.00–12.00 Session III: Building bridges between the two shores of the Mediterranean – the role of connectivity, digitalization, sustainable development and economic growth in advancing common security in the Mediterranean

Promoting greater prosperity and economic growth is a common goal of the OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. Yet, significant gaps continue to exist between economies on different levels and patterns of development.

How to build stronger bridges between the two shores of the Mediterranean by leveraging connectivity, digitalization, and sustainable development? What can the OSCE do to better articulate and address the crucial nexus between economic and security issues?

Chair: Vuk Žugić, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Speakers:

1. Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice President
2. M. Noredine Benfreha, Deputy Director of the Partnership with the European Union and Regional Security at Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Ettore Greco, Executive Vice President, IAI, Rome

4. Dan Catarivas Director General, Foreign Trade & International Relations at the Manufacturers' Association of Israel; Chairman of the Israel-EU Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Rapporteur: Giulia Manconi, Associate Energy Security Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

12.00–12.30 Concluding remarks

Moderator: Philippe Tremblay, Head of External Co-operation, Office of Secretary General, OSCE

Speakers:

1. H.E. Gent Cakaj, Acting Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania
2. H.E. Ambassador Thomas Greminger, OSCE Secretary General

12:30 - 12:40 Press conference

12.30–14.00 p.m. Closing lunch hosted by the Republic of Albania