

EuroMeSCo Work Plan 2012

Submitted to the General Assembly

Barcelona, 6th October 2011

1. Background

The following proposal was submitted to the General Assembly of the Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission (EuroMeSCo) and responds to the renewed efforts by the Secretariat based at the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) to strengthen and revitalize the network.

The plan aims to present the main activities to take place during 2012. Next year, EuroMeSCo should consolidate work done so far, undertake new research activities, strengthen its membership and become a leading network on Euro-Mediterranean issues for researchers, experts and policy-makers.

EuroMeSCo must become a powerful instrument for member institutes and its researchers to share resources, promote joint initiatives and spread their work, particularly via the network's website. The EuroMeSCo network must strengthen its membership and promote a better representation of all Euro-Mediterranean countries, permitting thus to reinforce the influence of the network. It must also forge better relations with policy-makers at national and supra-national levels, particularly with the European Union (EU) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

In a nutshell, the 2012 Work Plan seeks to reinforce EuroMeSCo as a leading forum for the study of Mediterranean affairs and a platform which shapes Euro-Mediterranean policies, functioning as a source of analytical expertise.

2. Main Activities

2.1. Publications and Research Program

The Secretariat will coordinate EuroMeSCo's publications and research program for 2012. Its objective is to consolidate current publication lines, promote research projects with the participation of members of the network and offer EuroMeSCo institutes and analysts the possibility to develop policy-oriented research.

Current publication lines include EuroMeSCo papers, EuroMeSCo briefs and EuroMeSCo reports, as well as a monthly newsletter.

In 2012, the Secretariat will strengthen **EuroMeSCo Papers** as high-quality research and policy oriented analyses. The next series of EuroMeSCo papers will include the papers presented by first-class researchers and analysts at the Annual Conference 2011. Selected topics and authors are:

1. The Crisis of the Authoritarian System in the Mediterranean Arab World: Political, Social and Economic Roots of the Arab Spring

Bichara Khader, Director, Centre d'Études et de Recherches sur le Monde Arabe Contemporain, Belgium

Nadine Sika, Associate Professor, Future University of Cairo, Egypt

Timo Behr, Researcher, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Finland

2. Revolutions, Reforms and Repression: The Diverging Paths of the Arab Spring

Amr El Shobaki, Chairman, Arab Forum for Alternatives, Egypt

Salam Kawakibi, Research Fellow, Arab Reform Initiative, France

Bernabé López García, Professor, Department of Arab and Islamic Studies, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

3. Democratic Transitions: The Road Ahead

Sihem Bensedrine, Spokesperson, Conseil National pour les Libertés, Tunisia

Antoni Segura, Professor, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

Patrycja Sasnal, Analyst, Polish Institute of International Affairs, Poland

4. Geopolitical Implications of the Arab Spring

Philip Golub, Professor, American University of Paris, France

Gallia Lindenstrauss, Research Fellow, Institute for National Security Studies, Israel

Rym Ayadi, Research Director, Centre for European Policy Studies, Belgium

5. The Arab Spring and Euro-Mediterranean Relations: What Agenda for the Future

Rosa Balfour, Senior Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre, Belgium

Ibrahim Saif, Senior Associate Expert, Carnegie Middle East Centre, Lebanon

Erwan Lannon, Professor, Ghent University, Belgium and Associate Researcher, European Union Institute for Security Studies, France

The publication of other papers would be explored in the course of 2012.

Next year the Secretariat will also add many more **EuroMeSCo Briefs** to the ones already published. Jointly published with IEMed, EuroMeSCo Briefs are a series of opinion pieces that aim to stimulate and enrich debate on contemporary key issues relating to the Mediterranean region. They represent a space for thought-provoking reflections from experts and renowned personalities and due to their nature as short opinion pieces, they are the most dynamic and updated documents published by the network.

The Secretariat also plans to publish new **EuroMeSCo Reports** as soon as conferences and seminars are organised. The discussions held at the Annual Conference 2011 will be gathered in a report available at EuroMeSCo's website soon after the end of the conference. This will be usual practice for all conferences and events organized by EuroMeSCo in 2012.

IEMed envisages holding a series of **research** workshops aimed at strengthening the capabilities and influence of civil society organisations in Southern Mediterranean countries following the Arab Spring.

IEMed will promote the participation of EuroMeSCo members in these workshops, which are scheduled to take place in Brussels, Morocco and Egypt. In this framework, the Secretariat will also study the possibility of organising joint research ventures or the publication of papers that would translate into collective reports written by analysts of several institutes in a coordinated project.

Next year activities will also strengthen the links of EuroMeSCo with policy-makers at the national, EU and UfM levels. Advocacy activities will be core components of IEMed activities organized in the framework of EuroMeSCo. Equally important will be the promotion of EuroMeSCo's activities in national and international media. The Secretariat will strengthen EuroMeSCo's communication tools and will use resources available at IEMed to hold public presentations of EuroMeSCo research products, where media will be invited. The Secretariat will also study the possibility of holding media presentations in cities other than Barcelona.

2.2. Website and Newsletter

2012 should be the time when member institutes perceive the usefulness of having a dynamic EuroMeSCo website. The website should correctly reflect the activities and research of all institutes, enhancing their visibility under the EuroMeSCo umbrella.

The Secretariat will update in 2012 all contents of the website, including information of member institutes and their work. The EuroMeSCo website will also attempt to better reflect the activities and publications of its members, according to the information received from the members of the network and gathered by the Secretariat, as well as the latest EuroMeSCo publications and activities, including the distribution of a monthly newsletter.

The monthly newsletter will reflect the most recent activities and publications of the network. It will also publicise the activities of its members and their most recent articles. The Secretariat will aim at enlarging the number of people receiving the newsletter and other communications regarding EuroMeSCo's research outputs.

2.3. Annual Conference

An Annual Conference will be held in 2012. The conference will keep continuity regarding the structure and logistics of the one held in 2011. It will aim at promoting the participation of high-level experts and practitioners, with an increased number of Southern Mediterranean participants. As in 2011, it will focus on the changing dynamics of the region as a consequence of current political developments and will enlarge its scope to include the role of key international players.

All members of the network will be invited to attend the conference. The Secretariat will use the opportunity provided by this meeting to contact relevant institutes and researchers not members of EuroMeSCo to familiarize them with the work of the network. First-class researchers will be invited to present a paper in the conference, which will be subsequently published by EuroMeSCo. The contents of the

sessions and names of the panellists will be agreed with the members of the Executive Committee, the Steering Committee and the Chair of the General Assembly, as it has been previous practice.

The conference will keep its nature as a platform for reinforcing the network and the relations and exchange of ideas among its members.