

EuroMeSCo Report of Activities 2011

Drafted by the Secretariat and submitted to the General Assembly

Barcelona, 6th October 2011

1. Background

The member institutes of the Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission (EuroMeSCo) mandated the Steering Committee on 19 November 2010 to present an internal evaluation of the network's activities to the General Assembly in the form of a yearly report. The Secretariat based at the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) has drafted this EuroMeSCo Report of Activities 2011 and presented it to the Steering Committee, who will submit it to the General Assembly with a view to showing progress of the network and to taking credit with respect to external bodies, including possible sponsors.

The network has not benefited from external financial support in the last year and the Secretariat based at IEMed has covered all EuroMeSCo related expenditures, including costs of personnel and the management of the Secretariat, the organization of conferences and other research activities such as publications.

IEMed has reinforced its team with two people working full time in the daily management of EuroMeSCo, secured financial resources and provided technical assistance to the network. The EuroMeSCo website is operational, although several adjustments still need to be introduced to accurately represent the whole range of activities undertaken in 2011.

2. Main Activities

2.1. Publications

The Secretariat, in consultation with the Executive Committee, has launched a new series of EuroMeSCo publications in 2011. The network currently produces three main types of publications: EuroMeSCo Reports, EuroMeSCo Papers and EuroMeSCo Briefs. They represent the visible outcome of the network's current and past research programmes.

EuroMeSCo Papers are long research analyses dealing with politics and security in the Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean affairs. The first six issues of this series are the selected papers of the EuroMeSCo call for papers 2010 and they have been widely distributed online. The first EuroMeSCo Papers published are:

Forthcoming. EuroMeSCo Paper 6. *Adjusting to External Norms and Standards of the "West": The Case of Israel.* By Alfred Tovias

July 2011. EuroMeSCo Paper 5. *The Mediterranean Solar Plan through the Prism of External Governance*. By Luigi Carafa

July 2011. EuroMeSCo Paper 4. *New Turkish Foreign Policy towards the Middle East: Neither so New, Nor so Turkish*. By Ana Almuedo

July 2011. EuroMeSCo Paper 3. *What next in Turkish-Israeli Relations?* By Lucia Najslová and Gershon Baskin

July 2011. EuroMeSCo Paper 2. *Sub-Regionalism in North Africa and the Middle East: Lesson Learned and New Opportunities*. By Adrià Albareda and Oriol Barba

June 2011. EuroMeSCo Paper 1. *Une conditionnalité dépourvue d'effectivité: clause démocratique et gestion des risques dans les relations Euromed*. By Abderrahim El Maslouhi

The next series of EuroMeSCo Papers will include the research papers presented by leading experts and academics at the Annual Conference 2011, "A New Mediterranean Political Landscape? The Arab Spring and Euro-Mediterranean Relations". These papers have been commissioned in advance to relevant researchers and will reflect the debates held at the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference on the basis of a preliminary document submitted ahead of the meeting. A total of 3 papers per panel have been requested by the Secretariat, which amounts to a total of 15 EuroMeSCo Papers to be published in the near future.

EuroMeSCo Briefs are short opinion articles that seek to foster and enrich debate on current Euro-Mediterranean politics. Their publication started in May 2011 and they are edited by Roberto Aliboni, IEMed's Senior Research Advisor. They are simultaneously published in the websites of EuroMeSCo and IEMed. So far, the following Briefs have been produced:

27/09/11. Brief 16. *Palestine, the United Nations and the Role of External Powers : Where Does That Leave Europe?* By Pol Morillas

21/09/11. Brief 15. *L'Algérie et le « Printemps Arabe » : un contexte singulier, à court terme, et des perspectives communes, à long terme.* By Nadji Safir

21/09/11. Brief 14. *EU Democracy Promotion in a Post-Arab Spring Agenda: Cautiously Does It...* By Héléne Michou

15/09/11. Brief 13. *September 2011 – Is It a Turning Point?* By Shlomo Brom

15/09/11. Brief 12. *Palestine at the UN: Outlook and Expected Implications.* By Meliha Benli Altunisik

15/09/11. Brief 11. *L'Europe Communautaire à l'épreuve du « Printemps arabe ». Crise ou renouveau du multilatéralisme européen?* By Abderrahim El Maslouhi

09/09/11. Brief 10. *Palestine at the UN: Moving Towards a Consistent European Stance.* By Muriel Asseburg

08/09/11. Brief 9. *Palestine at the UN: Outlook and Expected Implications.* By Mahdi Abdul Hadi

08/09/11. Brief 8. *North Africa's Intifadas: Is Algeria Next?* By John P. Entelis

29/07/11. Brief 7. *The Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy: How to Make it Work for the Arab Mediterranean?* By Rym Ayadi and Salim Gadi

28/07/11. Brief 6. *The Migration Impact of North African Revolutions and What It Reveals about Europe.* By Ferruccio Pastore

27/07/11. Brief 5. *L'immigration en Méditerranée après le Conseil européen des 23 et 24 juin 2011.* By Mehdi Lahlou

20/07/11. Brief 4. *Révolutions arabes et migrations, Schengen face aux accords bilatéraux de contrôle des frontières.* By Catherine Wihtol de Wenden

28/06/11. Brief 3. *Vers un nouveau paradigme de la politique européenne dans le monde arabe ? Une politique européenne de voisinage réformée (PEV) et l'Union pour la Méditerranée (UPM).* By Isabel Schäfer

17/06/11. Brief 2. *The European Union and the Arab Spring: A (Missed?) Opportunity to Revamp the European Neighbourhood Policy.* By Nathalie Tocci

26/05/11. Brief 1. *Reconfiguring Euro-Med Regional Cooperation.* By Timo Behr

EuroMeSCo Reports are the written memory of EuroMeSCo's activities. They compile the main debates held at seminars and workshops organised by the network and are produced by the Secretariat.

Following the organization of the workshop "Tunisia and Egypt: Promoting Democratic Reform in the Mediterranean", held in Barcelona on 2 March 2011, the Secretariat produced the first issue in the series, which can be accessed online at EuroMeSCo's website.

A similar kind of publication is "Euromed+15: New Paths of Cooperation across the Mediterranean", which gathers the interventions of the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2010, held in Barcelona on 17-18 November. This publication is also accessible at the network's website.

2.2 Newsletter

EuroMeSCo has launched six issues of the newsletter since January 2011 to date. The new edition of the newsletter reflects the research activities of the network and its members, including a news section with the activities of the network, the agenda of relevant activities and a selection of recent publications of its members, as well as special dossiers published by members on the Arab Spring. The criteria for the inclusion of publications in the EuroMeSCo newsletter has been that pieces are published in English or French, are relevant with regards to EuroMeSCo's areas of interest and are recent and accessible via an internet link.

The newsletter aims to represent the work of all institutes and keeps a fair balance between them. More than 500 people receive it, including relevant policy-makers from the EU, the UfM, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, researchers, experts in think tanks and academics.

Procedurally, the drafting of the monthly newsletter follows three steps: a first screening of members' websites is run at the Secretariat in order to identify relevant publications and events, an email is sent to EuroMeSCo liaison officers asking for relevant information to be included in the newsletter and, finally, the Secretariat sends an email asking for permission to reproduce articles and events before distributing the newsletter.

2.3. Website

The Secretariat of EuroMeSCo worked to re-launch and update EuroMeSCo's website, which had been inactive for at least two years. An external website developer was contracted in order to modify the structure of the website and reflect current EuroMeSCo activities in line with the decisions taken at the Executive Committee of EuroMeSCo, which met in Hammamet (Tunisia) on 27 April 2011. The Secretariat has drafted an internal work plan for the development of the website, which is currently put into practice.

The website now includes the new series of EuroMeSCo publications (Papers, Briefs, Reports and Members' Publications) and events (Workshops and Seminars, Annual Conference, Steering Committee Meetings and Members Activities).

The Secretariat is currently working to update the database of member institutes, including the information on display and their research activities. This has been possible thanks to regular contacts with all EuroMeSCo liaison officers and requests to fill in a EuroMeSCo Membership Form.

2.4. Research activities and conferences

The Secretariat of EuroMeSCo organised in Barcelona on 2 March 2011 the workshop "Tunisia and Egypt: Promoting Democratic Reform in the Mediterranean", where experts from both countries and the Euro-Mediterranean think tanks examined key elements of transition to democracy in Tunisia and Egypt as well as the future of Euromed relations following the wave of change in the Arab world.

In a declaration addressed to the EU, EuroMeSCo, CEPS and IEMed presented a series of measures to provide support for the consolidation of stable and inclusive democracies in these countries. The statement was presented in Brussels on 3 March 2011 and can be accessed here: http://www.euromesco.net/images/110303_declaration_ceps-iemedfinal.pdf

In addition to this research activity, EuroMeSCo has provided support to the organisation of several seminars and conferences following the demand by several member institutes. These include:

Seminar on Political Change in Tunisia and Impacts on the Mediterranean Region. Organized by Centre des Études Méditerranéennes et Internationales (CEMI). Tunis, 24-25 March 2011.

A meeting of experts with the participation of the IEMed together with different Euro-Mediterranean research centres, analysed the perspectives of the democratisation wave and its effects on North Africa, the Middle East and Europe. The experts debated the outcomes of the current situation and the renewal of Euro-Mediterranean relations. This seminar was part of a series of meetings analysing the democratisation processes in several Mediterranean countries organised by CEMI in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

L'Union européenne et la Tunisie nouvelle: sur le chemin du statut avancé. Organised by Association d'Études Internationales. Tunis, 19-20 May 2011.

Senior Research Advisor of IEMed, Roberto Aliboni, participated in this seminar, which analysed the democratic transition in the country, bilateral relations between the EU and Tunisia in light of po-

litical developments and the future of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The seminar was organised by the Association des Etudes Internationales in Tunisia in cooperation with the Ebert Foundation.

2.5 Annual Conference 2011

EuroMeSCo is holding an Annual Conference in Barcelona on 6-7 October 2011 under the title “A New Mediterranean Political Landscape? The Arab Spring and Euro-Mediterranean Relations”. High-level experts and practitioners have been invited, making sure that analysts from Southern Mediterranean countries are well represented.

The conference focuses on the changing dynamics of the region as a consequence of the Arab Spring and particularly discusses, in a total of five panels, the crisis of the authoritarian system in the Mediterranean Arab World, the diverging paths of the Arab Spring, the road ahead for democratic transitions, the geopolitical implications of current developments and the future agenda for Euro-Mediterranean relations.

The discussions also include the role of key international players as the US and Gulf countries, among others. The contents of the sessions and names of the panellists were agreed by the Secretariat with the Executive Committee, the Steering Committee and the Chair of the EuroMeSCo General Assembly.

High-level researchers have been invited to present a paper in the conference, which will be subsequently published as EuroMeSCo Papers. Other relevant analysts have been invited to discuss the main ideas presented at the panels.

All members of EuroMeSCo have been invited to attend the conference. The Secretariat has also used this opportunity to contact relevant institutes and researchers not members of EuroMeSCo to familiarize them with the work of the network.

3. Membership Reinforcement and Other Activities

Since it took office, the Secretariat of EuroMeSCo has put a lot of emphasis in reorganising and dynamizing the network. This was one of the key discussion items of the meeting of the EuroMeSCo Executive Committee, which took place in Hammamet, Tunisia, on 27 April 2011 at the margins of the Forum International de Réalités. The Executive Committee of EuroMeSCo provided the general guidelines for action to the Secretariat, which has set an internal work plan aimed at strengthening membership to the network.

Current members have been asked to fill in a EuroMeSCo Membership Form with information about their institute (structure, areas of work, objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean/Middle East Programme, activities and publications, among others) as well as updated contact details of their liaison officer to EuroMeSCo. Non-active members have been contacted at several occasions to test the status of their activities and their interest in EuroMeSCo. The results of this screening process will be submitted to

the Steering Committee and General Assembly meeting on 5-6 October 2011 for consideration, in accordance with the EuroMeSCo statutes.

In parallel, the Secretariat has been attentive to the interest expressed by external institutes to participate in the network. Contacts with these institutes have been made on the occasion of EuroMeSCo's activities and conferences. As a result, a number of applications expressing the willingness of these institutes in joining EuroMeSCo have reached the Secretariat. In the last year, a total of 12 institutes have either requested their membership or been contacted by the Secretariat with a view to strengthen their links with the network.