



EUROMESCO DECLARATION

Discussed at the Steering Committee and submitted to the General Assembly

Barcelona, 4th October 2012

draft version

The network of 88 think tanks and research centres on politics and security in Europe and the Mediterranean (EuroMeSCo) met on 4th and 5th October 2012 in Barcelona at the headquarters of the IEMed. Over its 7 work sessions, the network dealt with the political realities and prospects of a Euro-Mediterranean space in full transformation.

The network adopted an ambitious work programme for the years 2012-2014 with special emphasis on the need to strengthen and develop comparative research on the evolution of Mediterranean Arab countries after the events commonly known as “the Arab Spring”.

The network also adopted an important set of activities to strengthen think tanks and research centres with the aim of improving the potential of analysis and a forward-looking vision of the network and its members at a moment when the speed and historic nature of the events in the region call for a better understanding of the factors and actors involved in the political transitions and the conflicts underway in several countries.

In these historic times experienced by the region, EuroMeSCo, which has among its members some of the most prestigious think tanks in the European Union and the Mediterranean, is the only network present in all the countries of the region. The network stressed the need to identify and implement joint projects and research documents enabling it to contribute an independent, objective and reliable vision of the changes and evolutions that have affected and are affecting the Mediterranean region.

The network considers that Europe must effectively uphold the transformations in the Southern Mediterranean by means of an implication beyond financial assistance and in order to contribute to structural reforms and enable regional countries to reach stability and development. The network considers that today it is more necessary than ever for Europe to be more present, as long as the region has chosen the democratic path and to stay closer to the EU in its political, economic, social and cultural relations.

The EuroMeSCo network wishes to build closer links with the European Union and emphasises the need for providing the network with the necessary means to enhance its analysis and training capacities in this period that is decisive for the future of Euro-Mediterranean relations.

The network therefore calls on the European Union institutions, the Union for the Mediterranean and national authorities from the north and south of the Mediterranean to strengthen the capacity for study, research and identification of political, social and economic trends of the EuroMeSCo think tanks in order to put at the disposal of decision-makers the best quality analyses on the changes, transitions and revolutions that have drastically modified Euro-Mediterranean relations and regional political balances.