



XXII Euro-Med Seminar
27th-30th April 2007
MALTA



Political and Security Partnership
Rapporteur Summary

- The group examined political and security issues within the Barcelona Process, including how to advance peace, security and shared prosperity.
- Each participant gave his/her definition of security and his/her security priority within the Euro Med region.
- There was an agreement that security is multidimensional, however there was a consensus that security is essentially centred on the individuals ability to live in peace and prosperity.
- Southern Participants called on Europe to tackle inconsistency between objectives and tools, principles and acts, i.e. preach free markets while not applying that themselves, mobility of factors of production.
- One of the Participants raised the issue of the passiveness of the Southern partners in terms of initiative, although the majority of the participants disagreed with this analysis and gave positive examples of initiatives coming from the south.
- Upon attempting to prioritize which security issues to discuss, taking the time constrain, sensitivity, and each party's particular concern, and in order to find a common ground to start with, the group decided to discuss the following security aspects:
 - Energy Security.
 - Migration.
 - Regional security.

Migration:

- **Migration and development**
 - Tackle the root causes of migration through better linkage of migration and development policies, including incentivizing FDI in countries of origin to create job opportunities. We have to take into account here that migrants are not only seeking only better economic opportunities, but rather better social conditions and quality of life.
 - A number of participants raised the issue of ensuring market access to products, in particular agricultural products, as a mean to tackle poverty which is a root cause of migration.
 - Raising awareness about the risks of illegal migration through education and examine the possibility of providing group recruitment, training and orientation for potential migrants.
 - On the other hand, we have the countries of origin concern pertaining to brain drainage.

- **Freedom of movement**
 - o Visa facilitation was emphasized by the countries of origin of migrants, in particular short stay visas, while many countries of destination stressed the need for this to be linked with readmission issues.
- **Rights of Migrants.**
 - o The right of integration of countries of destination.
 - o Measures to combat racism, and encourage respect and tolerance.

Energy:

- Several participants underlined the fact that Southern Mediterranean countries have been a consistent reliable source of energy for their partners.
- However, they also agreed that investment must be facilitated and opened for all partners.
- Participants agreed that infrastructure and projects such as cross-border provision of electricity should be encouraged (such as the electric grid of Southern-Northern)
- The group agreed on the importance of encourage of the use of alternative and renewable energy sources and sharing scientific and research experience in this regard (Technology transfer).

Regional Security:

- Several participants stressed that it is difficult to build on small steps towards confidence building in the absence of tackling the core political and security problem of the Arab Israeli conflict.
- Many participants agreed that small steps could enhance trust and confidence among parties but emphasized that such steps must not be seen as legitimizing inaction on the core political and security issues.
- Any steps must include campaigns to reach out to ordinary people and raise public awareness in order to prepare the ground, reduce resistance and make sure that the public is part of the process.

Conclusion:

Increase communication among partners in order to transcend traditional position making and provide an environment conducive to fruitful and constructive discussions.

Try to find a common ground of priorities among participants rather than consuming a lot of time trying to reach a consensus on what priorities to discuss.

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29th April 2007