



5+5

A FEW RECOMENDATIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



FMES

Fondation Méditerranéenne
d'Études Stratégiques



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Participants

NAME AND FORENAME	COUNTRY	POSITION
ALSANKOUH Mohamed	Libya	Major – Tripoli University
BANTLA Kamilia	Morocco	Student – EuroMediterranean University of Fes
BRANCA Mario	Italy	Lieutenant –Italian land forces
GALEA Gabriel	Malta	Student – University of Malta
GIMENO ARANA Antonio	Spain	Student – FESEI
GUESMI Wael	Tunisia	Officer cadet – Tunisian land forces
JEANJEAN Cyprien	France	Student – Sciences Po Aix
MOUCHEBOEUF Joris	France	2 nd Lieutenant / Combined Arms College – French army
NADI Mohcin	Morocco	Lieutenant colonel – Moroccan land forces
RIBEIRO Lara	Portugal	Student – University of Lisbon
VIACAVA Alessandro	Italy	Student – University of Genoa
ZAMET Ayoub	Libya	Captain – Libyan land forces
ZOUAOUI Samar	Tunisia	Assistant in the Center for Mediterranean and International Studies

Introduction

The Mediterranean is the hottest spot in the world, and we must work on climate change with the biggest heist. This idea was highlighted by Ambassador Karim Amellal.

The 5+5 Dialogue is a forum for ten Mediterranean countries, five from the North of the Mediterranean (France, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain) and five from the Southern shore (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia).

The 2022 cohort of the 5+5 Mediterranean strategic studies (Session Méditerranéenne des Hautes Études Stratégiques SMHES in French) is composed of 13 participants who applied to this program to improve their knowledge in geostrategy and geopolitics on the Mediterranean Sea. The participants are both part of the Land Forces and the Academic world.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has lead disruptions and non-democratic processes to spread on the international stage and among the international community. Our interconnect world sustained by shared values of dialogue and democracy seems to be at a tipping point able to slowly but incurably shift in the reverse direction. In this regard, this session has been created to participate at the creation of a stronger Mediterranean identity. This concept won't try to erase all differences but, on the contrary, would use it as a framework aimed at raising collective awareness on Mediterranean issues.

We can define this historical period as a turning point, the globalized world built over these years is moving in the opposite direction. What we need is to create a stronger Mediterranean identity despite the differences, based on collective awareness.

This would be possible following two guidelines, that we define as 2Cs: Coordination and Cooperation.

I. Environmental Agency

1. Climate change and the environment

In our recommendations, we used unifying topics such as pollution and climate change to enhance cooperation between the members of the 5+5 Mediterranean community. In this way, by attempting to solve common issues to all members, we can build upon the foundations of cooperation and coordination present in the Mediterranean.

The recommendations were shaped in line with Ambassador Karim Amellal's emphasis of prioritizing issues related to climate change, in which he highlighted that the Mediterranean region is one of the hottest spot in the world and that we must work on this with the utmost haste. Furthermore, elements of culture and heritage are central to the Mediterranean and the identity of its members, and are threatened by climate change. We understand that matters related to sovereignty and competence are sensitive issues, so with this in mind, all recommendations were done in the most realistic and objective way possible.

i. Setting environmental standards for the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean countries must, in our opinion, individually and collectively seize the potential environmental advantages they have and strengthen the alliances between the different actors in this field (governments, business, opinion leaders), and be more and more inclusive in order to enable:

- The implementation and enforcement of national environmental laws, regulations and agreements within the Mediterranean (such as the Barcelona Convention, the Mediterranean Strategy 2016–2025 for Sustainable Development) and at the international level (through Climate Agreements and Conventions, Biodiversity Convention and its Protocols, Law of the Sea, and the United Nations Development Agenda 2030);
- The establishment of environmental standards adapted to the Mediterranean specificity following the example of the standards (ISO 14001) with a complement of certification at all levels (planning or execution) subject to adequate control and evaluation procedures;
- The consideration of the opportunity of issuing "Mediterranean" operating licenses to investors and potential donors;
- The creation of a Council or Agency capable of implementing and monitoring the respect of the commitments made by the Mediterranean countries, and therefore allowing it to go beyond the stage of initiatives to the stage of binding commitments.

ii. Promote a Blue Economy

While significant efforts are being made, we feel that more can and should be done regarding the Blue Economy. This sustainable approach in the use of ocean resources should arguably be more efficient and accessible for all Mediterranean countries. An example of this would be investment in tackling the increasing and common issue of having clean drinking water. Most southern Mediterranean countries import their drinking water from the North, and due to climate change, the supply and demand will only fluctuate for the worse. For example, Morocco's rainwater supply has drastically diminished due to climate change, and in order to stabilize the economy, the decision was made so that the little rainwater it has will be solely used for agricultural purposes. As a result, while already dependent on imported water, it will no longer be producing its own and will now completely rely on imported water only.

We also believe that an integrated management and planification of the Mediterranean coasts should be implemented. Coastal stations - perhaps belonging to the Environmental Mediterranean Agency proposed before - could take responsibility for pollution in the West Mediterranean. The reasoning behind this recommendation is that while we are aware that pollution matters are the responsibility of the states themselves, we could improve cooperation between the members of the 5+5 Dialogue by handing this responsibility to a trusted agency while not having the need for added funds to be contributed from the states. After all, the point of the 5+5 meetings is to secure increased cooperation between its members, and we feel that a great way of doing this (with regards to the environment) is beginning by dealing with the least controversial and a common problem for all.

iii. Promote a Green Economy

Finally, the third strategic point for this agency would be the promotion of a green economy. As a part of the environmental approach, it will promote the decreasing use of fuel energy so that Mediterranean countries can become much more energy independent. Furthermore, this will have some positive impacts too.

If this agency promotes the use of renewable energies, the Mediterranean area will become a cleaner space. This improvement will also have benefits for the wildlife and the vegetation, but in addition it will be better for human life as it will improve the health of the population.

From our point of view, the best way to implement these recommendations could be by offering consumers some incentives such as buying discounts as well as a lower taxation.

However, this promotion will need a smart approach in order to prevent the lack of energy. Above all, the agency should study the energy requirements of each country. Then, it should study the smartest way to develop a low environmental impact green energy generation network that can supply all the Mediterranean without attending to third countries.

II. Security and Defense

1. Security cooperation between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa to combat terrorism

There are fears of the growing capabilities of extremist organizations and groups in the Mediterranean basin due to the frequency of attacks. This phenomenon has created tensions between Northern and southern mediterranean countries as the first are mostly concerned by being the targets of terrorist attacks and the second are accused of not countering enough terrorist groups on their side.

However, the urgent need to protect the Mediterranean area from the North and the South requires to give way between the Mediterranean countries to enhance cooperation in a wide range of fields (political, security, migration and asylum).

2. A joint strategy to combat terrorism

Working on developing a joint strategy to combat terrorism in the Middle East, especially the countries of the Maghreb (Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania) given that they have common borders with some African countries (Sudan, Chad, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal), partly because these African countries are the source of illegal immigration and extremist groups (for example Boko Haram in Mali, some armed extremist groups from Chad and Sudan, and the unexpected attacks that occur from time to time in southern Libya).

3. Suggested solutions

i. About borders

- Creation of an Office of coordination in charge of the means to control all the coast (coast guards + ground patrols).
- Identify and list all the hot spots permitting departure for boatpeople.

ii. About terrorism

- Establishment of a joint operations center in between 5+5 countries in the western Mediterranean, headed by one supportive country, and the establishment of rooms in each country affiliated to the main joint operations center.
- Coordination of means for the exchange of intelligence and security information on the positions of terrorist groups and immigrants.
- Increase the number of trainings for special forces and police to be able to fight terrorists.

iii. About human traffic and migrants

- Invest in infrastructures in origin countries. Make sure that the money they receive is properly used.
- Increase and coordinate the patrols on borders.

III. Education and Awareness

1. The 5+5 educational program

Trying to drastically change the Mediterranean is a big task, bigger than our capabilities and resources. The Mediterranean is so different, and despite globalization it has never been more different. The diversity of the Mediterranean needs to be protected and advertised: in order to bolster the cooperation in the region, especially between the northern and southern countries, it's crucial that each countries' value is respected and "used" at its maximum potential.

The conversation starts from the public opinion; since we have realized that in order to make any significant change, the public opinion, the electors, those who are in charge of pushing for a change of agenda, need to be aware of the Mediterranean in every aspect both at the domestic and international level.

This is why we advocate for the creation of an "educational program", aiming at raising awareness on the crucial topics regarding Mediterranean issues. Political parties and narratives have created a distorted image of the Mediterranean, so it is important to create un-bias information and data sets regarding the most important matters of the region. Since our program is not aiming at influencing anyone, we aspire to either create or develop the critical thinking of people, fostering the public opinion; we want to give them the tools to make their mind up about the Mediterranean, without being driven by any agendas. And we want to provide those tools to anyone, and to provide the same tools to any of these countries which will decide to partner.

2. Operationalization of the 5+5 educational program

When it comes to the advertising of the program, we support the creation of TV commercials with a brief explanation of the project as well as the website link anyone interested could be redirected to. The website will contain further information in different formats (podcasts, webinars) and it is necessary to have specific strategies for each social media platform. For instance, tweets from official government's accounts about the program; ads in YouTube videos; and an official Instagram profile.

Furthermore, as a way to constantly improve the 5+5 education and awareness program, assessments would be carried out both in the beginning and in the end of the courses, so as to better understand what were the expectations from the

participants, what went well, and what could be better; together with periodical analysis from a specialized committee on the matters of the curriculum and pedagogy.

The program will have a common curriculum that will be adapted taking into consideration the age of the audience. Three 'sub-courses' are in question here: one for children in middle school and high school; one for university students; and one for the general population (without age restriction but thought out for people over 25 years old).

- The first one, for children, will happen at school grounds throughout the school year.
- The second, at university level, will also take place at campus and should work as a regular discipline (6 months' period).
- The last one, for the general population, will take place online, in the website, as an intensive three-month course with multiple sessions a year. The program, with its three divisions, should happen in all member states of the 5+5 Dialogue simultaneously, following the common curriculum.

3. Execution and partnerships:

Knowing right that similar projects of cooperation have been proposed in the Mediterranean space but have never been executed, our aim is to look after the execution of this Project. We want to present it to diverse institution such as international organizations that work for the Mediterranean area, to adopt it and help us in the execution of this educational program by gathering the government representors of every country officially and presenting our resolution to them. If they agree on the terms the goal is to adopt this program in the educational system of all the Mediterranean countries, more specifically in the 5+5 countries.

Toulon, April 7th of 2022.