

EuroMeSCO General Assembly

8th October 2015, Palazzo Clerici, Milan

Agenda

1. Statement and news from the Secretariat (IEMed)
 - 1.1. State of the network and its perspectives
 - 1.2. Annual Report and financial information
 - 1.3. Work plan for 2016
2. Membership: Admissions and withdrawals
3. Any other business

Attending members

Full Members

1. ACPSS - Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies: ALLAM, Rabha.
2. AEI - Association des Etudes Internationales : KERKENI, Ezzeddine.
3. AFA - Arab Forum for Alternatives: EL AGATI, Mohamed.
4. AGREEM - Asociación Grupo de Estudios Europeos Mediterráneos: DE ARCE, Rafael.
5. ARI - Arab Reform Initiative; KAWAKIBI, Salam.
6. CAP Center for Applied Policy Research: BAUER, Michael.
7. Carnegie Middle East Centre: MANSOUR, Renad.
8. CEMI - Centre des Etudes Méditerranéennes et Internationales: DRISS, Ahmed.
9. CERMC - Centre for Economic Research on Mediterranean Countries: ERDEM, Sükrü.
10. CRESS - Centre d'Études et de Recherches en Sciences Sociales: KHIDER, Amal.
11. CERSS - Centre des Études et de Recherches en Sciences Sociales: BENNACIRI, Maria.
12. CES – METU - Middle East Technical University: GOKSEL, Asuman.
13. Chatham House: SPENCER, Claire.
14. CIDOB - Barcelona Centre for International Affairs: SOLER I LECHA, Eduard.
15. Clingendael - Netherlands Institute for International Relations: VAN DER BIJ, Hedwich.
16. Corvinus University of Budapest: CSICSMANN, Laszló.
17. CSEPS - Centre for Study of European Politics and Society: ROSENBLUM, Ido.
18. CSS - Center for Strategic Studies: SHTEIWI, Musa.
19. ECFA - Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs: SALEM, Anis.
20. EGMONT Royal Institute for International Relations: OTTE, Marc.
21. ELCANO Royal Institute: AMIRAH-FERNÁNDEZ, Haizam.
22. EMEF - Euro-Mediterranean Forum: TADIC, Tonči.
23. EPC - European Policy Centre: FRONTINI, Andrea.
24. Euromed Management: ZOUBIR, Yahya.

25. EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy: SPOK, Radomir.
26. EVI - Estonian Foreign Policy Institute: TUUR, Karmo.
27. FIIA - Finnish Institute for International Affairs: MÜHLBERGER, Wolfgang.
28. FMES - Fondation Méditerranéenne d'Études Stratégiques: BRAULT, Stéphane.
29. FPI - Turkish Foreign Policy Institute: AKSOY, Oktay.
30. FRIDE - Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior: KAUSCH, Kristina.
31. GERM - Groupement d'Études et de Recherches en Sciences Sociales: EL MEHDAOUI, Kamal.
32. GERMAC - Groupe d'Études et de Recherches sur le Monde Arabe Contemporain: KHADER, Bichara.
33. IAI - Istituto Affari Internazionali: GRECO, Ettore.
34. IEMed - European Institute of the Mediterranean: FLORENSA, Senén.
35. IFAT - Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade: RÓZSA, Erzsébet.
36. IFRI - Institut Français des Relations Internationales: BAUCHARD, Denis.
37. IIR - Institute of International Relations: DANIEL, Jan.
38. INESG - Institut National d'Études de Stratégie Globale: DRIDI, Mustapha.
39. INSS - Institute for National Security Studies: GUZANSKY, Yoel.
40. Institute for European Studies, University of Malta: PACE, Roderick.
41. IPC - Istanbul Policy Center: EVIN, Ahmet.
42. ISPI - Italian Institute for International Political Studies: MAGRI, Paolo.
43. ITES - Institut Tunisien des Etudes Stratégiques: BEN SALEM, Hatem.
44. Jean Monnet Euro-Med Centre, University of Catania: ATTINÀ, Fulvio.
45. KYKEM - Cyprus Research Centre: TOUMAZIS, Tonis.
46. Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations: TOVIAS, Alfred.
47. MEDAC - Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies: LUTTERBECK, Derek.
48. MITVIM - The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies: GOREN, Nimrod.
49. OIIP - Austrian Institute for International Affairs: GÜNAY, Cengiz.
50. Pal-Think for Strategic Studies: SHABAN, Omar.
51. SIIA - Swedish Institute of International Affairs: LINDH, Aras.
52. SWP - Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik: ROLL, Stephan.
53. TAPRI - Tampere Peace Research Institute: MELASUO, Tuomo.
54. TEPSA - Trans-European Policy Studies Association: HEROLF, Gunilla.

With 54 of the total 73 full member institutes present, a quorum was formed.

Observers

1. Casa Árabe - International Institute of Arab and Muslim World Studies: VILLENA, Pedro.
2. CEPS - Center for European Policy Studies: VAN DER LOO, Guillaume.
3. CMCI - Institut de la Méditerranée: TSAKAS, Constantin.
4. EMUNI - Euro-Mediterranean University: EL ZOHEIRY, Abdel Hamid.
5. Europees Instituut, Universiteit Gent: LANNON, Erwan.
6. FRS - Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique: DAGUZAN, Jean François.

7. Fundación Alternativas: CARNERO, Carlos.
8. IMRI - Institut Marocain des Relations Internationales: KERDOUDI, Jawad.
9. Institut Amadeus: AMARA, Amine.
10. MEDEA - European Institute for Research on Euro-Arab Cooperation: D'ASPREMONT, Geoffroy.
11. TESEV - Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation: AKDOGAN, Itir.

Apologies for absence

1. Association EUROMED-IHEDN : COUSTILLIERE, Jean-François.
2. CERI - Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales: MARTINEZ, Luis.
3. DGAP - German Council on Foreign Relations: FAKOUSSA, Dina.
4. ECFR - European Council on Foreign Relations: MICHOU, Hélène.
5. ELIAMEP - Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy: DOKOS, Thanos.
6. EUISS - European Union Institute for Security Studies: GAUB, Florence.
7. GPoT- Global Political Trends Center: AKGUN, Mensur.
8. MIB - Mediterranean Institute Berlin: SCHAEFER, Isabel.
9. PISM - Polish Institute of international Affairs: SASNAL, Patrycja.
10. UNISCI - Unidad de Investigación sobre Seguridad y Cooperación Internacional: MARQUINA BARRIO, Antonio.

Following welcoming words by the Director of the the Istituto per gli Studi Internazionale Mr Paolo Magri, the President of the General Assembly and chair of the session Mr Bichara Khader opened the meeting, referring to the complexity of the situation in the region and the role EuroMeSCo had to play in this context. He then gave the floor to the President of the Steering Committee and Executive President of the IEMed, Mr Senén Florensa, who stressed the importance of the advocacy mission of the network. Both Presidents welcomed and introduced Emmanuel Cohen-Hadria, the new Head of Euro-Mediterranean policies Department at IEMed.

1. Statement and news from the Academic Secretariat (IEMed)

1.1. State of the network and its perspectives

Senén Florensa reported on the signing of the project “Euro-Mediterranean Political Research and Dialogue for Inclusive Policymaking Processes and Dissemination through Network Participation” co-financed by the European Commission (4 year grant) and the IEMed.

He stressed that the project was a significant development for the network as it was on the one hand an acknowledgement of the vitality of Euromesco and as it would on the other hand help stimulate the activities of the network in the next 4 years.

He also highlighted that, as a result of its progress over the last few years and its enhanced research activities, the EuroMeSCo network was also ranked as the seventh best network of

think tanks in the world for the second year in a row, according to the University of Pennsylvania's 2014 "Global Go-To Think Tanks Ranking".

1.2 Annual Report

Looking back at the activities of the network since October 2014, Senén Florensa explained that the Academic Secretariat had started to implement research activities under the framework of the new EuroMeSCo ENI Project and its three Working Packages. He reminded that the three groups formed in the first year of the project were: *Security Threats in the Euro-Mediterranean*, led by Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, Egypt; *Youth Activism in the South and East Mediterranean Countries Since the Arab Uprisings: Challenges and Policy Options*, led by Istituto Affari Internazionali, Italy; and *Migration*, led by the Centre for Strategic Studies, Jordan.

New EuroMeSCo Papers, Joint Policy Study and Report have also been issued during the reporting period. Additionally, the Academic Secretariat has undertaken a series of activities in order to enhance the visibility of the EuroMeSCo network, regularly updating the EuroMeSCo website and producing the monthly newsletter.

The Academic Secretariat has also continued the coordination of a EuroMeSCo-SSN joint research programme focusing on comparative perspectives of the political transformation processes unleashed by the Arab uprisings, that materialised in a Joint Policy Study published and presented at the Annual Conference of the SSN in March 2015.

In line with the Work Plan 2015, the EuroMeSCo Academic Secretariat has also contributed to the organisation of conferences and workshops led by institutes from the network.

1.3 Work Plan 2016

The President of the Steering Committee explained that the work plan would be organized along the four main lines of activities of the 4-year project co-financed by the European Commission and the IEMed: Working Packages, Annual Conference (to be held in March-April 2016), Additional Research Activities and Dissemination Activities.

The topics of the Working Packages to be developed in 2016 would be defined by the Working Group, formed by the Academic Secretariat, the members of the Steering Committee and the representatives from the European Commission. Each Working Package would comprise the production of a Joint Policy Study, two Policy Briefs and Recommendations, a Dialogue Workshop to present and discuss the initial research findings of the Joint Policy Study and Presentations of final research outputs at local level.

Senén Florensa stressed that there was the possibility to go beyond the minimum number of Papers and Policy Briefs agreed with the EU as part of the project and called for proposals. He recalled that the Policy Briefs were supposed to be short and sharply policy oriented

articles. Regarding Papers, he stressed the importance that the IEMed was attaching to the distribution of these papers both in paper format and online.

Finally, he announced that the new EuroMeSCo website would be launched in March-April 2016 and would inter-alia facilitate communication between EuroMeSCo researchers, by offering database of researchers according to their areas of expertise.

2. Membership: Admissions and Withdrawals

The President of the General Assembly, Prof. Bichara Khader, presented the agreements reached at the Steering Committee regarding the membership requests that have been submitted to the Academic Secretariat over the last year. Following the proposals of the Steering Committee, the General Assembly agreed to grant membership to the Centre for Social and Economic Research-CASE (Poland), CEI International Affairs (Spain), German Development Institute- DIE (Germany), German Marshall Fund- GMF (Belgium). The application from the Department of Political Sciences/Maastricht University (Netherlands) and the Sadeq Institute (Libya) would be reviewed in the light of further information that would be requested from both institutions. Moreover, the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (Egypt) and the Arab Reform Initiative (France) were upgraded from Observers to Full Members. Last, the membership of the Instituto de Estudos Estratégicos e Internacionais (Portugal) and the Mediterranean Institute Berlin (Germany) was withdrawn as the activities of both institutions had ceased.

3. Any other business

Replying to questions, the President of the Steering Committee explained that a joint kick-off meeting with the other lots of the EC-project (including with FEMISE) had been considered but couldn't materialize, called for suggestions in view of the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference that would in principle take place in a Southern Mediterranean country. Last, he suggested that the renewal of the Steering Committee members would contribute to enhanced commitment of the members of the network to the EuroMeSCo activities. In this regard, renewing one fourth of the membership every year could provide the appropriate balance between renovation and continuity over the years.

Annexes:

- Annual Report October 2014-2015
- Work Plan for 2016