

**FIFTH AMBASSADORIAL CONFERENCE**  
**“NATO, THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE WIDER REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST”**  
co-sponsored by the NATO Public Diplomacy Division & the NATO Defense College  
Rome, 7 May 2004  
(Maynard/Thorn Auditorium, NATO Defense College)

**FINAL PROGRAMME AGENDA**

**6 May 2004**

- Arrival of participants in Rome; transfer to Hotel
- 20.10 Depart Hotel to reception
- 20.30 Reception Dinner hosted by Sen. Roberto Antonione Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs

**7 May 2004**

**OPENING SESSION**

- 08.10 Depart Hotel Ambasciatori to the NATO Defense College
- 09:00 - 09:15 **Introductory remarks:** Lt.Gen. Jean Paul Raffenne, Commandant NDC and Mr. Jean Fournet, NATO ASG for Public Diplomacy
- 09:15 - 09:45 **Welcome address:** by Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Franco Frattini  
**Keynote address:** by H.E. Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary General

**MORNING SESSION**

- 09:45 - 10:15 **First panel: “*The Perception of NATO in the Mediterranean and in the wider region of the Middle East*”, Speaker: Prof. Bichara Khader University of Louvain and Director of the Arab World Study and Research Center; Respondent: Dr. Shafeeq Ghabra, President, American University of Kuwait.**
- 10:15 - 11:15 Discussion period
- 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:30 - 12:00 **Second panel: “*The Political and Strategic Situation in the Mediterranean and the wider region of the Middle East*”, Speaker: Prof. Mustapha Benchenane, Sorbonne, Paris; Respondent: Amb. Abdel Raouf El Reedy, Chairman, Egyptian Council for Foreign Relations.**

12:00 - 13:30 Discussion period

13:30 Lunch

### AFTERNOON SESSION

15:30 - 16:00 **Third Panel: “Security Challenges in the Mediterranean and in the wider region of the Middle East”**, Speaker: Dr. Ghanem Al-Najjar, Professor of Political Science, University of Kuwait; Respondent: Professor Mustafa Aydin, Political Science Department, Ankara University.

16:00 - 16:45 Discussion period

16:45 Coffee break

### FINAL SESSION

17.00 - 17:40 **Final panel: “NATO’s Future Role in the Mediterranean and in wider region of the Middle East”**, Speakers: Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, Dubai; Dr. Stephen F. Larrabee, Senior Policy Analyst, RAND Corporation; Mr. Amir Oren, Senior Foreign Correspondent Haaretz, Tel Aviv.

17.40-18.20 Discussion period

18.20 **Conference wrap up**: Rear Admiral (ret.) Jean Dufourcq, Head of the Academic Research Branch NATO Defense College.

18:35 End of conference

18:45 Participants depart NDC to Hotel