

FACT SHEET ON MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON 8 DECEMBER 2004

Overview

- Initiated in 1994, the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) was launched to contribute to regional security and stability, to achieve a better mutual understanding, and to correct any misperceptions about NATO among MD countries.
- Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia participated in the MD from its inception. They were joined by Jordan in November 1995 and by Algeria in March 2000. Practical cooperation has been gradually growing over the past.
- The MD mutually reinforces and complements other international efforts such as the EU's Barcelona Process and the OSCE Mediterranean Dialogue.
- Since the Istanbul Summit decision, after consultation of MD countries, to elevate the MD to a genuine partnership, it includes among others, four objectives: (1) enhancing the existing political dialogue; (2) achieving interoperability; (3) developing defence reform; and (4) contributing to the fight against terrorism. It focuses on joint ownership; it does not wish duplicate what others do; it draws on the added value of NATO experience.

Major Steps

1994: establishment of the MD.

1997: establishment of the Mediterranean Cooperation Group (MCG) and of the first Work Programme.

2002: Prague Summit decision to "upgrade the political and practical dimensions of the MD including an inventory of possible areas of cooperation".

2004: Istanbul Summit decision regarding a "more ambitious and expanded framework for the MD".

Political dimension

- The political dialogue consists of regular bilateral (26+1) and multilateral (26+7) meetings at Ambassadorial and working level, as well as multilateral conferences at Ambassadorial level and visits by senior officials. These meetings provide opportunities for exchanging views on a range of issues relevant to the security situation in the Mediterranean, as well as on the development of the MD. The Working Dinner to be held on 8 December 2004 will be the first ever meeting held at ministerial level.

Practical dimension

- Besides its political dimension, the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) aims also at pursuing practical cooperation. An annual MD Work Programme (MDWP) was established in 1997 with the overall aim of building confidence through cooperation. It has gradually been expanded since then to include an increasing number of elements and activities derived from NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP).

- The 2005 MDWP foresees activities into 21 different areas of cooperation including in the military field (see list of areas of cooperation attached).
- The MD offers all partners the same basis for discussion and for joint activities. There is no discrimination while allowing for a certain degree of self-differentiation.
- As a follow-up to the Istanbul Summit decision, the existing MD financing modalities have been revised thus allowing NATO to cover up to 100% of the costs of MD countries' participation in NATO activities.

LIST OF AREAS OF CO-OPERATION WITH MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE PARTNERS

1. **Airspace Management**: "Consultation on air traffic management issues to promote flight safety and information exchange on civil/military air traffic control procedures."
2. **Armaments**: "Participation in the Conference of National Armaments Directors (CAD)'s Partnership Group on the NATO Codification System (NCS). Invitation in the CNAD's Partnership Group on Safety Aspects of Transportation and Storage of Military Ammunition and Explosives; exchanges on obsolete or excess ammunition and explosives destruction matters."
3. **Border Security**: "Consultations and cooperation on borders security, especially in connection with terrorism and organised crime, including the provision of training, technical and other forms of support to facilitate borders monitoring against the smuggling of small arms & light weapons and other illegal activities."
4. **Counter-Terrorism**: "Consultations on terrorism, including intelligence-sharing, and expert-level meetings on the terrorist threat and measures taken, individually or together with others, to counter it. Consideration could also be given to involving MD partners in the activities foreseen in the Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism on a case-by-case basis. Consideration should be given to addressing the security aspects of economic development and the security-related economic aspects of the international fight against terrorism."
5. **Defence Policy and Strategy**: Familiarise interested countries with conceptual aspects of security and defence, with other concepts of national security policy and with national strategies and Alliance security policy and its Strategic Concept.
6. **Defence Reform and Defence Economics**: "Defence reform and defence economics including best practice in the economic and civilian management of defence forces. This includes resource management in defence spending and affordability and sustainability of defence expenditures; the consequences of defence reform; the conversion of military personnel; and the management of former military sites. Consideration should also be given to opening selected EAPC/PfP seminars and conferences in the field of defence reform and defence economics to MD countries' participation."
7. **Information/Outreach Activities**: " Putting into action a joint effort aimed at better explaining NATO transformation and cooperative efforts."
8. **Political and Defence Efforts against Proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery**: "Expert-level consultations on political and defence efforts against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)."
9. **Security Through Science and Environmental Security**: "Security through Science and Environmental Protection, includes activities in the fields of desertification, drought, management of water and other natural resources, effects of climate on

agriculture, marine science in the Mediterranean Sea, regional medical problems, biotechnologies for agriculture, cooperation on environmental pollution possibly including Environmental Protection, and Challenges of Modern Society."

10. **Small Arms and Light Weapons**: "Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW), including seminars aimed at sharing experiences, expert-level consultations and visits, and training."
11. **Civil Emergency Planning (CEP)**: "Activities include Civil Emergency Planning seminars and expert-level meetings in both NATO and MD countries. Participation is foreseen in selected activities of the CEP Planning Boards and Committees to enhance interaction at technical level between ministries which could be activated in times of complex emergencies. This area also includes the activities related to the Civil-Military Co-operation (CIMIC)".
12. **Crisis Management (CRM)**: "Crisis Management, including briefings on crisis management exercises, NATO crisis management arrangements, and the operational organisation of the NATO Situation Centre. Consideration could also be given to opening the Council Operations and Exercise Committee (COEC) to the participation of all MD countries in selected activities related to the MD."
13. **Logistics (LOG)**: "Logistics information exchange, focusing on best practices in military logistic structures, procedures and processes appropriate to improving the ability of MD countries' forces to cooperate with those of the members of NATO. This will also be achieved through specially selected activities such as training for possible participation in and operation with multinational force elements such as a Multinational Joint Logistic Centre (MJLC) or Multinational Integrated Logistic Units (MILUs), and would initially be delivered through participation in the NATO Logistic Course and MJLC Course."
14. **Medical Services (MED)**: "Information exchange on military medicine to improve protection of MD forces, especially in the area of preventive measures, health surveillance systems, and NBC-related protection".
15. **Meteorological Support (MET)**: "Military and National Weather Centres meteorologists to exchange military meteorological capabilities, including organisational structures, tactical decision aids, weather impact on sensor and weapon performance, communications and meteorological support to operations and exercises to improve the ability to co-operate together".

16. **Military-to-military Contacts (MMC)**: "Military-to-military contacts at CHOD, staff and expert level to exchange information and reciprocal experiences on MD military co-operation issues, including in the field of Peace Support Operations (PSO) and related activities such as logistic support for MD country forces involved in NATO-led non-Article 5 CROs, in order to improve the ability of MD countries' forces to operate with those of the members of NATO."
17. **Military Oceanography (OCE)**: "Military and civilians oceanographers meet to facilitate and expand scientific and technical interchanges on military oceanography as well as exchange of historic and real-time oceanographic data with MD countries to expand database and the ability to co-operate together".
18. **Conceptual, planning and operational aspects of Peace Support Operations (PSO)**: "Peace Support Operations make impartial use of diplomatic, civil and military means, normally in pursuit of United Nations Charter purposes and principles, to restore and maintain peace. This area provides orientation on the planning, preparation and conduct of Peace Support Operations (PSO) and related activities conducted by NATO".
19. **Operational and Administrative Aspects of Standardisation (STD)**: "Standardisation is defined as the development and implementation of concepts, doctrines, procedures and designs to achieve and maintain the required levels of compatibility, interchangeability or commonality in the operational, procedural, material, technical and administrative fields to attain interoperability. In this regard, Standardisation is beginning to play a more important role in contributing to improve the ability of MD countries' forces to operate with those of the members of NATO."
20. **Military Exercises and Related Training Activities (TEX)**: "Military exercises and related training activities in fields such as search and rescue, maritime safety, medical evacuation, humanitarian relief and peace support operations. The participation of MD partners in these activities could improve the ability of MD countries' forces to operate with those of the members of NATO and facilitate the integration into NATO Forces of MD countries willing to contribute to NATO-led non-Article 5 CROs".
21. **Military Education, Training and Doctrine (TRD)**: "Military education, training and doctrine to address basic operational requirements, including the expanding current Mobile Training Team (MTT) activities. The participation in these activities will make MD partners acquainted with NATO terminology, doctrine, and procedures and thus be better prepared to participate in military exercises and related training activities. This area includes also the activities organised under the responsibility of the NATO Training Group (NTG)".