

MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION GROUP
2002 MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE WORK PROGRAMME

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1. INTRODUCTION

Beside its primarily political objectives, the Mediterranean Dialogue aims also at pursuing practical cooperation. In this regard, an annual Work Programme specifically intended for Mediterranean Dialogue countries is established with the overall aim of building confidence through cooperation.

The Mediterranean Dialogue Work Programme (MDWP) includes activities in the field of information, civil emergency planning, scientific and environmental affairs, crisis management, defence policy & strategy, small arms and light weapons, global humanitarian mine action, proliferation, terrorism, as well as a military programme (MDMP).

2. INFORMATION

In 2002, the Office of Information and Press (OIP) will continue to further enhance NATO's information activities towards Mediterranean Dialogue countries. Activities will include:

Special Events

OIP will continue to organise special events such as, for example, the Mediterranean Dialogue Conferences at Ambassadorial level held in Rome (1997) and Valencia (1999). In 2002, this event will take place in Turkey. It will be co-sponsored by OIP and the Ankara-based Strategic Research Institute. Further details will be communicated at a later stage.

International Conferences and Seminars

OIP will continue to organise international conferences and seminars in order to maintain and further expand the networks it has developed so far: academics, parliamentarians, and successor generation. This will offer an opportunity to build on existing ties between OIP and opinion leaders in Mediterranean Dialogue countries, as well as among them.

Visits to NATO Headquarters

OIP will continue to organise regular visits to NATO Headquarters by target audiences, including parliamentarians and media representatives from Mediterranean Dialogue countries.

Media Relations

On the basis of the work already conducted in 2001, OIP will continue to promote periodically Secretary General's interviews, media activities and the publication of Secretary General's Op Eds in Mediterranean Dialogue countries. A media monitoring service for the Secretary General monitoring daily Mediterranean Dialogue TV and radio programmes and magazines translated from Arabic and Hebrew has been established, to be provided daily at times of crisis.

Publications

* NATO Review: Increasingly more space will be given to articles on Mediterranean security issues.

* Non periodical publications: Grants will be provided to support publications focusing on Mediterranean security issues, to be decided on a case-by-case basis by OIP.

Internet

A Mediterranean Dialogue section in the NATO Web Site has been created, including a list of relevant activities.

Contact Point Embassies

On the basis of the work already conducted in 2001 with the NATO Contact Point Embassies in Mediterranean Dialogue countries, OIP will further strengthen their involvement in Information projects targeting key audiences in those countries.

3. CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING

In 2002, NATO's Civil Emergency Planning Directorate (CEPD) will continue to maintain contacts with the Civil Emergency Planning (CEP) community in the seven Mediterranean Dialogue countries. Within the framework of an agreed programme, the objective resides in responding at best to the expectations expressed by the Mediterranean Dialogue countries during exploratory missions carried out in Summer of 1999 and in Spring of 2000. Future contacts will primarily build upon lessons learnt from the exchange of views which has taken place between CEPD and Mediterranean Dialogue representatives over the last couple of years. There will be a three-pronged approach: the annual seminar, bilateral contacts between CEPD and the Mediterranean Dialogue countries as well as a "sensibilisation" day.

Seminar

The annual seminar had been, until 1999, carried out by NATO nations, but the involvement of the Mediterranean Dialogue countries has taken a new and welcome turn, as, for the first time, a Mediterranean Dialogue country, Jordan, has offered to host the annual seminar. Several Mediterranean Dialogue countries have expressed the wish to host the annual seminar for the coming years. Unfortunately, due to regional circumstances, the seminar planned in Jordan in 2000 had to be postponed. CEPD is currently exploring the possibility of organising this seminar in 2002.

Direct contacts with Mediterranean Dialogue Countries' CEP Community

In line with efforts already undertaken to meet directly with each of the Directors of Civil Protection of the Mediterranean Dialogue countries, further exploratory missions might be considered in 2002. These missions aim at explaining the work carried out by CEPD and at enhancing awareness of the activities of the technical planning boards and committees.

Meeting at NATO HQ with Mediterranean Dialogue Directors of Civil Protection

Building on the results of the "day of sensibilisation" (enhancement awareness day) which was organised with the Directors of Civil Protection/Defence of each of the Mediterranean Dialogue countries on 11 October 2000 at NATO HQ, other activities could be considered in consultation with the CEP community of the Mediterranean Dialogue countries.

4. SCIENTIFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

The NATO Science Programme is oriented towards supporting scientific collaboration among NATO, Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue nation scientists through grant awards. These awards are made based on applications received from individual scientists,

which are subjected to peer review by Advisory Panels composed of respected scientists primarily from the NATO countries. It is not possible to predict ahead of time the scientific topics for which applications will be received, or which applications will be recommended for award by the Advisory Panels. The content of the Science Programme only becomes known following the individual Panel meetings, and is not planned in advance. Since the Mediterranean Dialogue Work Programme is a living document, it will be updated with new information on the NATO Science Programme activities as they become known.

The number of applications received from Mediterranean Dialogue country scientists has increased substantially in recent years, as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Applications Received</u>
1996	1
1997	2
1998	9
1999	18
2000	59
2001	97

The applications received in 2001 have resulted in 48 awards for activities, including the following examples:

- ❑ Advanced Research Workshop on "Environmental Challenges in the Mediterranean (2000-2050)" (Tunisia / Spain)
- ❑ Collaborative Linkage Grant on "Cartography and Identification of the Exposed Zones to Degradation and Landslide Using Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems" (Morocco / Canada)
- ❑ Collaborative Linkage Grant on "Laser Detection and Deactivation of Bioaerosols" (Egypt / France / US)
- ❑ Advanced Research Workshop on "Recent Trends in Theory of Physical Phenomena in High Magnetic Fields" (Israel / France)
- ❑ Collaborative Linkage Grant on "Surface Charge Constituents of Soils and Clays; Their Relation to Heavy Metal Kinetics" (Egypt / Canada)
- ❑ Collaborative Linkage Grant on "Hippocampus and the Memory Representation of Space" (Morocco / Italy / US)

In addition, beginning in 2001 the Science Committee agreed to accept one Associate Member scientist from a Mediterranean Dialogue country on each of three Advisory Panels (dealing with physics and engineering; life sciences; and environmental and earth sciences).

The Science Committee has also invited to Mediterranean Dialogue countries to identify research topics of regional interest which could be notified to the Advisory Panels. Such topics could include:

- Marine science in the Mediterranean Sea

- Effects of climate on agriculture
- Ecological sustainability
- Biotechnologies for agriculture
- Scientific and technical aspects of water management in the Mediterranean basin
- Regional medical problems

5. CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Briefings

Mediterranean Dialogue countries will be briefed on the Crisis Management Exercise 2002 in a manner to be determined by the relevant NATO bodies once planning has been further developed.

Briefings on NATO Crisis Management will continue to be offered to officials or officers from Mediterranean Dialogue countries at NATO HQ.

An invitation to attend a briefing on the operations and organisation of the NATO Situation Centre (SITCEN), including a tour of the SITCEN, will again be extended to all Mediterranean Dialogue countries.

Expert visits

Crisis Management expert visits could be organised on request in the format and venues most convenient for each Mediterranean Dialogue country.

6. DEFENCE POLICY & STRATEGY

Activity: Workshop including Defence Policy & Strategy experts to discuss selected topics related to Defence Policy & Strategy

Action Authority: NATO International Staff - Defence Planning & Operations Division (DPAO)

Activity: Expert team to Mediterranean Dialogue countries to discuss specific issues related to Defence Policy & Strategy

Action Authority: NATO International Staff - Defence Planning & Operations Division (DPAO)

7. SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Activity: Seminar on "Small Arms and Light Weapons: Initiatives and experiences in this field, coupled with lessons learned from peace-keeping operations."

Action Authority: NATO International Staff - Defence Planning & Operations Division (DPAO)

Activity: Stockpile security expert teams to provide needs assessments, technical advice and training on security of small arms and light weapons stockpile

Action Authority: NATO International Staff - Defence Planning & Operations Division (DPAO)

8. GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION

Activity: Seminar on regionally focused mine action

Action Authority: Activity organised by NATO member Greece

Activity: Seminar on humanitarian mine action, focusing on South Eastern Europe

Action Authority: Activity organised by PfP member Sweden

9. PROLIFERATION

Activity: Consultations on proliferation issues, including at expert-level

Action Authority: NATO International Staff - Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Centre - Political Affairs Division

Location: As appropriate

Date: As appropriate

10. TERRORISM

As a result of the 19+1 and 19+7 (NAC+7) meetings of 17-22 and 23 October 2001, NATO is considering possibilities for consultation on terrorism with interested Mediterranean Dialogue countries.

11. MILITARY ACTIVITIES - MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE MILITARY PROGRAMME

Mediterranean Dialogue military programmes were included in all Mediterranean Dialogue Work Programmes since 1997. Similarly, the 2002 Mediterranean Dialogue Military Programme (MDMP) has been included in the 2002 MDWP.

The 2002 MDMP offers, for the first time, the opportunity for Mediterranean Dialogue countries to attend pre-exercises activities (planning conferences, workshops, seminars, etc.) in view of their possible participation in selected NATO/Partnership for Peace (PfP) military exercises.

THE MILITARY DIMENSION OF THE NATO MEDITERRANEAN

DIALOGUE

The NATO Mediterranean Dialogue initiative began with a predominant political character but at the Sintra (PO) meeting in 1997 Allies decided to open selected military activities to Mediterranean Dialogue Partners. Since then there has been a significant increase both in the number of activities offered to Partners and number of activities conducted by them.

The military programme is mainly focused on educational and training activities offered annually to MD Partners. MD Partners are invited to observe military exercises, attend seminars and workshops and visit NATO military Headquarters. The programme includes port visits to MD Countries by NATO Standing Naval Forces and is currently based on the following six components:

1. **International Military Staff (IMS) Activities**. The International Military Staff is responsible for organising the Mediterranean Dialogue Military Consultation Meetings and the exchange of visits both at a high and working level. The Consultation Meetings are held twice a year at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels (Belgium) and in a multilateral format 19 NATO Nations + 7 Mediterranean Dialogue Countries under the auspices of the Military Committee Working Group for Co-operation [MCWG (COOP)]. The last meeting was successfully held on 21 September 2001. We had 16 officials from all seven MD Countries together with NATO members and Defence Attaches serving in Contact Point Embassies (CPE) on an equal basis for open discussion and an exchange of views on the NATO-MD military co-operation. Generally speaking, the overall aim of these meetings is to discuss together better ways to strengthen our military co-operation and meet both NATO and MD nations' expectations. They give MD partner military authorities not only first hand information on the content of the program but also a taste of the NATO work atmosphere, which is essential in building confidence. As far as the visits to MD Countries are concerned their purpose is to brief MD military decision-makers on the military aspects of NATO, on activities currently available for their participation and to solicit their specific objectives and priorities for additional MD military activities to be included in the next MD Military Programme.

2. **NATO Standardisation Agency (NSA) Activities**: for the first time during 2001 MD Countries have been invited to attend a meeting of the Environmental Protection Working Group (EPWG) and some of them are already participating in the Submarine Emergency and Rescue Working Group (SMERWG).

3. **NATO Defence College (NADEFCOL) Activities**. The NATO Defence College (NADEFCOL) in Rome develops a specifically tailored program for Mediterranean Dialogue Partners that includes, among other academic and research activities, an annual General and Flag Officer's course and an annual International Research Seminar co-sponsored with a Defence Institute from one of the MD Countries.

4. **Courses at the NATO School (SHAPE)**. Currently 7 courses are available for MD participation that vary from crisis management to peace support operations and from civil emergency planning to conventional arms control. Both civilians and military personnel attend these courses at the NATO School (SHAPE) in Oberammergau (Germany).

5. **Specific Activities to be Conducted under the Responsibility of the Two Strategic Commands**. This section of the military program is more operational. It includes

the opportunities for MD Partners to observe NATO exercises (non-article 5 crisis response operations other than collective defence) and to attend numerous military related activities such as visits to NATO military HQs, seminars, workshops and others military related events conducted by NATO's two Strategic Commands. NATO Standing Naval Forces ship visits to MD countries ports are also included in this programme.

6. Nationally Sponsored Military Activities. For the first time during 2001 the military programme includes not only NATO activities, but also activities offered by NATO Nations and MD Countries. These activities are essential for complementing and enhancing NATO's military co-operation efforts. This applies particularly to areas outside NATO's collective defence capabilities.

All these activities, with the exception of the nationally sponsored activities, qualify for NATO financial assistance and NATO Military Authorities have a dedicated MD Military Budget to support the programme and facilitate the participation of MD Partners which request financial assistance, to attend military activities.

The military programme is a living document and it should be seen as a "menu a la Carte" from which MD Partners as well as NATO Nations or PfP Partners can select activities in which they would like to participate. MD Partners are always consulted during the development phase of the programme and we take any opportunity for soliciting them to express their interests and give us a feedback in order to further improve the military co-operation between NATO and MD Countries.

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