

2003 MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE WORK PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

1. Beside its primarily political objectives, the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) aims also at pursuing practical cooperation. In this regard, an annual MD Work Programme (MDWP) specifically intended for MD countries is established with the overall aim of building confidence through cooperation. The annual MDWP includes a MD Military Programme (MDMP).
2. The annual MDWP is usually prepared by the NATO Staff and is based on inputs received from relevant NATO bodies as well as MD countries. Once agreed by the North Atlantic Council (NAC), the annual MDWP is submitted to the MD countries for their consideration and possible comments before its actual implementation.
3. Following the endorsement of the document "Upgrading the Mediterranean Dialogue including an inventory of possible areas of cooperation" by NATO's Heads of State and Government at their Summit meeting held in Prague of November 2002 (hereinafter: the Prague Document), practical cooperation between NATO and its Mediterranean partners should be enhanced by further involving the MD countries in the preparation of the annual MDWP and by jointly developing individual cooperation programmes that would best meet each MD country's specific requirements as well as NATO's objectives (para. III.5 of the Prague Document).
4. Such enhanced cooperation should be achieved by inter alia organising visits by NATO Senior Officials, as well as expert-level meetings and visits involving the NATO Staffs and experts from NATO and MD countries, either at NATO HQ or in the requesting MD country, with the aim of involving the highest possible number of decision-makers including from the military (para. II.9, III.4 and II.6 of the Prague Document).
5. Furthermore, 19+1 meetings at working level - or the level that is considered the most appropriate by NATO and MD countries - should continue to be organised. These meetings, which could include expert participation from NATO and MD countries, should focus on practical cooperation including the preparation and implementation of the annual MDWP (para. II.6 of the Prague Document). Meetings of this kind are tentatively scheduled early in 2003.
6. The 2003 MDWP takes into account the Prague Document and foresees activities in the following areas:

1. INFORMATION

International Conferences and Seminars

- The NATO Office of Information and Press (OIP) will continue to channel information on NATO's changing agenda and goals through the organisation of international conferences and seminars involving the network of parliamentarians, academics, the media and the successor generation established by OIP throughout the last several years.

Annual Special Event

- OIP will organise a special event, such as the ones organised in 1997 (Rome), 1999 (Valencia) and lastly on 30 September 2002 (Italian Parliament, Rome). This special event will be used annually to keep high visibility on the Mediterranean Dialogue and will bring together high level participation from diplomacy, politics, government, academia and the media from NATO and Mediterranean Dialogue countries. The likelihood of such an event taking place in a Mediterranean Dialogue country, rather than in a NATO member country as happened so far, will depend on regional circumstances.

Visits to the NATO Headquarters

- Visits to the NATO Headquarters by target audiences, such as those shaping public attitudes and having direct impact on national decision making processes, will continue to be organised. This visits will also involve special groups, such as trainee diplomats, members of the business community, etc.

Media Relations

- OIP will continue to promote interviews and other media activities involving NATO's Secretary General and the Mediterranean Dialogue countries' press and media. Press Tours specifically targeting Mediterranean Dialogue countries' press and media organisations will be arranged, such as the one organised in November 2002 on the occasion of NATO's Heads of State and Government Summit meeting in Prague.

Publications

- NATO Review: Contributions on Mediterranean security issues will be considered for publication on the web version of the NATO Review.
- Non-periodical publications: OIP will examine the possibility of giving grants-in-aid to support publications focusing on Mediterranean security issues on a case-by-case basis.

Internet

- The special Mediterranean Dialogue Internet web-module on NATO's web site (<http://www.nato.int/med-dial/home.htm>) will continue to be expanded to provide up-to-date information on NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue, including: the list of NATO activities conducted by OIP, all IS and IMS Divisions and SHAPE; background information about NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue; studies and conferences' reports; speeches of NATO officials; as well as NATO official documents on Mediterranean Dialogue releasable to the public.

2. CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING

Seminar

- Until 1999, the annual Civil Emergency Planning (CEP) Mediterranean Dialogue Seminar was hosted by NATO nations. However, the involvement of the Mediterranean Dialogue countries took a welcome turn when, in 2000, Jordan offered to host the seminar and several other Mediterranean Dialogue countries expressed the wish to host the annual seminar in the following years. Unfortunately, due to regional circumstances, the seminar planned in Jordan in 2000 had to be postponed. Nevertheless, it will be resumed once regional circumstances allow.

Activities of the Planning Boards and Committees (PB&Cs)

- Participation in selected activities of the CEP Planning Boards and Committees¹, to enhance interaction at technical level between civilian ministries which could be activated in times of complex emergencies.

Meeting at NATO HQ

- Building on the interest expressed by the Directors of Civil Protection and Civil Defence of the Mediterranean Dialogue countries during the "Enhancement Awareness Day" organised at NATO HQ in October 2000, a comparable event could be organized at NATO HQ, in 2003.

¹ Planning Board for Ocean Shipping PBOS; Planning Board for Inland Surface Transportation PBIST; Civil Aviation Planning Committee CAPC; Food and Agriculture Planning Committee FAPC; Industrial Planning Committee IPC; Civil Protection Committee CPC; Civil Communication Planning Committee CCPC; Joint Medical Committee JMC.

3. SCIENTIFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

The NATO Science Programme provides support for scientific collaboration among scientists of NATO, Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries. The number of applications received from Mediterranean Dialogue scientists has increased substantially in recent years. Awards are granted subsequent to an evaluation made by specific Advisory Panels, composed of respected scientists from the NATO and the NATO-Partner countries. Since 2001, scientists from Mediterranean Dialogue countries have been associated with the activities of the Advisory Panels on a rotational basis. For the period 2001/02, scientists from Egypt, Israel and Tunisia have been selected. For the period 2003/04, scientists from Algeria, Jordan, Mauritania and Morocco will be sought.

It is not possible to predict which topics will be covered in applications being received, or which applications will be recommended for award. However, the NATO Science Committee is currently engaged in discussions concerning the implications for civil science of the fight against terrorism. A preliminary list of topics has been drawn up to allow all potential applicants (from NATO, NATO-Partner and/or Mediterranean Dialogue countries) to evaluate whether the subject of their research may be considered as part of the combat against terrorism and other threats to security and stability. It shall be noted that all of these activities will be conducted at the non-classified level. This preliminary list is as follows:

Defence Against Terrorism:

- Detection, sensors, etc.
- Nuclear, Chemical, Biological and Radiological Protection
- Decontamination
- Medical Countermeasures
- Agro-terrorism

Countering Other Threats to Security and Stability:

- Environmental Security
- Water and Resources Management
- Disaster Forecast and Prevention, including Response to Maritime Disasters.
- Food Safety
- Information Security

In addition, the NATO Science Committee is particularly interested in research topics of regional interest.

Such topics could include:

- Marine science in the Mediterranean Sea

- Effects of climate on agriculture
- Ecological sustainability
- Biotechnology for agriculture
- Desertification
- Water management
- Regional medical problems

These initiatives relate to support for advanced training and teaching activities; joint research and transfer of knowledge through the specific mechanisms of:

- Advanced Study Institutes
- Advanced Research Workshops
- Collaborative Linkage Grants
- Expert visits

Several visits by Programme Directors of the NATO Scientific Affairs Division have been made to the Mediterranean Dialogue Countries, and some are planned for the near future. Usually they consist of working meetings with the local scientific institutions and universities, with the aim of enabling local scientists to participate in the activities of the NATO Science Programme.

Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS)

- At the CCMS Vienna plenary meeting on October 10 and 11, 2002, the Committee agreed to organise a workshop on Desertification, to be organised in spring 2003. Eight NATO nations have confirmed their interest to participate in this event: Canada, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, and USA. The Mediterranean Dialogue countries representatives will be invited to nominate experts to participate in this workshop before the end of this year.

4. CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Briefings

- Briefings on the following topics will continue to be offered to officials or officers from Mediterranean Dialogue countries at NATO HQ:
 - crisis management exercises;
 - NATO crisis management arrangements;
 - operational organisation of the NATO Situation Centre (SITCEN).

Expert visits

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

Council Operations and Exercise Committee (COEC)

- The participation of the Mediterranean partners in selected COEC activities related to the Mediterranean Dialogue will be considered.

5. DEFENCE POLICY & STRATEGY

Activity: Workshop on Defence Policy & Strategy to discuss selected topics in the field of Defence Policy & Strategy

6. GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION (GHMA)

Activity: Seminar on humanitarian mine action, focusing on South Eastern Europe
Action Authority: Activity organised by NATO or EAPC member

7. SMALL ARMS & LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW)

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

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

8. BORDER SECURITY

Consultations and cooperation on border security, especially in connection with terrorism and organised crime, including the provision of training, technical and other forms of support to facilitate border monitoring against the smuggling of small arms & light weapons and other illegal activities. In particular, the following activities might be considered:

- seminars at NATO HQ to provide presentations on NATO member countries' experiences in border security;
- expert visits (with the support of experts nominated by NATO member nations) to assess the status of border security in Mediterranean Dialogue countries and provide

recommendations/observations. These visits might also be useful to assess possible lack/shortages in specific kinds of equipment and materiel and report them to NATO member nations for possible bilateral assistance.

9. PROTECTIVE SECURITY

All Mediterranean Dialogue countries have been invited to sign an Agreement for the protection of classified information with NATO. Some of them have already done so, others have expressed an interest in signing. This Agreement (and the subsequent certification process by the NATO Office of Security) allows the release of NATO classified information up to and including NATO SECRET. In light of the possible expansion of the Dialogue and of the growing importance of co-operation in areas where most information is classified (counter-terrorism, military aspects) it is important to explain NATO security requirements, verify the effectiveness of protective measures and conduct training activities on NATO Security Policy as appropriate.

The NATO Office of Security intends to develop co-operation with Mediterranean Dialogue countries along a three-pronged approach:

- senior level visits to each Mediterranean Dialogue country, to start initial contacts with security authorities or develop existing ones;
- surveys and inspections, to security certified Mediterranean Dialogue countries, to verify the appropriate protection of classified information released by NATO. These activities will also allow the provision of briefings/presentations on NATO Security Policy and requirements to security experts in each country;
- seminars at NATO HQ, to provide, with the support of guest speakers, more detailed information about specific sectors of NATO Security Policy (personnel, industrial, etc.)

10. COMBATING TERRORISM

- Organise 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 should be given to involving Mediterranean Dialogue countries in the activities foreseen in the Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism on a case-by-case basis.
- The NATO Special Committee will continue trying to establish a relationship with the Security Services of the Mediterranean Dialogue countries.

11. PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD)

- Organise expert-level consultations on political and defence efforts against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery.

12. DEFENCE SUPPORT

- Participation of Mediterranean Dialogue Countries in the Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD) Partnership Group on the NATO Codification System (AC/135);
- Invitation to Mediterranean Dialogue countries to participate in the CNAD Partnership Group on Safety Aspects of Transportation and Storage of Military Ammunition and Explosives (AC/258); exchanges of information on obsolete or excess ammunition and explosives destruction processes;
- Consultation on air traffic management issues to promote flight safety and information exchange on civil/military air traffic control procedures.

13. DEFENCE REFORM AND DEFENCE ECONOMICS

- Consider defence reform and defence economics aspects 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.
- Consider the security aspects of economic development and the security-related economic aspects of the international fight against terrorism;

- Consideration should be given to opening selected Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) / Partnership for Peace (PfP) seminars and conferences in the field of defence reform and defence economics to Mediterranean Dialogue countries' participation.

14. MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE MILITARY PROGRAMME (MDMP)

The NATO Mediterranean Dialogue initiative began with a predominant political character but at the Sintra (Portugal) 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 Dialogue partners and number of activities conducted by them.

The Military Programme is mainly focusing 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 Activities. The International Military Staff is responsible for organising the Mediterranean Dialogue Military Consultation Meetings and the exchange of visits both at a senior and staff level. The Consultation Meetings are held twice a year at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels (Belgium) and in a multilateral format with the 19 NATO nations + 7 Mediterranean Dialogue countries. The last meeting was successfully held on 14 March 2003. We had 22 officials from all seven MD countries together with NATO members and Defence Attaches serving in Contact Point Embassies on an equal basis for open discussion and an exchange of views on the NATO-Mediterranean Dialogue 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 Mediterranean Dialogue nations' expectations. They give Mediterranean Dialogue partner military authorities not only first hand information on the content of the program but also a taste of the NATO works atmosphere, which is essential in building confidence. As far as the visits to Mediterranean Dialogue countries are concerned their purpose is to brief Mediterranean Dialogue 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 Mediterranean Dialogue military activities to be included in the next Military Programme.

2. **NATO Standardisation Agency Activities**: for the first time during 2001 Mediterranean Dialogue countries have been invited to attend a meeting of the Environmental Protection Working Group and some of them are already participating in the Submarine Emergency and Rescue Working Group.

3. **NATO Defence College Activities**. The majority of the academic and research activities organised by the NATO Defence College in Rome are open to the participation of Mediterranean Dialogue partners. Furthermore, the College organises a specifically tailored programme for Mediterranean Dialogue partners that includes a fellowship programme, workshops and an annual International Research Seminar co-sponsored with a Defence Institute from one of the Mediterranean Dialogue countries. For more information on the NATO Defense College and its academic activities, please link to www.ndc.nato.int.

4. **Courses at the NATO School (SHAPE)**. Currently 12 different courses are available for Mediterranean Dialogue countries' 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 Headquarters, seminars, workshops and others military related events conducted by NATO's two Strategic Commands. NATO Standing Naval Forces ship visits to Mediterranean Dialogue countries 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 Mediterranean Dialogue 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 Mediterranean Dialogue Military Budget to support the programme and facilitate the participation of Mediterranean Dialogue 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 Mediterranean Dialogue partners as well as NATO nations or Partnership for Peace partners can select activities in which they would like to participate. Mediterranean Dialogue 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 Mediterranean Dialogue countries.