

MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY GROUP 17

NATO Looks South: Rethinking Strategy and Partnerships



THEME & AGENDA

Looking toward the NATO summit in July, this edition of the German Marshall Fund’s Mediterranean Strategy Group will discuss how NATO should think about a more explicit strategy for the South. It will establish what the main challenges are that require the Alliance’s attention, and what level of priority addressing these challenges from the South could and should have within NATO. It will address how the Alliance could work with other regional and international security actors, as well as next steps in Mediterranean partnerships. The meeting aims to provide some concrete recommendations on what is required in terms of attention, investment and engagement.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

Arrival of participants during the day

19:00 – 21:00 **Welcome Dinner**

THURSDAY, MAY 24

14:00 – 14:15 **Opening Remarks**

Remarks:

Ian Lesser, Vice President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States
Mohamed Loulichki, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center
Piero Gastaldo, Secretary General, Compagnia di San Paolo

14:15 – 15:15 **Discussion: Mediterranean Security Today and Tomorrow I – Regional Dynamics**

Moderator: Kristina Kausch, Senior Resident Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

What are the geographical and functional contours of the Mediterranean security environment? What are the current and emerging regional conflicts and risks, and how are they interconnected? Do our “mental maps” of the region need to change to capture the full sweep of security challenges? Who are the stakeholders?

15:15 – 15:30 **Coffee break**

15:30 – 16:30 **Discussion: Mediterranean Security Today and Tomorrow II – Global Influences**

Moderator: Ellen Laipson, Director of the International Security program at the Schar School of Government and Public Policy, George Mason University

To what extent do great power competition and the proliferation of security actors in and around the region affect Mediterranean stability, and the role of the Mediterranean in global power balances? Has the region moved from the periphery to the center of strategic concerns, or will larger-scale flashpoints elsewhere limit external interest and engagement?

16:30 – 16:45 Coffee break

16:45 – 18:15 **Discussion: NATO Strategy: Where Does the South Fit?**

Moderator: Benedetta Berti, Head of the Policy Planning Unit, Office of the Secretary General of NATO

Strategy south has always posed political and practical challenges for NATO. Does today's Mediterranean environment alter this situation, or will the diversity of conflicts and risks continue to confound Alliance strategists? Is the distinction between strategy east and south artificial? What are the points of convergence?

20:00 – 22:00 **Dinner**

FRIDAY, MAY 25

Location: Allied Joint Force Command, Via Madonna del Pantano 80014, Lago Patria

10:30 Bus transfer from Grand Hotel Vesuvio to Lago Patria

11:30 – 12:30 **Tour of the NATO Strategic Direction South HUB Naples**

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

Remarks: Lt. Gen. Luciano Portolano, Chief of Staff, Allied Joint Force Command Naples

13:30 – 13:45 **Presentation of GMF Study: The Future of NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue – Perspectives on Security, Strategy and Partnership**

Introduction: Nicola de Santis, Head of the Middle East and North Africa Section in the Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO

Speaker: Ian Lesser, Vice President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

13:45 – 14:45

Panel Discussion: NATO Partnerships and Beyond: Security Cooperation in the South

Moderator: Ian Lesser, Vice President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

Speakers:

Emiliano Alessandri, Senior External Co-operation Officer, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Michael Köhler, Director Neighbourhood, Directorate-General for Development Cooperation, European Commission

Mohamed Loulichki, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

The track record of traditional cooperative security actors like NATO, the African Union and the EU is mixed, while ad hoc regional and international security partnerships are on the rise. Should NATO cooperate and/ or coordinate better with the EU and others? With whom, and in which areas could cooperation make a difference? Who should take the lead, and who will?

14:45 – 15:00

Coffee break

15:00 – 16:15

Discussion: Steps Toward a Southern Strategy

Moderator: Teri Schulz, Freelance Reporter

How should the Alliance implement a more explicit strategy for the Mediterranean and points south? What are the core aims? How can the Alliance and its partners shape the security environment (“project stability”)? What is necessary to hedge against adverse developments? What is required in terms of attention, investment and engagement?

16:15 – 16:30

Concluding Remarks

The Mediterranean Strategy Group is organized in partnership with the Compagnia di San Paolo and the OCP Policy Center and co-hosted by the NATO Strategic Direction South HUB Naples.

