

Mediterranean Strategy Group

Genoa

May 10 – 12, 2009

“IS REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE MAGHREB POSSIBLE?”

Implications for the Region and External Actors

*Organized in Cooperation with the Italian Institute for International Affairs (IAI) and with the support of the
Compagnia di San Paolo, ENEL, OCP Group, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation,
and the Luso-American Foundation*

Sunday, May 10

Participants arrive throughout the day at the **NH Marina Hotel** (Molo Ponte Calvi, 5, Genoa)

1200 – 1730 **Seminar Registration** (NH Marina Hotel, Lobby)

1930 **Cocktail Reception and Informal Dinner** (NH Marina Hotel, Terrace / Il Gozzo Restaurant)

Monday, May 11

700 – 800 **Breakfast** (NH Marina Hotel, Il Gozzo Restaurant)

815 – 825 Participants gather in the NH Marina Hotel lobby and depart for Palazzo San Giorgio
(Via della Mercanzia, 2, Genoa)

900 – 930 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
(Sala del Capitano, Palazzo San Giorgio)

Craig Kennedy

President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Washington

Mohammed Belmahi

Advisor to the Chairman and CEO, OCP Group, Casablanca

Andrea Fabris

Program Officer, Compagnia di San Paolo, Turin

Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo

Senior Strategic Advisor, ENEL, Rome

930 – 1100

Session I – State of Relations in a Fragmented Region: The Economic and Strategic Costs of a “Non Maghreb”

(Sala del Capitano, Palazzo San Giorgio)

Observers on all sides lament the underdeveloped state of south-south cooperation in the region. Key borders remain closed, economic interaction among Maghreb states is limited, and political and security cooperation faces obstacles. To what extent does the lack of south-south integration inhibit transatlantic engagement in the region, and limit the “weight” of the Maghreb in international affairs? What are the economic and geopolitical costs of this situation? What are the prospects for change?

Moderator:

Ian Lesser

Senior Transatlantic Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States,
Washington

Discussants:

Driss Alaoui M'daghri

Former Minister, University Professor, ISCAE, Casablanca

Youssef Sawani

Executive Director, The Gaddafi Development Foundation, Tripoli

Jordi Vaquer i Fanés

Director, CIDOB, Barcelona

J. Scott Carpenter

Keston Family Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy

1100 – 1130

Coffee Break

1130 – 1300

Session II – Opportunities and Obstacles in Key Sectors

(Sala del Capitano, Palazzo San Giorgio)

The absence of a more open and concerted approach is felt in different ways, in different sectors. In some areas, including energy, regional cooperation is more advanced, although great potential remains unrealized. What are the implications of a changing energy scene, including new gas and electricity transport projects and solar initiatives? Is there potential for greater cooperation across the Maghreb on trade, investment and infrastructure? What difference could this make, and what are the prospects? What is the picture in other spheres, including the “development and security” area central to debates about the future of the region?

Energy Trade and Alternative Energy

Moderator:

Francesca Gostinelli

Head of International Regulation, ENEL, Rome

Discussants:

Francis Ghilès

Senior Fellow, CIDOB, Barcelona

Roberto Vigotti

Senior Advisor, Mediterranean Energy Observatory, Nanterre

Trevor Witton

Regional Advisor for North Africa, BP, London

1300 – 1430

Luncheon

(Palazzo San Giorgio, Downstairs Patio)

1430 – 1600

Session III – Opportunities and Obstacles in Key Sectors (continued)

(Sala del Capitano, Palazzo San Giorgio)

Trade, Investment and Infrastructure

Moderator:

Daniel Runde

Head, Partnership Development, IFC, Washington

Discussants:

Mahmud Gebril

Director, Libyan Economic Development Board, Tripoli

Omar Aloui

Director, Agroconcept, Rabat

Giuseppe Cuccurese

Director General, Cassa di Risparmio de La Spezia

Nassim Kerdjoudj

Director General, Net-Skills, Algiers

1600 – 1630

Coffee Break

1630 – 1800 **Development and Security**
(Sala del Capitano, Palazzo San Giorgio)

Moderator:

George Joffé

Research Fellow, The Centre of International Studies, Cambridge University

Discussants:

Isabelle Werenfels

Researcher, Middle East & Africa Division, SWP Berlin

Richard Youngs

Senior Fellow, Democratization Program, FRIDE, Madrid

Kamel Osmane

President, MédafCO-Développement, Algiers

Roberto Aliboni

Vice President, Institute for International Affairs (IAI), Rome

1915 – 1930 Participants gather in the NH Marina Hotel lobby and depart for Circolo Artistico Tunnel
(Via Garibaldi, 18, Genoa)

2030 **Cocktail Reception and Dinner** (Sala degli Specchi, Circolo Artistico Tunnel)

****Business Attire / Dark Suit Requested for Dinner****

Tuesday, May 12

700 – 830 **Breakfast** (NH Marina Hotel, Il Gozzo Restaurant)

900 – 1030 **Session IV – Lessons from Other Cases: Balkans, Aegean, Latin America**
(Ocean Room, NH Marina Hotel)

The Maghreb is not the only region that has confronted and addressed impediments to regional cooperation. What are the possible “lessons” of diverse experiences in the Balkans, between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean, and in Latin America? To what extent has a more integrated approach in key sectors facilitated development and stability? How has it changed the behavior of external actors? How durable is it?

Moderator:

S. Enders Wimbush

Senior Vice President, International Programs and Policy, Hudson Institute, Washington

Discussants:

Ivan Vejvoda

Executive Director, Balkan Trust for Democracy, Belgrade

Alex Rondos

Former Ambassador of Greece, Athens

Soli Ozel

Professor, Bilgi University & Editor of *Private View*, TÜSIAD, Istanbul

Alfredo G. A. Valladão

Professor, Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences Po)

1030 – 1100

Coffee Break

1100 – 1230

Session V – What is Possible? Net Assessment and Policy Implications for External Actors (*Ocean Room, NH Marina Hotel*)

Given the practical obstacles to more effective south-south cooperation, what should policymakers and analysts anticipate over the next decade? What new forms of cooperation are possible and could be transforming for the region, and for the future of European and American engagement? What can transatlantic actors (including the private sector and NGOs) do to enhance the prospects?

Moderator:

Ettore Greco

Director, Institute for International Affairs (IAI), Rome

Discussants:

Claire Spencer

Head, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House, London

Assia Bensalah Alaoui

Ambassador at Large, Kingdom of Morocco

Margaret Nardi

Deputy Director, Office of Maghreb Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Concluding Remarks

1230 – 1400

Luncheon

(*NH Marina Hotel, Terrace*)

Seminar Adjourns