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Mediterranean Strategy Group

New Military Dynamics in the Mediterranean

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AGENDA

Tuesday, November 26

Venue: Eurostars Excelsior Hotel, meeting room Posillipo A

1400 – 1430 **Registration**

1430 – 1445 **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

Rita Faden, President, the Luso-American Development Foundation
Ian Lesser, Vice President, GMF
Nicolò Russo Perez, Coordinator of the International Affairs Program,
Compagnia di San Paolo
Alfredo Valladão, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

1445 – 1615 **Session 1 | Military Capabilities of Mediterranean States**

Moderator: Ian Lesser, Vice President, GMF

Speakers:

Vice-admiral Henri Schricke, Head of International Military Affairs,
French Army

Pieter D. Wezeman, Senior Researcher, Arms Transfers and Military
Expenditure Program, Stockholm International Peace Research
Institute

The strategic environment in and around the Mediterranean is evolving rapidly, with new security challenges and the prospect of protracted crises and conflicts. Against this backdrop, littoral states and others are acquiring new military capabilities. What are the key developments in the military balance affecting the security of the Mediterranean as a whole? Looking ahead, what are the trends in modernization, defense-industrial, and training relationships? To what extent are major outside actors playing new roles in the defense trade?

1615 – 1645 **Break**

1645 – 1815 **Session 2 | The Eastern Mediterranean: An Unstable Balance?**

Moderator: Charlotte Brandsma, Senior Program Officer, GMF

Speakers:

Thanos Dokos, Alternate National Security Advisor, Government of
the Hellenic Republic

Can Kasapoğlu, Director of Security and Defense Studies Program,
The Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM)

Geoffrey Pyatt, United States Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic

The military balance in the Eastern Mediterranean has acquired new significance, with heightened risks and new flashpoints. From Russia's role as a supplier of defense equipment to Turkey and Egypt, to the increasing capability and reach of proxy groups targeting Israel and others, the security landscape is being reshaped by the proliferation of new technologies and shifting defense-industrial relationships. The naval and air forces of multiple actors are operating in close proximity against a backdrop of mounting tension over offshore energy resources and other issues. What are the looming dangers? What opportunities are there for risk reduction?

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Dinner

Location: La Casa di Ninetta

Wednesday, November 27

Venue: Eurostars Excelsior Hotel, meeting room Posillipo A

0900 – 0930

Registration

0930 – 1100

Session 3 | The Increasing Capacity of Non-State Actors

Moderator: Charlotte Brandsma, Senior Program Officer, GMF

Speakers:

Joseph Bahout, Non-resident Senior Scholar, Carnegie Endowment's Middle East Program

Kristina Kausch, Senior Resident Fellow, GMF

Nihat Ali Özcan, Associate Professor, TOBB University

In Libya, Syria, and elsewhere, sustained instability and conflict have been fueled by an influx of weaponry from abroad. Chaotic conditions and porous borders have facilitated a highly destabilizing trade in small arms and light weapons affecting security across a wide region. At the same time, irregular forces and terrorist movements in the Levant are acquiring a greater capacity to strike at longer range with missiles and drones. What is the outlook? How is the arms flow into and around conflict zones shaping the capability and behavior of non-state and criminal actors, including terrorist networks? What are the lessons from Libya, Syria, and other cases?

1100 – 1130

Break

1130 – 1300

Session 4 | The Impact of New Technologies

Moderator: Ian Lesser, Vice President, GMF

Speakers:

Thompson Chengeta, European Council Research Fellow on Drone Violence and Artificial Intelligence Ethics, University of Southampton

Lior Tabansky, Head of Research Development, Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center

Alfredo Valladão, Senior Research Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

As elsewhere, technological change is affecting the military balance across the wider Mediterranean region, including the presence of powerful actors from outside the region. The proliferation of drones, more advanced missiles (and missile defenses), fifth-generation aircraft, and burgeoning capabilities for cyber warfare are all part of the equation. What technologies are likely to be transformative in a Mediterranean context? What new geopolitical, military-to-military, and defense-industrial relationships may emerge?

1300 – 1330

Closing Remarks