

AGENDA

Mediterranean Strategy Group

Firenze, Italy

June 3-5, 2015

“New Stakes in a Changing Mediterranean: Perspectives from Asia, Eurasia, and the Gulf”

Organized in partnership with the Compagnia di San Paolo, the OCP Policy Center and Noble Energy Inc., and with the support of Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze.

ADDENDUM

Wednesday, June 3

Participants arrive throughout the day at the St. Regis Florence (Piazza Ognissanti 1, 50123, Florence)

1815 **Departure to the Palazzo Strozzi**
(Participants and organizers will gather in the lobby of the St Regis hotel and will depart for the dinner together)

1830 – 2100 **Welcome Reception and Dinner**
Palazzo Strozzi (Piazza degli Strozzi, 50123 Florence)

Thursday, June 4

Meeting venue: Palazzo Incontri – Sala Verde (Via dei Pucci 1, 50122 Florence)

0830 **Departure to the Palazzo Incontri**
(Participants and organizers will gather in the lobby of the St Regis hotel and will depart for the meeting venue together)

0830 – 0900 **Arrival and registration**
Palazzo Incontri – Sala Verde (Via dei Pucci 1, 50122 Florence)

0900 – 0930 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Ian Lesser

Executive Director, Transatlantic Center, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Piero Gastaldo

Secretary General, Compagnia di San Paolo, Turin

Karim El Aynaoui

Managing Director, OCP Policy Center and Advisor to the CEO and Chairman of OCP Group

0930 – 1100

Session I – New and Old Actors on A Changing Mediterranean Scene

The geopolitical and geo-economic environment in the Mediterranean is evolving rapidly. One of the striking elements in this context has been the growing role of Asian powers, Russia and the Gulf states on the Mediterranean scene. States, businesses and individuals are all part of this equation. What are the origins of this “new” involvement? Is it really new? What are the stakes? What is the outlook for this engagement? Does it suggest the increasing globalization of Mediterranean affairs?

Moderator:

Ian Lesser

Executive Director, Transatlantic Center, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Discussants:

Ana Palacio

Member of the Council of State of Spain

Rajendra Abhyankar

Professor of Practice of Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Indiana University

Nadia Arbatova

Head of Department of European Political Studies, Institute of World Economy and International Relations

Nabil Fahmy

Founding Dean, Professor, Ambassador in Residence, American University in Cairo

1100 – 1130

Coffee Break

1130 – 1300

Session II – Economic Stakes and Partnerships in Southern Europe

Southern Europe’s economic travails place in sharp relief the prevailing and prospective role of global actors in the future of Mediterranean Europe. Chinese investment in ports and other sectors offers one example; Russian investment in Greece and Cyprus and elsewhere offers another example. Tourism is another critical sector to consider. What is on the horizon, and how significant will this trade and investment be for Southern European recovery? Will it spur new controversies?

Moderator:

Emiliano Alessandri

Non-resident Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Discussants:

Elena Panaritis

Senior Advisor to the Finance Minister, Government of Greece

Alfredo G.A. Valladão

Professor, Sciences Po (PSIA)

Vladislav Inozemtsev

Director, Centre for Post-Industrial Studies, Moscow

Daniela Schwarzer

Director, German Marshall Fund of the United States

1300 – 1400

Lunch

1400 – 1530

Session III – Security Interests and Strategies

The likelihood of durable instability and protracted conflict around the southern Mediterranean – and the potential for social and political instability in southern Europe – ensure that the Mediterranean will occupy a central place on the global security scene. Old and new actors will be affected by the propensity for crises around the Mediterranean, as well as the potential for the region to emerge, once again, as a theatre for larger strategic competition. Links to the Black Sea, Middle Eastern conflicts and sub-Saharan Africa reinforce the place of security issues on the Mediterranean agenda. Iran, Syria, Iraq and Libya are key flashpoints. How are the interests of global actors engaged? To what extent will the struggle against ISIS and related networks constitute a shared challenge?

Moderator:

Christina Lin

Fellow, Center for Transatlantic Relations at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University

Discussants:

Latha Reddy

Former Deputy National Security Advisor, Government of India

Ariel Levite

Senior Associate, Nuclear Policy Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Stephen Covington

Strategic/International Affairs Advisor to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, SHAPE

Gerd Nonneman

Dean & CEO, School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Georgetown University

1850

Departure to The Westin Excelsior Florence

(Participants and organizers will gather in the lobby of the St Regis hotel and will depart for the dinner together)

1900 – 2130

Reception and Dinner

Se.Sto on Arno Lounge of the Roof Top at The Westin Excelsior Florence (Piazza Ognissanti 3, 50123 Florence)

Meeting venue: Palazzo Incontri – Sala Verde (Via dei Pucci 1, 50122 Florence)

0830 Departure to the Palazzo Incontri

(Participants and organizers will gather in the lobby of the St Regis hotel and will depart for the meeting venue together)

0900 – 0930 Remarks by Fathallah Sijilmassi

Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean

Introduction and moderator:

Rosa Balfour

Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States

0930 – 1100 Session IV – Economic Stakes and Partnerships in North Africa and the Levant

Across the Southern Mediterranean, the Gulf, China, India, Japan and Russia have a history of involvement as aid donors, investors and stakeholders in maritime transport, energy and construction. Arms sales are also part of the equation. With the unfinished revolutions and mounting chaos across the region, the political rationale for involvement may be growing even as the commercial risks proliferate. What are the dynamics in these areas? What is the outlook?

Moderator:

Rosa Balfour

Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Discussants:

Karim El Aynaoui

Managing Director, OCP Policy Center and Advisor to the CEO and Chairman of OCP Group

Michael Koehler

Director for Neighbourhood South, DG NEAR, European Commission

Leonardo Bellodi

CMC Cambridge Director, Eni

1100 – 1130 Coffee Break

1130 – 1300 Session V – “Club Med”: Competition or Cooperation?

How are the growing roles of Asian, Eurasian and Gulf actors likely to affect Mediterranean, European and American interests? How durable is the current diversity of actors in the Mediterranean? What are the possible areas of friction and cooperation? What are the implications for strategy on all sides, including the implications for multilateral institutions?

Moderator:

Daniel Twining

Senior Fellow, Asia, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Discussants:

Claire Spencer

Senior Research Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme & Second Century Initiative, Chatham House

Aziz Mekouar

Former Ambassador of HM the King of Morocco to the U.S. and Senior Non-Resident Fellow, OCP Policy Center

Masafumi Ishii

Ambassador to Belgium, concurrently Representative of the Government of Japan to NATO

Lanxin Xiang

Professor of International History and Politics, Graduate Institute of International and development Studies, Geneva

1300 – 1315

Concluding Remarks and Next Steps

Ian Lesser

Executive Director, Transatlantic Center, German Marshall Fund of the United States

1315 – 1400

Closing Lunch