



International

MEDITERRANEAN CONGRESS



“Economy, Energy and Security; New Opportunities”

PRESENTATION	Error! Bookmark not defined.
MEETING NAME	3
SUBJECT	Error! Bookmark not defined.
PLACE.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
DATE	Error! Bookmark not defined.
CONTENT	Error! Bookmark not defined.
COORDINATOR	5
AIM	Error! Bookmark not defined.
TARGET	Error! Bookmark not defined.
REASON	Error! Bookmark not defined.
TEAM IN CHARGE IN PROJECT	Error! Bookmark not defined.
PARTICIPANTS.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
TARGET GROUP	Error! Bookmark not defined.
METHOD	Error! Bookmark not defined.
MEDIA.....	11
PRESENTATION MATERIALS.....	11
BOOK OF CONGRESS.....	11

PRESENTATION

The Mediterranean, who has direct links with Afro-Eurasia, has been located in the middle of the most important civilization geographies of the history and has played a founder role in the formation of these civilizations and the interaction among them. The Mediterranean, who links three continents, is important also according to its harmony which is derived of different cultures, religions, languages and political thoughts.

In general, it is possible to divide the Mediterranean as the North and the South. The North has been politically drawing a rich and united/democratic view and has been economically developed by being derived of member and candidate countries of European Union who have coasts to the Mediterranean.

On the other side, in the same time the South has been economically managed by poor, authoritarian regimes and has been economically presenting a view which has been hosting to the conflicts. In the result of cultural differences between the South, who has been derived of Arab countries more as a part of Islamic world, and the North, who has been making Western values as the criterion and has been heavily involving the Christian countries, the common problems such as security, migration and environment have become the main topic.

The way of sharing the Region by European countries during the 1st World War; and following the 2nd World War, the intervention styles of super powers to the Region in the condition of the Cold War have ignored a natural and healthy interaction among the Mediterranean countries to be founded. So, the normalization in the Region has retarded because of the approaches which have been disregarding social and economic policies that are centered the security. Besides that, lots of actors have been concerned and lots of initiatives leaning on the Region have been existed throughout the history because the Region has important energy resources. NATO, OSCE, the USA, EU and other European and Region countries have developed the various samples of "Mediterranean Diplomacy" till today.

Migration waves, rising security, environmental problems and increasing energy requirement of Europe have given way to the initiative of EU and Barcelona Declaration. Energy and security-oriented policies which have been tried to maintain by EU and projects such as MED-EMIP (Euro-Mediterranean Energy Market Integration Project) have been based on energy, security and cooperation by the way of dialogue - information sharing. Nowadays, the establishment of the security in every field has been protecting its qualification to be the most important problem which is mutually interested by the Region countries.

However the solution of the problems related with the security without providing a visible amelioration in the economic, social and humanitarian conditions is impossible. An unstable Mediterranean means the loss of dominance on energy ways, and the rise of radicalism, terrorism and organized crimes; and lets Europe come up against the threat of ruining the political balance by triggering the rise of migration to Europe.

In the result of migration from the South Mediterranean countries; European Union has been faced with a new challenge on providing employment for unqualified labor force. And the unemployment has become an important issue that has to be dealt both in Region and in Europe. So the security needs social and economic development. And this is creating an obligation of putting the relations among the countries, who have been into a proximity, onto the fair and trouble-free ground and to deal with energy and security policies towards to the Region in the context of humanitarian development.

On the other hand, Barcelona Process, which has been planned as a multi partnered peace initiative, hasn't provided an important progress till now. And that has been forming question marks in the subject of the future of the process especially when the fact that the sustainable security area and humanitarian development have been into a mutual dependence has been taken into the account.

In this frame, the aim of the **International Mediterranean Congress** projected by TASAM is to contribute as "Turkey" and "Mediterranean" centered institutional and intellectual platform to the strengthening of the Region as an area of peace, democracy, prosperity and cooperation.

Best Regards...



Süleyman ŞENSOY
TASAM Başkanı

MEETING NAME

The International Mediterranean Congress

“Economy Energy and Security; New Opportunities”

SUBJECT

To organize the activity of the “International Mediterranean Congress” which will actively gather the representatives of the sides who have been directly concerned with the Mediterranean, and will be participated by related business grounds, academicians and experts besides the superior managers in charge in the public establishments.

PLACE

Istanbul, Turkey

DATE

2016

CONTENT

Throughout the history, Mediterranean has been the junction point on which the East and the West have met and political, economic, cultural and humanitarian shoppings have actualized. Besides these qualifications; its rising geostrategical importance because of being a junction point of energy ways in the recent period has turned the Mediterranean into a situation as an inevitable region for power centers of the international system. Recently, also the developments in Egypt, Tunisia and Lebanon have been confirming the rise of the importance of the Mediterranean more.

20 countries, who have still coasts in the Mediterranean Basin, have been located. These are Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine-Gaza Management, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, TRNC, Greek Cypriot State and Malta.

In the Mediterranean Basin, imperial powers have been keeping military power and trying to keep the Region under control because of its strategic importance. In the Cold War period, the basin was in the Soviet Union's field of interest as much as the USA. And the USSR effect has been observed in some countries of the basin such as Syria, Egypt and Algeria. As long as the Cold War period, NATO and so the USA have seen as the hegemonic unique power in the Mediterranean. However even if the strengthening of EU and the formation process of its own security and defense identity in the direction of its profits in the basin haven't been so effective now, it means that the USA isn't the unique power in the basin, anymore.

In the recent period, it is more privileged than the past that there should be provided the security and the stability in the basin because of the migration and refugee problem, drug traffic, the conflicts based on ethnical and religious differentiation while the projects related with the transfer of petrol and natural gas of the Middle East, North Africa and the Central Asia to the Mediterranean have been increasing the strategic importance of the basin.

EU has started the process of "New Euro-Mediterranean Partnership" with Barcelona Conference in 1995 by the aim of facilitating its dominance in the Mediterranean Basin under these conditions. In addition since that date put the Mediterranean Basin directly into its field of interest according to economy, foreign policy and security. So EU has taken an important step for its dominance in the Region by forming a common foreign policy and security strategy.

As being aware of these events, Turkey has transferred the "**New Mediterranean Vision**" into practice as for gaining the location in the region in the recent period. But it should make more detailed studies towards to the areas that it can be prior in the region within the basic strategy for gaining the expected results from this vision. In this sense, the issues about the energy demand security and the hidrogeopolitics of the Mediterranean Basin has been shaping some opportunities for Turkey.

Water supply projects developed for the East Mediterranean by Turkey has showed up as effective tools for the policies that it can apply in this area. But it is important to determinate all policies more realistically, to transfer them into the practice with the matchy-matchy steps and not to exaggerate the expectations from these strategic tools as in the past.

A Mediterranean Vision that will be formed in a basic strategy axis, can bring the wanted location in the region to Turkey who has lots of advantages in this geography. That should be evaluated as an opportunity for increasing the relations more without conflicts in cases of the energy demand security and the hidrogeopolitics of the Mediterranean Basin and for creating a cooperation opportunity.

However in the Mediterranean Basin, three continents have met and different cultures and civilizations, commercial relations, petrol and natural gas resources and waterways following till the oceans have been appeared, so there is a basin which strategically grabs attention. Today, countries, who have shores onto the Mediterranean sea coast, have got closer to each other in the result of rapid economic and political developments and technological progressions.

By the increase of common dependence relations in lots of sectors especially as energy, trade and environment among riparian countries, the Mediterranean, who was seen as a big sea two centuries ago, has become relatively smaller. These developments, which have been carrying the Mediterranean into the situation of an inland sea partaken of a closed basin, have raised the cooperation search among the basin countries in the situation of sharing the common destiny.

In all the frame, the content of the “International Mediterranean Congress” Project can be presented under six titles:

1. Global Security and the Mediterranean Geopolitics and Economic Expansions
2. European Union and “Unity for the Mediterranean” : Balance-sheet and Perspectives
3. Transformations in Domestic Policies of Mediterranean Countries and the Mediterranean Security
4. Migration Problem and Social Security of Europe
5. The Mediterranean Vision of Turkey and Perspectives
6. Hidrogeopolitics of the Mediterranean Basin and Turkey

COORDINATOR

The coordinator of congress is Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies (TASAM). TASAM is a nongovernmental organization in which private sector representatives, scientists and researchers, who know the importance of strategic researchs and who aim to supply our country about this issue, have come together and hold activities in an academical dimension.

The aim of TASAM is to produce realistic, dynamic, creative, effective solutions and decision options to the determinants by making scientific researchs, analyses and evaluations towards to the dual, regional or multilateral international relations; historical, cultural, political, economic, legal, sociological and geopolitical struction; political, economic, socio-cultural problems of Turkey by following the latest developments in the world.

AIM

The “International Mediterranean Congress” project has five basic aims:

- To compare notes on security of the Mediterranean by getting all together as sector representatives, academicians and experts directly concerned with the Mediterranean by the aim of contributing the development of peace and stability in the Mediterranean; and to develop comments based on the analysis,
- To predict about the possible developments related to security of the Mediterranean by preparing a dialogue platform after following the global and regional developments all together,
- To examine the security dynamics and their importance in the frame of the geopolitics of the Mediterranean region; and the traditional and new security problems of the region in the world policy,
- To offer suggestions to the determinants, who are responsible in the management of the country, towards to the solution of socioeconomic problems defined with the informations from its source and the approaches from different views.

TARGET

In the direction of the aims above, these targets will be tried to be reached:

- To analyse new conjuncture in the Mediterranean and to discuss multidimensional opportunities focused on the economy,
- To make Turkish and foreign public opinion, academical community and NGO representatives gather all together just in a short period,
- To put the original security structure of the Mediterranean to the forefront, so to encourage to form discussions, suggestions and predictions specific to this structure,
- To discuss probable roles of Turkey and the other actors in the solution of Region problems centered the Mediterranean,
- To strengthen the communication among the Region states, the other nongovernmental actors -who are active in the Region- and the various authorities in the step of formation of the Mediterranean security,

- To contribute to prepare dialogue platforms or to develop diplomatic relations by increasing the communication,
- To offer policy suggestions and predictions to the determinant corporations and foundations about the Mediterranean security in short, middle and long terms,
- To contribute the efforts of stability and cooperation in the Mediterranean,
- To contribute to determine the manner of Turkey by producing the probable policy options,
- To define the region policy and security comprehension of Turkey by considering the policies towards to the Mediterranean in the regional and international area.

REASON

It is the truth that the Mediterranean has lots of interwoven problems. But the Mediterranean and its societies shouldn't be condemned to the image specific to negativities. The Mediterranean countries have a potential which can start a peaceful development cooperation by mobilising their domestic dynamics with the power taken from their societies. The will of living region communities together, the right of independence of states and the respect to the basic right and freedoms of individuals are preconditions for providing permanent peace and tranquility both among the countries and in a national scale. To emphasize on fair and realistic observations about comprehending problems in the Mediterranean will encourage the agreeable initiatives. In the present frame, Turkey should maintain the constructive contributions for planting the regional stability and prosperity on the immediate environment. It is the common benefit of region states and societies to continue to facilitate the dialogue among sides; and to evaluate the international support that has been provided by the consistent and peacemaker policies in a most efficient way without getting involved in confrontational axis.

The benefits that have been expected from the process of “**Euro-Mediterranean Partnership**”, which EU have started by giving a great importance, can't be provided. The stability and cooperation in the East Mediterranean is the key for maintaining this process in a proper way. Turkey, whose membership negotiations with EU have been continuing, has been the country whose political, economic and cultural maneuver capability has been the highest with its muslim identity in the region. Only Turkey will not ignore this stability and provide it related with its following strategies; and will play an efficient role. But these steps are important for transforming the expectations from the New Mediterranean Vision by Turkey into the concrete savings;

- It is important to have a basic strategy of Turkey towards being a power in the region and to develop by taking matchy-matchy steps in the direction of this strategy.

- This basic strategy should be more efficient strategy towards taking a location in the region instead of keeping step with the developments in the Mediterranean Basin.
- Turkey shouldn't restrict itself in the context of only this policy in the region without ignoring the importance of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation policy for itself.
- While Turkey has been redefining its role in region, it should use its superiorities that can help in the EU-Mediterranean Partnership with a realistic policy.

Our starting point is the requirement for following, analysing and comprehending carefully the processes in the Mediterranean and the actors that determine these processes. For us, after taking the forward step of this necessity, it is not enough only to comprehend and to explain; and we should get involved in the formation of these mentioned processes and the management of these processes by actors. It is supposed to determine how Turkey will be able to be efficient in the shaping of the new Mediterranean in the context of the benefits of our country and the Mediterranean.

In this perspective, **the “International Mediterranean Congress”** has the target of **constructing a conscious area specific to the Mediterranean** in the areas such as political relations, economy, energy, security cooperation and democratisation among the Region countries in the light of development which have been existed in the Mediterranean geography.

TEAM IN CHARGE IN PROJECT

Project Coordinator

Süleyman ŞENSOY, The Chairman of TASAM

Project Executive

Muharrem Hilmi ÖZEV, TASAM

Project Advisors

Ambassador (R) Murat BİLHAN, Vice Chairman of TASAM

Ambassador (R) Prof. Ali Engin OBA, TASAM ve Çağ University

Ambassador (R) Ümit PAMİR, Wise Persons Board Member of TASAM TSV 2023 Project

Ambassador (R) Ömür ORHUN, Wise Persons Board Member of TASAM TSV 2023 Project

Assoc. Prof. Gülden AYMAN, Marmara University

Experts in Charge in Project

Dr. Almagül İSİNA, TASAM

Diler ULUKAYA, TASAM

Yusuf AYDEMİR, TASAM

PARTICIPANTS

To the meeting:

- Statesmen
- Sector Representatives
- Senior Staff in Charge in Public Establishments
- Experts and Academicians Related with Meeting Issues

- Media Members

from the Mediterranean countries will participate.

TARGET GROUP

- Statesmen from Turkey and the Mediterranean countries,
- Business Ground and Organizations,
- Senior Bureaucrats,
- Academicians and Experts,
- Research Centers
- Energy Institutions
- Industrial and Commercial Organizations, Unities and Chambers,
- Nongovernmental Organizations,
- Media Members,
- All of our public and the Mediterranean communities interested in the subject

METHOD

The representatives directly related with the Mediterranean will be gathered in the context of 3 days congress that will be held by TASAM.

An ideal platform will be prepared for contributions and profits by providing the participation of senior managers, experts related with the content, academicians and scienemen from all countries.

After the meeting (and activities) that will be held in the context of the Project will end; completed studies will be lately published in the format of a strategic report.

The basic approach is to create a flexible institutionalization that will continue also after the Congress.

MEDIA

The representatives of think tanks and sectors, academicians, experts, chief editors/news directors with columnists of journals and televisions from Turkey and the other Mediterranean countries will be invited to the activities within the Project. Furthermore, the promotional works will be prepared for these activities to appear in the press.

PRESENTATION MATERIALS

The kinds of presentation materials, which contain the activities in the Project, are:

Banner

Leaflet

Invitation

File

Notepad

Promotion

In addition the visuals that will reflect to the store in the hall and identification badges will also be prepared.

CONGRESS BOOK

A book will be prepared by the aim of turning the evaluations and declarations presented by the participants in the International Mediterranean Congress in a permanent shape; and will be sent to the concerned institutions and authorities. The transfer of prepared study to the related sides by a written source will provide to get more fertilized results from the cooperation process.