



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF NATIONAL DEFENCE POLICY
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

High Level International Conference



*Sustainable Development and Regional Integration
in the Mediterranean
within the Current Context of Security Challenges and Threats*

21 - 24 February 2023

Hellenic Air Force Academy
Auditorium "Lieutenant (P) Nikolaos Sialmas"



High Level International Conference
***Sustainable Development and Regional Integration
in the Mediterranean***
within the Current Context of Security Challenges and Threats

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2023

08.00 – 09.30 **Registration - Reception of Participants - Coffee**

09.30 – 11.00 **Welcome Addresses**

Mr Nikolaos Chardalias

Deputy Minister of National Defence of the Hellenic Republic

Mr Ioannis Plakiotakis

Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy of the Hellenic Republic

Mr Charalambos Petrides

Minister of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus

Vice Admiral Fragkiskos Leloudas

Deputy Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff

Dr Konstantinos Balomenos

Director General

General Directorate of National Defence Policy and International Relations, Hellenic Ministry of National Defence

11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee Break**

Session 1

11.30 – 13.30

The Mediterranean through the centuries

This session will focus on the history and the intercultural relations in the Mediterranean region through the centuries. It will also examine the Mediterranean Sea as a bridge of peace, friendship and solidarity. Additionally, it will evaluate the impact of conflicts and wars in the Mediterranean region.

Moderator: Ms Evangelia Palla, Historian at Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation

Mr Patrick Maisonnave

Ambassador of French Republic to the Hellenic Republic

Mr Leonidas Rokanas

Ambassador, Director General of European Union Affairs of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Carmen Buttigieg

Director for Defence Matters Directorate of the Republic of Malta

Ms Angela Gerekou

President of Greek National Tourism Organization

Dr Evanthis Hatzivassiliou

Secretary – General of the Hellenic Parliament Foundation

Professor, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Athens

Q & A

13.30 – 14.30

Lunch Break

Session 2

14.30 – 16.30

Challenges, threats and opportunities in the Mediterranean region

This session will focus on the geopolitical trends after the outbreak of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It will also examine the political dynamics framework, the barriers in the regional Mediterranean integration (climate change, illegal integration, etc.) and the Green – Blue Economy.

Moderator: Dr Elias Tempelis, Hellenic Naval Academy

Mr Omar Amer Youssef

Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Hellenic Republic

Mr Mathew James Lodge

Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Hellenic Republic

Dr Ernst Reichel

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Hellenic Republic

Q & A

16.30 – 17.00

Review - End of the first day

WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2023

08.30 – 09.00 **Registration - Reception of Participants - Coffee**

09.00 – 10.00 **Keynote Speaker**

Mr Eleftherios Oikonomou

Deputy Minister of Citizen Protection of the Hellenic Republic

Session 3

10.00 – 12.00

Ongoing conflicts and disputes

This session will focus on the ongoing conflicts and disputes in the Mediterranean region, such as the ones between Greece and Turkey, those in Libya, Syria and the Middle East.

Moderator: Lieutenant General (ret.) Stavros Koutris

Mr Noam Katz

Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Hellenic Republic

Mr Aleksandar Sunko

Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the Hellenic Republic

Rear Admiral (UH) Gianfranco Annunziata

ITA Defence Policy Director

Ministry of Defence of Italy

Dr Athanasios Platias

Professor at the University of Piraeus

Dr Chahine Ghais

Dean of the College of Security and Global Studies, American University in the Emirates

Q & A

12.00 – 12.30 **Coffee Break**

Session 4

12.30 – 14.30

Security trends in the Mediterranean region

This session will focus on the security trends in the Mediterranean region, such as Maritime Security, Border Security, Energy Security, Terrorism, Organized Crime, Drug Trafficking and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Moderator: Mr Dimitrios Apokis, Journalist

Admiral (ret.) Evangelos Apostolakis

Former Minister of National Defence of the Hellenic Republic,
Honorary Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff

Ms Elisabeth Cardoso

Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the Hellenic Republic

Mr Mohammed Sbihi

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Hellenic Republic

Rear Admiral Juan Bautista Pérez Puig

Deputy Director General of Defence Policy
Ministry of Defence of Spain

Vice Admiral (ret.) Alexandros Diakopoulos

Director General of Development and Humanitarian Aid of the
Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Q & A

14.30– 15.30

Lunch Break

Session 5

15.30- 17.30

Hybrid threats in the Mediterranean region

This session will focus on the domains of hybrid warfare (Physical – Virtual – Cognitive) in the Mediterranean region and the instrumentalization/weaponization of illegal migration

Moderator: Lieutenant General (ret.) Ioannis Baltzois, President of the Hellenic Institute for Strategic Studies

Ms Sofia Voultepsi

Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum of the Hellenic Republic

Dr Konstantinos Balomenos

Director General

General Directorate of National Defence Policy and International Relations, Hellenic Ministry of National Defence

Dr José Pedro Texeira Fernandes

Portuguese Institute of National Defence

Mr Georgios Giannopoulos

Head of Unit E.2: Technologies for Space, Security & Connectivity

Deputy Director of Directorate E: Space, Security & Migration

Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Q & A

17.30 – 18.00

Review - End of the second day

THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2023

08.30 – 09.00 **Registration - Reception of Participants - Coffee**

09.00 – 10.00 **Keynote Speaker**

Mr George James Tsunis

Ambassador of the United States of America to the Hellenic Republic

Session 6

10.00 – 12.00

The role of international organizations in the Mediterranean region

This session will focus on the role of international organisations in the Mediterranean region, in particular the UN, EU (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and its partnership with the Mediterranean countries) and the Council of Europe and NATO (NATO and its Mediterranean Dialogue)

Moderator: Dr Georgios Kaffes, Hellenic Army Academy

Mr Angus Lapsley

NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning

Dr Alison Weston

Deputy to the Director for Security and Defence Policy and Head of Division for Partnerships and Task Force NATO in the European External Action Service

Mr Mahieddine Djeflal

Ambassador of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Hellenic Republic

Ms Anna-Karine Asselin

Ambassador of Canada to the Hellenic Republic

Dr Ioannis Chrysoulakis

Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy

Mr Nuno Lemos Pires

National Defence Policy Director
Ministry of Defence of Portugal

Q & A

12.00 – 12.30 **Coffee Break**

12.30 – 14.30

Session 7

Cooperation and defence in the Mediterranean region

This session will focus on the cooperation (bilateral, multilateral and EU – NATO) and on the defence industry (Joint Procurement, etc.) in the Mediterranean region

Moderator: Mr Dimitrios Thomas, Journalist

Mr Sergii Shutenko

Ambassador of Ukraine to the Hellenic Republic

Mr Andreas Eliades

Diplomatic Advisor to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus

Mr Cyrille Bret

Director Naval Group Greece

Mr Anastasios Rozolis

CEO at AKMON SA and Chairman of the BoD of the Hellenic Manufacturers of Defence and Security Material Association – SEKPY

Mr Nikolaos Kostopoulos

Chief Executive Officer of National Defence Systems

Q & A

14.30– 15.30

Lunch Break

15.30– 17.30

Session 8

Crisis Management Mechanism in the Mediterranean region

This session will focus on the Crisis Management Mechanisms in the Mediterranean region (UN Crisis Management Mechanism and Peacemaking/Peacekeeping operations – EU Crisis Management Mechanism/Migration Policy – NATO Crisis Management Mechanism). It will also examine the ongoing Peace Operations in the Mediterranean

Moderator: Lieutenant General (ret.) Ippokratis Daskalakis

Colonel Mr Orlin Nikolov

Director of NATO Crisis Manage and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence

Dr Maria Vlachadi

Lecturer at the Political Science Department of the University of Crete

General Arie Mizrachi

Chairman Armaz - Bagira Group

Mr Osterrieder Holger

Head of European Security and Defence College

Q & A

17.30 – 18.00

Review - End of the third day

FRIDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2023

08.30 – 09.00 **Registration - Reception of Participants - Coffee**

Session 9

09.00 – 11.00

Resilience – Resistance

This session will focus on the resilience – resistance in the Mediaterranean region. It will examine the vulnerabilities, the way to build national resilience (critical infrastructure, cyber etc.), cognitive resilience and how to tackle disinformation campaigns

Moderator: Dr Georgios Kaffes, Hellenic Army Academy

Keynote Speaker

Mr Christos Stylianides

Minister of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection of the Hellenic Republic

Mr Boštjan Pavlin

Director-General at the Defence Affairs Directorate at the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia

Mr Athanasios Kosmopoulos

Data Protection Officer

Ministry of Digital Governance of the Hellenic Republic

Dr Konstantinos Tsetsos

Head of Foresight at Metis Institute

Lecturer at Bundeswehr University Munich

Q & A

11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee Break**

11.30 – 13.30

Session 10

Greece as a keyplayer of the Mediterranean geopolitical environment

This session will focus on Greece as a keyplayer of the Mediterranean Geopolitical Environment (Pillar of Peace and Security in the Mediterranean region, its contribution in the Peacemaking / Peacekeeping operations and its role in the future)

Moderator: Dr Ioanna Lekea

Lecturer in the Department of Aeronautical Sciences

Keynote Speaker

Dr Dimitrios Avramopoulos

Former European Commissioner of Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of National Defence of the Hellenic Republic

Dr Angelos Syrigos

Deputy Minister of Education and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

Dr Konstantinos Balomenos

Director General

General Directorate of National Defence Policy and International Relations, Hellenic Ministry of National Defence

Mr Alexandros Mallias

Ambassador (ret.)

Former Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the USA (2005 – 2009)

Q & A

13.30– 14.30

Lunch Break

14.30 – 15.30

Conference Conclusions - Closing Remarks

Dr Konstantinos Balomenos

Director General

General Directorate of National Defence Policy and International Relations, Hellenic Ministry of National Defence





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