

5th International Seminar on Security and Defence in the Mediterranean

Multi-Dimensional Security

Presentation.
Narcís Serra and Celia Abenza

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This monographic work contains all the papers, addresses and reports presented in the 5th International Seminar on Security and Defence in the Mediterranean, held in Barcelona on 4th December, 2006. The seminars, which were organised jointly by the CIDOB Foundation and the Spanish Ministry of Defence, have been held on an annual basis since 2002.

The previous 2005 Seminar took place at a time of great expectancy, only two months before the Euro-Mediterranean Summit. The 2006 Seminar, on the other hand, was held after a year in which the Mediterranean had once again become the centre of a violent conflict: three members of the Barcelona Process, Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority, became embroiled in a violent escalation, the main victims of which were the inhabitants of the region.

As every year, the 2006 Seminar carried out an evaluation of the progress made in various co-operation initiatives, including the Barcelona Process, the European Neighbourhood Policy, 5+5 Initiative, the NATO Mediterranean Dialogue and the ESDP. At the same time, it analysed a number of practical cases, such as Morocco's participation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and some of the ESDP missions in the Middle East. One of the main innovations in this year's Seminar was the introduction of small working committees responsible for tackling some of the basic aspects of security in the Mediterranean, such as the control of migration flows, energy issues and the compatibility between the promotion of governance and security in the Mediterranean. Part of these contributions has also been included in this publication.

The sensitive issues that were discussed in the seminar, which could easily have hampered dialogue among some of the participants, were not influenced by the current political situation. This demonstrates the importance of holding debates that help to strengthen co-operation in the area of security and defence in the Mediterranean. With this objective in mind, our annual Seminar is becoming consolidated as a necessary meeting point between the governmental representatives of the countries of the European Union, the members of NATO and the countries to the South and East of the Mediterranean, with the aim of sharing information and debating the main challenges to security in the

region. It also provides an opportunity for prestigious scholars and actors that are there on the ground, both civilians and members of the military forces, to discuss these same challenges and to develop a fruitful dialogue.

We at the CIDOB Foundation and the Ministry of Defence consider it essential to promote collaboration on projects that help to consolidate spaces for dialogue among representatives from both sides of the Mediterranean and which, in turn, serve to bring these debates closer to our country's specialists on the region. Likewise, by publishing the speeches and reports deriving from the Seminar, we also contribute to disseminating this information among the general public.

This monograph, which is the result of the debates generated by the 5th Seminar, is therefore a work that contains different positions and sensitivities in the face of the multidimensional challenges to security in the region. Furthermore, if we recognise that most of these challenges affect the Mediterranean as a whole and not only its individual states, then encouraging shared reflections on these issues represents one of the most important tasks being carried out by institutions such as ours.