



Outcomes Report

Athens, April 15-16, 2016

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STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

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ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΔΙΠΛΟΜΑΤΙΑΣ



ABOUT

The Mercator European Dialogue aims at encouraging a European network of EU parliamentarians, providing future leading and senior members of parliament with the unique opportunity to exchange ideas on the future of Europe, share national concerns on a European level and better understand emerging trends. Stiftung Mercator launched the Mercator European Dialogue in cooperation with the German Marshall Fund of the United States | GMF in Germany, the Istituto Affari Internazionali | IAI in Italy, the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs | CIDOB in Spain, and the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy | ELIAMEP in Greece.



On 15-16th of April 2016, 25 members of national parliaments from 13 EU member states met in Athens to participate in the 2nd Mercator European Dialogue (MED). The members of parliament came from a wide range of political and geographical backgrounds: from the left and the right of the political spectrum, from opposition and governing parties, from founding and long-time member states to recent ones, and with both future leaders and senior MPs representing the Baltic states, the British Isles, Eastern, Southern and Central Europe.



PROCESS

The MPs joined in a highly participatory and interactive process throughout a two day workshop. On Day 1, the MPs visited Eleonas Refugee Camp in Athens engaging with Camp Manager and Vice Mayor of Athens, Lefteris Papagiannakis. On Day 2, the parliamentarians kicked-off the 2nd Mercator European Dialogue focusing on making connections with other MPs, sharing and learning about political perspectives and trends influencing political outlook and attitudes towards Europe.

Participants provided feedback and explored previous MED tracks and workshops as a springboard for new insights on effective dialogue for change around the following key issues: EU Strategic Vision; Reconnecting the people with Europe; German Leadership, Responsibility, Solidarity; EU Enlargement; Sustainable Development in Europe. A special focus was further devoted to the

current issue of Migration & Refugee Crisis, within the context of which MPs shared national perceptions and provided suggestions on how to enable better dialogue and exchange of best practices.

A final session allowed the Parliamentarians to take stock of the momentum gathered since the 1st MED meeting, reflect on key issues of European relevance and identify new avenues, initiatives or themes where the Mercator European Dialogue could invest to foster new opportunities for insightful and constructive conversations.

The process was facilitated by Peter Woodward and Mia Forbes Pirie.





OUTCOMES

The MPs identified four main themes where they would like to see a future investment of the Mercator European Dialogue network:



THEME 1

The Migration & Refugee Crisis

The Dialogue emphasized a growing awareness of the diverging perceptions of the migration issue across EU member states, highlighting different levels of public and media attention. Parliamentarians voiced their frustration with the current state of the debate and emphasized the challenge of addressing the topic pragmatically vis-à-vis fellow parliamentarians from across and within political party lines, local constituencies and the wider public. MPs from Member States across the EU expressed the need to share information and experience about approaches and solutions put in place nationally and to foster continued efforts in building positive networks for constructive dialogue. The conversations underlined that, despite

contrasting attitudes towards the definition of an EU role in the refugee crisis, the problem remains a European one. If only for mere geographical reasons, a joint solution to the problem of migration should be subject to comprehensive and inclusive debate across European Member States.

Sign-ups

Marta Marbán de Frutos
Linda Lanzillotta
Jaak Madison
Michael Szczerba
Marca Lamuà Estañol
Carles Campuzano i Canades



THEME 2

EU Security: managing internal & external threats

Fragmentation and incoherence across internal and external security policies at the EU and national levels is hindering the EU's ability to protect its citizens and its borders. With spillover effects of substantial magnitude into other policy fields, notably with regards to the migration and refugee crisis, tackling the trans-border security challenges of the European continent and beyond, is identified as a priority for European policy makers. Recognizing the importance of the vital and basic need for security of their citizens, parliamentarians identified the need to engage in a more productive conversation about European defence and intelligence capacities, the role of national leaders in shaping European security policies, the rethinking of the relationship between security

and solidarity and the need to share experiences and best practices across Member States to ensure the safety of the European people and stability in the region.

Sign-ups

Filip Popov
Linus Balsys
Linda Lanzillotta
Lolita Cigane
Michael Szczerba
Jaak Madison
Luis Alberto Orellana
Marca Lamuà Estañol
Duco Hoogland





OUTCOMES

THEME 3

Political, Economic & Social Transformations: challenges to the current establishment

Dissatisfaction with the current economic order, the emergence of new and diverse political forces, the transformation of social aggregation patterns; all of these elements are pointing to the shifting of macro-economic, political and social trends challenging the established organization of European societies. From the rise of the digital and sharing economies to the online creation and mobilization of citizen movements, parliamentarians recognize the need to understand the deeply rooted changes affecting our societies. Appreciating the consequences and implications of the latter, MPs see the



need to reconnect national politics with citizens' concerns in a complex and evolving local, regional and global context in order to provide appropriate policy solutions. _____

Sign-ups

Duarte Marques
Margarida Balseiro Lopes
Kristyna Zelienková
Marco Meloni
Stephen Gethins _____



THEME 4

Europe beyond Crises: developing foresight and fostering long-term vision

In the midst of shifting macro trends and profound concerns regarding the future of the European model, the MED parliamentarians are aware of the need to project themselves beyond the immediate future in order to shape sustainable long-term solutions to today's problems. Over the last decade, EU politics and policies have increasingly been perceived as driven by crises – the financial and economic crisis, the EU's legitimacy crisis, or the current migration and refugee crisis. Dissatisfaction vis-à-vis the perception of European politics being defined by crisis management and muddling through, echoed MPs' desire to anticipate future challenges affecting European citizens. The parliamentarians expressed an interest in engaging in foresight exercises in order to develop a vision for the future and thus be able to adopt proactive rather than reactive solutions. _____

Sign-ups

Filip Popov
Duarte Marques
Margarida Balseiro Lopes
Linas Balsys
Paolo Guerrieri Paleotti
Linda Lanzillotta
Stephen Gethins
Lolita Cigane
Jaak Madison
Marca Lamuà Estañol
Carles Campuzano i Canades
Luis Alberto Orellana
Duco Hoogland
Harry Theocharis _____



Participants further voiced their interest in fostering and expanding the depth and scope of the Dialogues by **making use of available and innovative tools and methods for enabling better conversations**. Parliamentarians also clearly identified the need to include a more diverse set of voices to the dialogues, reinforcing diversity within the MED network and **strengthening the participation of political actors from across the political spectrum as well as beyond the EU's borders**.

A select group of participants voiced their interest in jointly communicating in favour of a resetting of the 'EU blame-game', giving rise to an initiative - led by a Greek, a British, a Portuguese and a Spanish MP – aimed at drafting a bi-partisan, cross-border MP Manifesto recognizing the need to engage in a more frank and constructive conversation about the European project.



A EUROPEAN DIALOGUE BY A EUROPEAN NETWORK OF PARTNERS



Stiftung Mercator is a private foundation which fosters science and the humanities, education and international understanding. It specifically initiates, develops and funds projects and partner organizations in the thematic fields to which it is committed: it wants to strengthen Europe, improve integration through equal

educational opportunities for everyone, drive forward the energy transition as a trigger for global climate change mitigation and firmly anchor cultural education in schools. Stiftung Mercator feels a strong sense of loyalty to the Ruhr region, the home of the founding family and the foundation's headquarters.



The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan. GMF contributes research and analysis and convenes leaders on transatlantic issues relevant to policymakers. GMF offers rising leaders opportunities to develop their skills and networks through transatlantic exchange, and supports civil society in the Balkans and Black Sea regions by fostering democratic initiatives,

rule of law, and regional cooperation.

Founded in 1972 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has offices in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, Bucharest, and Warsaw. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.



The Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) was founded on 11 October 1965 on the initiative of Altiero Spinelli. The Institute's main objective is to promote an understanding of the problems of international politics through studies, research, meetings and publications, with the aim of increasing the opportunities of all countries to move in the direction of supranational organization, democratic freedom and social justice (IAI Bylaws, Article 1). It's

main research areas include: EU Institutions and Politics, the EU's Global Role, Turkey and the Neighbourhood, International Political Economy, Mediterranean and Middle East, Transatlantic Relations, Security and Defence, Italian Foreign Policy, Energy. A non-profit organization, the IAI is funded by individual and corporate members, public and private organizations, major international foundations, and by a standing grant from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) is an independent and plural think tank based in Barcelona, dedicated to the study, research and analysis of international affairs. Created in 1973 as an International Documentation Centre of Barcelona, it is a private foundation since 1979.

CIDOB promotes global governance and good practices – based on local, national and European democratic government – to ensure

that people possess the basic elements to live their lives free from fear and in liberty, by facilitating a dialogue that includes all diversities and which actively defends human rights and gender equality. CIDOB is a dynamic community of analytics that works to produce and offer to all political actors – from individual citizens to international organizations – information and ideas to formulate and promote policies for a more secure, free and fair world for everyone.



ELIAMEP is an independent, non-profit and policy-oriented research and training institute. It neither expresses, nor represents, any specific political party view. It is only devoted to the right of free and well-documented discourse.

ELIAMEP's mission is to provide a forum for public debate on issues of European integration and international relations to conduct scientific research that contributes to a better informed and documented knowledge of the European and international environment.