

ECONOMIC FORUM of the
western mediterranean



— Dialogue 5 + 5 —

5+5 Dialogue
Chronology of the main meetings (2003-2013)



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

CASAMEDITERRANEO

IE Med.
European Institute of the Mediterranean



Introduction

The Forum for the Dialogue in the Western Mediterranean, also known as 5+5 Dialogue, is an informal political dialogue that brings together ten riparian countries in the Western basin of the Mediterranean: five countries from the Arab Maghreb Union (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia) and five members of the European Union (Spain, France, Italy, Malta and Portugal). This initiative was created in Rome on 10 December 1990 with the aim of reinforcing and enriching the political, economic and cultural dialogue between the two banks of the Mediterranean.

However, the consequences of the Gulf War and the embargo imposed on Libya, among other things, weakened the development of this initiative during the nineties. It was not until January 2001 that the 5+5 found itself being relaunched at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Lisbon which has met regularly once a year in the Maghreb and in Europe alternatively since then. The 5+5 also holds regular meetings at other levels, such as that of the Ministers for Employment and Social Affairs, Defence, Home Affairs or national Parliaments.

The 5+5 Dialogue has a flexible and informal character, over the years its character has changed from the merely political, becoming a forum for a strengthened regional and multidisciplinary cooperation in the Western Mediterranean. Originally just a politic compromise between Foreign Ministers, it later expanded to include other spheres, such as education, the environment and renewable energies, as well as home affairs (since 1995), migration (since 2002), inter-parliamentary relations (since 2003), defence (since 2004), tourism (since 2006) and transport (since 2007) Education (2009) and Environment (2010). Due to its practical and operational nature, it is an ideal forum for the exchange of ideas and the launch of new initiatives.

The 5+5 Dialogue stands out as the unique framework in relations between European and Maghreb countries. Due to its practical and operative character it is a privileged forum for the interchange of ideas and launching of new initiatives besides taking advantage of the restricted geographical field limited to the Western Mediterranean. This initiative has encouraged the insertion of Libya and Mauritania in the regional context.

5+5 Dialogue Founding Declaration, 10 October 1990, Rome (Italy)

www.iemed.org/observatori-es/recursos/documents/documents-oficials/declaracio-constitutiva-del-dialeg-5-5



Main meetings of the period 2003-2004

▪ 29th-30th October 2003, Saint-Symphorien-le-Château (France): **Extraordinary meeting of 5+5 Dialogue Foreign Ministers.** The aim of this meeting, which takes place according to that agreed at the annual meeting of foreign ministers in Sainte-Maxime (9th and 10th April 2003), is twofold: on one hand, to tackle the issue of recent regional developments and their consequences for the Western Mediterranean and on the other hand, to contribute to the preparations for the First Summit of Heads of State and Government of the 5+5 Dialogue initiative.

www.iemed.org/observatori/recursos/documents/documents-officials/reunion-des-ministres-des-affaires-etrangeres-du-dialogue-5-5?set_language=ca

▪ 5th-6th December 2003, Tunisia (Tunisia): **First Summit of Heads of State and Government of the 5+5 Group.** Five main themes are presented at the Tunisia Summit: security and stability in the Western Mediterranean, Maghreb economic cooperation and integration, cooperation in the social field; dialogue of cultures and civilizations and the New Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union.

Tunisia Declaration

www.5plus5.tn/english/declaration-tunis.htm

▪ 15th-16th September 2004, Algiers (Algeria): **Third Ministerial Conference on Migration in the Western Mediterranean.** With the aim of advancing the 5+5 Dialogue initiative, special attention is paid to the theme of migration at the First Ministerial Conference on Migration in the Western Mediterranean held in Tunisia in 2002, followed by the Second Conference in Rabat in 2003. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) participate as observers. The conclusions made during this conference follow the line set by previous meetings, insisting on the need for effective cooperation within the framework of migrations. The participating ministers are pleased with the significant results achieved at the First Summit of Heads of State and Government of the 5+5 countries, held in Tunisia on 5th and 6th December 2003, above all with that related to recommendations on migration. Amongst the recommendations made during the conference were the organisation of meetings and seminars with experts from the two Mediterranean shores, the setting-up of awareness campaigns on migration, as well as the risks involved in illegal immigration or the promotion of new ways of managing migration within the framework of bilateral cooperation between the member countries of the 5+5 Dialogue. On France's proposal it is agreed to hold the next Ministerial Conference on Migration in France in October 2005.

Conclusions of the Third Conference on Migration in the Western Mediterranean

www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/policy_and_research/rcp/5+5/5+5_Presidential_Summary_Algeria_2004_En.pdf

▪ 23rd-24th November 2004, Oran (Algeria): **Fourth Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Western Mediterranean.** The participating ministers analyse several matters of common interest such as the fight against illegal immigration, terrorism, economic cooperation in the region and the re-launch of the Barcelona Process. The final statement of the Conference places special emphasis on the willingness of the 5+5 members to form a solid base in order to contribute to the stability and economic integration of the region, at the same time encouraging the Euro-Mediterranean Process. In addition, the participants agree to organise a forum on business and investment in the ten member countries to be held in Tunisia throughout the second half of 2005 and to hold a meeting between the presidents of the 5+5 Parliaments in Paris in December 2004.

▪ 7th-8th December 2004, Paris (France): **Second meeting of the Presidents of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the 5+5 countries.** After the first meeting which took place in Libya in 2003, France hosts the meeting of the Presidents of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the 5+5. Along with the meetings organised within the executive branch, the parliamentary meetings of the 5+5 intend to enhance the process within the framework of parliamentary diplomacy. The Paris meeting focus on two key themes: during the meeting held at the French National Assembly the focus is on migration and population, while the session held in the French Senate tackles decentralised cooperation and interparliamentary cooperation.



French National Assembly

www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/rap-dian/dian001-2005.asp

French Senate

www.senat.fr/evenement/cooperation_decentralisee_2004.html

▪ 21st December 2004, Paris (France): **First meeting of the defence ministers of the 5+5 Dialogue.** The participating ministers sign a common declaration on security in the Mediterranean region. In the declaration of intent signed by the participants, it is agreed that an Action Plan should be established. This will bring together the practical activities which will be developed as regards security. It is also agreed that annual meetings should be held by defence ministers, at which the activities carried out throughout the year will be assessed and the Action Plan for the following year approved.

French Ministry of Defence

www.defense.gouv.fr/das/rerelations-internationales/l-initiative-5-5-defense/historique



Main meetings in 2005

▪ 29th-30th June, Valletta (Malta): **5th Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs**. Regional issues are discussed such as the situation in Iraq or the resumption of the Barcelona Process, against the background of the tenth anniversary in November. The participating ministers demonstrate their agreement on the importance of strengthening the social welfare systems in the Southern Mediterranean countries. The issue of illegal immigration is also tackled in a debate and agreement is reached on the preparation of a high-level conference on this subject, which will bring together Euromediterranean transit and destination countries as well as sub-Saharan countries of origin. Other topics discussed apart from regional issues are the Libyan proposal of the Road Map for Peace and Security in the Western Mediterranean, the tenth anniversary of the Barcelona Process, a Tunisian-Maltese report on Culture and Development and a Tunisian report on the Year of the Mediterranean. Morocco will take over from the Maltese presidency in 2006, which means that the next meeting will take place in the Maghreb country.

▪ 9th-10th November, Paris (France): **4th Ministerial Conference on Migration in the Western Mediterranean**. The Conference brings together the Ministers for Employment and Social Affairs from both shores of the Western Mediterranean at the invitation of France, the first country in the Northern shore to assume the annual presidency of this organisation. The conference is basically set up with the objective of consolidating the dialogue initiated in Tunisia in 2002 which has assumed dramatic significance recently due to the growth of the phenomenon of clandestine immigration. The aim is to be able to provide a global response to the phenomenon of migration (control of migratory movements, integration and co-development policies), also taking observance of the interests of the origin and host countries into consideration in a dynamic of solidarity, cooperation and development.

www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/policy_and_research/rcp/5+5/5+5_Presidential_Summary_Paris_2005_Fr.pdf

▪ 11th-12th December, Algiers (Algeria): **2nd Meeting of the Ministers for Defence** with the aim of taking stock of the actions implemented during the year and to determine the objectives for 2006. Hence, and in accordance with the French initiative of 2004, the 5+5 determined a plan of agreed action on maritime security, civil protection and aviation security in the Mediterranean, to combat terrorism, clandestine immigration and even illegal trafficking.



Main meetings in 2006

- 5th May, Hammamet (Tunisia): **1st meeting of the Tourism Ministers** ends with the Hammamet Declaration whereby the ministers agree to make the forum a place for reflection and concertation and to launch a project to promote sustainable Euro-Mediterranean tourism that is respectful of environmental resources and values Western Mediterranean civilisations.
- 11th/12th May, Nice (France): **12th Conference of Interior Ministers of the Western Mediterranean (CIMO)**. The main objective of the conference is to consolidate cooperation in the fight against terrorism, organised crime (particularly drug trafficking), illegal immigration and civil protection (to create a common contingent for monitoring and rapid intervention in the event of natural or human catastrophes).
- 27th November, Rabat (Morocco): **3rd meeting of the 5+5 Parliamentary Presidents** in the country presiding the 5+5 Dialogue in 2006. The issues on the meeting's agenda are: terrorism, illegal immigration, economic differences between the two shores, etc. The President of the Chamber of Representatives, Abdelwahad Radi, says that the Mediterranean stands out as the most unequal border in the world.
- 11th December 2006, Paris (France): **3rd Meeting of the Defence Ministers**. The main issues of the meeting are maritime surveillance, air security and the contribution of armed forces in civil protection. Throughout 2006, 15 major activities have taken place including high-level seminars and manoeuvres, and the project to set up an Officer Training School has been materialised. New work themes include environmental protection, military medicine and cooperation between armies in the fight against illicit activities.
- 12th/13th December, Algeciras (Spain): Under the slogan "Towards a Global Approach to Migration Processes", the Ministers of Social Affairs meet for the **5th Ministerial Conference on Migration** in the Western Mediterranean hosted by Spain. Having verified that migration policies require a global, comprehensive and agreed approach that encompasses all stages of the migration process, the Conference discusses the necessary cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination to manage migration flows, reception processes and integration in the society of destination (the appropriate integration of the immigrant heightens his/her capacity to act as a development vector for his/her country) and the economic and human benefits of emigration for the countries of origin (in the form of remittances and non-financial transfers, that is, training and competence gained). The ministers observe that the informal nature of the Dialogue facilitates exchange, the identification of common interests and the sharing of ideas and solutions.



Main meetings in 2007

▪ 1-2 March, Tunis (Tunisia): **4th Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Transport (GTMO 5+5)**. The Transport Ministers of Algeria, Spain, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and senior representatives of the French, Italian and Mauritanian ministries participate in the conference. Representatives of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and the EC are present as observers. Since 1995 the Group of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean (GTMO) has promoted cooperation in the Western Mediterranean transport industry and contributed towards strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements. The 4th Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Transport is a result of close collaboration between Tunisia and Spain (incoming and outgoing Presidents, respectively). At the Conference, the GTMO Presidency passes to Tunisia, which will hold the position for the next two years. The GTMO Euro-Mediterranean cooperation group now has three new members (Libya, Malta and Mauritania), thereby obtaining the 5+5 structure (5 Maghreb countries and 5 EU countries) existing in other sectors. Other important milestones at the Conference are the adoption and signing of a Protocol of Cooperation that institutionalizes and confirms GTMO cooperation in the area of transport. According to the protocol, priority areas for work include: defining a multimodal transport network in the region, improving transport conditions to facilitate trade in the region, developing R&D on transport in the Mediterranean area.

www.cetmo.org/pdf/Bilan_1997-2006_GTMO.pdf

▪ 10-11 September, Madrid (Spain): meeting of **the follow-up group of the ministerial conference on migration**. During the meeting the issues tackled are: global and cooperative governance of mobility, reception and integration processes in the host society, economic and human benefits for the country of origin and destination. The Presidency of the Conference on Migration passes from Spain to Portugal.

▪ 9-10 December, Cagliari (Italy): **4th Meeting of the 5+5 Initiative** gathering the Defence Ministers of Western Mediterranean Countries. . The “5+5 Initiative” is a forum of cooperation where defence and security matters are discussed. First launched in 2004, it counts on the participation of ten Western Mediterranean nations. Through practical activities and a permanent exchange of ideas and experience, the “5+5 Initiative” aims at enhancing mutual understanding and trust in order to cope with security-challenging issues in the region. In just three years, studies about requirements have evolved into a set of specific activities and joint air and naval exercises. Three major cooperation fields have been identified so far: maritime security, which includes prevention and the fight against illegal trafficking and the fight against marine pollution; Civil Protection, with special reference to responding to serious, manmade disasters; air security through the exchange of information among the military about air traffic to be suitably prepared in case of improper use of air spaces. At the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee on January 2007, French representatives launched the proposal to create a “5+5 Defence College” that is officially launched in the Ministerial Declaration at the meeting held in Cagliari.

www.difesa.it/Ministro/Competi_e_Activita/Pagine/5_5_Initiative.aspx



Main meetings in 2008

- 20-21 January, Rabat (Morocco): **6th Foreign Affairs Ministerial meeting** of the 5+5 Dialogue in the Western Mediterranean, with the theme of “Subregional Integration and Increased Cooperation as Instruments of Stability and Prosperity.” EU Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner, the Secretary of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and the representative of the Council of the European Union attend the meeting as observer. The Commissioner places an emphasis on the Dialogue’s facet as a think tank for improved cooperation ideas within the 5+5 framework, which could serve as inspiration for other EU Mediterranean cooperation partners. The Ministers reaffirm the political and informal nature of the 5+5 Dialogue and discuss various topics: the need for real regional integration with a pragmatic, progressive approach; the importance of improved cooperation over a broader territory (fostering partnership among the regions of the 5+5 Dialogue Member States); the recommendation of organising a Conference of Interior Ministers of the Western Mediterranean (CIMO) focussing on migratory issues, improving 5+5 work methods (establishing co-presidency by a northern and a southern country); an exchange of views on the Middle East peace process (emphasising concern for the embargo on Gaza and the instability of the political situation in Lebanon); and finally, regarding security issues, improved coordination in order to implement the Euro-Mediterranean code of conduct for the struggle against terrorism. The 7th Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers will be held in Spain using the new work method and under the copresidency of the host country and Morocco (outgoing presidency).

- 15-16 May, Ajaccio (France): the **2nd Conference of 5+5 Tourism Ministers**. The conference aims at proposing specific solutions lending renewed impetus to the tourism offer in the Mediterranean Basin and consolidating the vocation of tourism as a factor for forging ties and fostering comprehension among peoples, as well as fostering economic development. With regard to the sustainable development of tourism, concrete cooperation initiatives will focus on the progressive development of joint tourism products, the compilation of cultural facts with a view to the launching of a Mediterranean tourism website, and the development of nautical tourism.

- 21-22 May, Nouakchott (Mauritania): **13th Conference of Interior Ministers of the Western Mediterranean (CIMO)**. In addition to the ten 5+5 Dialogue countries, Mali, Senegal and Niger are invited as observers. The Ministers are determined to present coordinated, supportive responses to such joint challenges as civil protection and the struggle against terrorism, organised crime, drug trafficking and irregular migration. The Ministers decide to draw up a joint strategy in order to handle the changes in terrorist strategy by stepping up cooperation among government administrations, exchanging information, refusing to provide safe haven for authors and abettors of terrorist acts and coordinating communications efforts to struggle against the propagation of terrorism and cybercriminality. The CIMO member states reaffirm their will to improve cooperation in the sphere of the struggle against money laundering and drug trafficking by coordinating action by the respective government administrations and examining the possibility of networking. With regard to the struggle against illegal migration, the Ministers commit to facilitate, insofar as possible, the free circulation of people. In the sphere of civil protection, they committed to promoting exchange of experiences and to establishing a system of mutual assistance for rapid intervention and organisation of emergency aid. The participants also agree to foster decentralised cooperation among local authorities in the partner countries in all spheres of interest. The next CIMO conference will be organised by Italy.

- 26-27 May, Évora (Portugal): the **5th Conference on Migration in the Western Mediterranean** represents a subsequent stage towards the consolidation of the informal space for dialogue represented by the 5+5 forum in the sphere of migration. Indeed, it is a fundamental platform for reflection, exchange and improved coordination on this topic, which could contribute to increasing consensus on migratory issues in other cooperation forums. To this end, Ministers emphasise the importance of establishing greater compatibility and coherence with the other forums. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) participate in the conference as observers. The participants reassert the need for a global, integrated approach to migration, insofar as both cooperation among the countries of origin, transit and destination, and integration of migrants within host societies. Among other topics of debate there are: facilitating legal mobility; improving information systems based on labour market needs; aid for migrants wishing to return to



their countries of origin, fostering low-cost forms of fund remittance, combating human trafficking and the importance of clarifying the concept of circular migration to maximise the advantages of this mechanism. The Ministers also recommend carrying out two experts' seminars on circular migration and integration in the host society according to the (North-South) co-presidency system already adopted for other spheres of action of the 5+5 Dialogue. The next ministerial conference on migration will be held in Tripoli.

www.emploi.gov.ma/docs/15302008114424AM.doc

▪ 16-17 November, Gammarth (Tunisia): **5th Conference of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean**, organised by the current Tunisian presidency of the GTMO (Group of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean). The ten member states of the GTMO participate, along with the Commissioner in charge of Transports from the European Commission (EC), the Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and the European Investment Bank (EIB)'s representative in Tunis, the latter three parties as observers. The Ministers sign a number of conclusions, some of the most significant being: the pertinence of a contribution by the GTMO 5+5 to future projects of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM); the decision of adopting the multimodal network of GTMO 5+5 countries and adding the missing links to the network's strategic lines of action (namely, those corresponding to the motorway of Maghreb unity, which would link Libya and Mauritania via Algeria and Tunisia, and the interoperability of the trans-Maghreb railway line linking Tunis, Algiers and Casablanca); an invitation to the EC to study the possibility of establishing a programme to develop a trans-Mediterranean transport network; contribution to the emergence of maritime links based on a network of port infrastructures according to an intermodal approach; and the need to simplify international transport legislation. And finally, it was established that the GTMO Presidency would go to Italy in 2009.

http://www.cetmo.org/f_act.asp?cod=296&despl=0



Main meetings in 2009

▪ 20-21 April, Córdoba (Spain): **7th Foreign Affairs Ministerial meeting of the 5+5 Dialogue countries.** Representatives from the countries of the 5+5 Dialogue, as well as European External Relations Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner and the AMU Secretary General Ben Yahia meet to deal with a series of issues affecting nations on both sides of the Mediterranean: the effects of the international crisis on economic perspectives in Europe and economic development in the Maghreb countries; the Union for the Mediterranean (Ministers underline the important complementarity of the UfM with other frameworks of regional cooperation); migration (participants express their will to develop a permanent cooperation among the countries of origin, transit and destination); the Middle East (calling for a two-state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict); reaffirmation of the Dialogue (the 5+5 model can be used for cooperation for the countries of the UfM; in this sense participants express their will to open the 5+5 to new actors such as mass media, employers organisations, territorial authorities); and cooperative relations with the Maghreb (Ministers reiterate the need to coordinate efforts to boost regional integration and to continue the high level contact between the EC and AMU). The next Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting of the 5+5 Dialogue will take place in Tunisia in 2010.

▪ 17 May, Tripoli (Libya): **5th Meeting of the Western Mediterranean Defence Ministers** and officials to discuss cooperation and security in the region, through an annual action plan agreed at steering committee level and endorsed by ministers at their annual meeting. Participants consider ways of exchanging information, coordinating army commanders and boosting the role of women in the armed forces. To enhance cooperation between the two shores, representatives propose to establish a Libya-based Training Centre for Mine Clearing, a Euro-Maghreb Centre for Strategic Research Studies to be based in Tunisia and a 5+5 Defence College in France. Libya hands over the rotating chairmanship to Malta whose priority will be to promote search and rescue.

▪ 19-20 May, Rome (Italy): Ministers and high representatives from the countries of the 5+5 Dialogue as well as the EC Transport Commissioner, the SG of the AMU and the vice-President of the EIB gather at the **6th Conference of Western Mediterranean Transport Ministers (GTMO 5+5)**. During the meeting Tunisia hands Italy the two-year presidency; ministers also present and ratify the activity report on the outgoing presidency. Among the priorities defined in the conclusions it is worth underlining: the updating of the multimodal network; the implementation of the missing links in the strategic Maghrebian axes; the strengthening of the North-South collaboration to contribute to the emergence and identification of maritime links; and the elaboration of a document on the current status of transport in the Western Mediterranean. The next GTMO 5+5 Conference will be held in Algeria.

www.cetmo.org/e_act.asp?cod=323&despl=0

▪ 28-29 September, Biarritz (France): **1st meeting of the Western Mediterranean Education Ministers** with the presence of EC and UMA representatives as observers. Participants place great importance on the use and promotion of ITC in the field of education, and in this regard they propose a 5+5 charter for Internet at schools; a common certification for ITC professors in the Western Mediterranean and the development of common educational digital content in the area. Tunisia will hold the next 5+5 conference on education.

▪ 23-24 November, Venice (Italy): Ministers from the ten countries on both shores of the Mediterranean meet for the **14th Conference of the Western Mediterranean Interior Ministers (CIMO)**. The EC is participating as an observer. Since its launch in 1995, it is the only multilateral forum that tackles issues concerning responsibilities of the Interior Ministries. They devote special attention to: the fight against transnational terrorism (expressing the need to coordinate regional cooperation to deal with crimes and neutralise the means by which these activities are illegally financed, and the need for a security response based on the exchange of information); the free movement of persons (stressing the importance of enhancing legal migration and managing migration flows); cooperation in the area of civil protection (strengthening the civil protection system and communication among the national focal points); and finally the importance of local authorities in terms of sustainable development. The 15th CIMO Conference will be organised by Algeria.

www.interno.it/mininterno/export/sites/default/it/assets/files/17/00117_dichiaraz_finale_ITA_24_nov.pdf



Main meetings in 2010

▪ 15-16 April, Gammarth (Tunisia): **8th Meeting of the 5+5 Dialogue Foreign Affairs Ministers** under the co-chairmanship of Tunisia and Spain. The Ministers renew the commitment to the values of democracy, solidarity and cooperation and discuss different regional and international issues. With regard to the Middle East and the peace process, they reiterate the urgency of implementing a two-state solution and criticise Israel's settlement policy, considering it an obstacle to peace. They affirm the conviction that a lasting peace can only be achieved if an overall settlement is also reached with regard to the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli conflicts. Other relevant topics discussed at the meeting are: the reform of the international financial sector, food security, the UfM, tourism, higher education and scientific research, SMEs and the climate. With regard to this latter topic, the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean agency for the eco-system and coastline protection is proposed. The Ministers agree to set up a follow-up committee tasked with preparing the annual meeting and following up on its recommendations. The next Foreign Affairs meeting will be held in Italy.

▪ 26-27 April, Oran (Algeria): **1st Ministerial Conference on the Environment and Renewable Energy**, co-chaired by Algeria and Spain. Participants acknowledge the importance of good management of drinking water and access to it; reaffirm the importance of combating marine pollution; recognise the interdependence of climate change, desertification and diminishing biological diversity; and call for stronger cooperation in the fields of natural disaster prevention and rescue. Other issues addressed include: waste management and resources, protection of the coastline and integrated management of coastal areas, the Mediterranean Solar Plan, and electricity interconnections. The 2nd Ministerial Conference will be held in Portugal.

www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/razno/declaration_Oran.pdf

▪ 13 December, Tripoli (Libya): The **7th Ministerial Conference on Migration in the Western Mediterranean** is held following a two-day meeting prepared by high-ranking officials and experts. The meeting is attended by the Ministers responsible for migration, as well as observers from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The experts prepare a document that provides for the establishment of development projects in the migrants' countries of origin, creating labour markets and increasing production to encourage potential migrants to stay in their home countries. The experts emphasise the importance of coordination between 5+5 Dialogue Member Countries to reduce illegal migration and its ties with the development of organised crime and of criminal networks, which are active in the smuggling of migrants. The Ministers also call for the reactivation of the Follow-Up Committee on Migration in order to implement the Ministerial Meeting recommendations.

www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/microsites/rcps/5+5/7th-Ministerial-Conference-Migration-Ministerial-Conclusions-Tripoli-December-2010.pdf



Main meetings in 2011

- 21-23 February, Tunis (Tunisia): **2nd 5+5 Education Ministers meeting** gathers as planned at the previous conference held in Biarritz in 2009. Participants tackle digital development in schools. The first edition of the Euromed Education exhibition takes place during the International Fair in Kram. As part of the “5+5 Education” initiative, this meeting is the first chance for information and communication technology (ICT) sector professionals and ministers to build new partnerships, increase their knowledge of the education sector and note the differences between the two shores in order to enable better relations with regard to education in the digital era.
- June, Valetta (Malta): The second 5+5 Summit of Heads of State and Government, originally scheduled to take place in Malta in 2011, is postponed due to recent events in the Mediterranean region.
- 15-16 November, Nouakchott (Mauritania): The **5+5 Defence Initiative’s 13th Steering Committee Meeting** welcomes the return to the 5+5 Initiative of Libya, which had been absent for a few months because of the socio-political changes taking place in the country in 2011. Officials from the participating countries tackle a number of issues, such as terrorism, illegal immigration and air security, prepare the next Ministerial Meeting of the Defence Initiative, and take stock of this year’s action plan, which includes a number of high-level military meetings in Member States, joint operational exercises and training courses, and research and strategic studies to enhance security, peace and stability in the Western Mediterranean.
- 10-11 December, Nouakchott (Mauritania): The Defence Ministers of the ten Mediterranean countries involved in the **5+5 Defence Initiative** gather for their **7th Ministerial Meeting**. It is the first meeting since the recent regime changes in Tunisia and Libya and the recent Islamist electoral victory in Morocco. They adopt the 2012 action plan and assess the implementation of the 2011 activities. Several training courses and joint exercises among countries from both shores of the Western Mediterranean were held for the first time this year. The region faces considerable threats, such as terrorism, illegal immigration, and drugs and weapons trafficking, as well as the spread of weapons due to the turmoil in Libya. Indeed, they may already have fallen into the hands of terrorist networks. The Joint Ministerial Declaration entrusts the following Presidency of the Initiative to Morocco and underlines the priorities for next year, which include dealing with the sensitive issue of terrorism, hostage-taking and instability in the Sahel, the establishment of a non-permanent staff in case of crisis, and organised crime in general. Given the difficulties experienced in other fields of the 5+5 Dialogue due to the upheavals and changes affecting the North African Member Countries, it is worth noting that all 5+5 Defence Initiative Members participated in all meetings and activities in 2011.



Main meetings in 2012

▪ 6-7 February, Algiers (Algeria): The Western Mediterranean expert **seminar on agricultural cooperation** gathers experts from the 10 countries of the 5+5 Dialogue to adopt a series of recommendations on strengthening cooperation in agriculture and food security to be presented to their respective Agriculture Ministers. They recommend optimising agricultural production, increasing the food supply, monitoring prices and developing a regional mapping of supply and demand in order to strengthen complementarity in the trade of agricultural products.

www.ensa.dz/IMG/pdf/Recommandations_finales_du_seminaire_securite_alimentaire_dans_les_pays_5_5_Alger_6_et_7_fev_2012.pdf

▪ 21 February, Roma (Italy): The **9th meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 5+5 Dialogue** is held under Italian and Tunisian co-chairmanship. The Foreign Ministers of the Western Mediterranean Dialogue countries participate in the meeting as well as a number of observers: the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) Secretary General Ben Yahia, ENP European Commissioner Füle, UfM Deputy Secretary General (SG) and vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM). In terms of political issues the main topics tackled are: the democratic process in the region (participants express satisfaction for the ongoing changes in the countries of the southern shore and stress the need to provide the necessary support for the success of this process, which depends on the resumption of economic development and the creation of employment); the war in Syria (ministers condemn the repression against the Syrian population and express their concern on the worsening of the humanitarian situation while supporting the initiative of the Arab League); the Peace Process in the Middle East (referring to the previous meeting in Tunis in 2008, ministers reiterate the urgency to implement a two state solution, a resumption of peace talks while considering all Israeli settlements in the occupied territories a violation of international law). Economic issues are also discussed: the financial and economic crisis (participants recognise that a collective response is necessary, which involves the international community, as well as a reform of the global financial markets); strengthening Euro-Mediterranean economic cooperation (ministers welcome the resumption of the southern regional integration process through AMU institutions and call for support for SMEs in the region); migration and development (a global and comprehensive approach on circular mobility is required and the importance of remittances for growth is recognised). Participants also call for a consolidation and deepening of the Dialogue with a series of proposals that touch on a wide range of aspects: holding an annual Foreign Ministers meeting; strengthening the fight against terrorism, organised crime and illegal trafficking (in view of the new challenges posed by the Sahel region to the 5+5 countries); exploring the possibility of an early warning mechanism for potential risks in the Western Mediterranean; calling for a follow-up committee of the 5+5 Environment and Renewable energy conference held in 2010; calling for regional cooperation in the areas of Higher Education and Scientific Research; expressing their will to open the 5+5 Dialogue to representatives of civil society and other frameworks such as interparliamentary dimensions, Chambers of Commerce, Employers Associations and local communities; stressing the strategic role of tourism in the economies of the Western Mediterranean and calling for a common approach to boost this sector; intensifying high-level political meetings to monitor the follow-up of the conclusions of the conference. The next meeting will be held in Mauritania and cochaired by Italy. On the occasion of the 5+5 conference, the meeting is enlarged to the FOROMED dimension later in the afternoon, involving Egypt, Greece, Turkey, the Arab league and the UfM.

www.esteri.it/MAE/approfondimenti/2012/20120220_Conclusions_des_Co_Presidences.pdf

▪ 12 March, Algiers (Algeria): **The 7th Conference of the Group of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean** gathers the Transport Ministers of the 5+5 countries as well as senior civil servants from France, Malta and Mauritania and the AMU Secretary General, UfM Deputy SG and a representative of the European Commission. Since the Group of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean (GTMO 5+5) was created in 1995, its main mission has been to encourage cooperation in the transport sector in the region and to contribute actively to strengthening the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. This Conference has two main objectives: transferring the presidency from Italy to Algeria, and ratifying the Activity Report. The Italian Activity Report emphasises the work done to intensify Euro-Mediterranean cooperation through the stimulation of existing relations and the search for new ways to cooperate. In this regard, the UfM's labelling of the project "Completion



of the Central Section of the Trans-Maghreb Motorway Axis” reflects the good institutional relations between the GTMO 5+5 and the different institutions for cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Numerous studies and activities in the work areas were carried out during the year. Algeria’s main priorities are: developing the motorway project within the UfM label, completing the Trans-Maghreb Motorway and implementing logistic platforms to promote trade between the countries of the Western Mediterranean. The next conference will be held no later than 2014 in Portugal to assess the implementation of the decision and transfer the presidency to Portugal.

www.cetmo.org/pdf/Conclusiones%202012.pdf

▪ 5-6 October La Valletta (Malta): The **2nd Summit of the Heads of State and Government (HoSG) of the 5+5 Dialogue** declares its support for the strengthening of the integration process between Maghreb countries and condemns violence committed by the Syrian government. At the 5+5 Summit some representatives of European and regional institutions (the President of the EC, ENP Commissioner, AMU SG, UfM SG, PAM SG and Arab League representatives) participate as observers. In the conclusions the HoSG call for an increased collaboration with regional formations, for ensuring regular sectoral meetings (also on new thematic areas like employment, investments, trade and energy, among others) and encouraging the participation of civil society and parliamentarians. In terms of security issues they call for addressing terrorism, organised crime, illicit trafficking and threats coming from the Sahel region. On economic issues they affirm the need to support SMEs in the region and intensify cooperation on transport and tourism. The forum places special emphasis on education and youth, which is considered a fundamental element for development in the Mediterranean, stressing the importance of youth mobility within the region. To this end they call for the organisation of a Youth Conference of the Western Mediterranean. On the topic of migration, the participants express their concern for the respect of fundamental rights and dignity of migrants. The HoSG invite the Foreign Affairs Ministers to ensure a follow-up of the conference conclusions.

<http://gov.mt/en/Government/Press%20Releases/Documents/pr2192b.pdf>

▪ 10 December, Rabat (Morocco): The **8th Meeting of the 5+5 Defence initiative** is held under the Moroccan Presidency. Defence Ministers gather to discuss issues such as the importance of cooperation and multilateral activities for the stability and security of the area, the need to strengthen maritime and air security and the fight against clandestine immigration and arms trafficking. They also approve the Annual Cooperation Plan for 2013.



Main meetings in 2013

▪ 8 - 9 April, Algiers (Algeria): the **15th meeting of the Interior Ministers of the 5+5 Dialogue** renews its commitment to fight against terrorism and organized crime especially in the aftermath of the Malian crisis which affected almost all the countries of the region. Ministers underline the need for an enhanced cooperation and coordination among security agencies especially on border security, exchange of information on organised crime network, trafficking of human beings, arms, ammunition and drugs. They also agree to work for a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism taking into account the rule of law, social justice, fight against poverty and prevention of conflicts.

www.iemed.org/observatori/recursos/documents/documents-officials/documents-officials-adjunts/CIMO%20Algiers%202013.pdf/at_download/file

▪ 15 April, Nouakchott (Mauritania): **Fourth Meeting of the representative of the Parliaments** of the countries of the Western Mediterranean Forum - 5+5 Dialogue. They gather together with the assistance of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and with the participation as observers from the Arab Parliament, the Maghreb Consultative Council, the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM. They stress the pivotal role of the Parliamentary Dimension of the 5+5 Dialogue in furthering the cooperation required among the countries of the Western Mediterranean strengthen democratic institutions and deepening integration to make the region less vulnerable to instability. They also call on the Governments of the wider Mediterranean region and the Secretary General of the UN to further increase their efforts to find a political solution that respects the territorial integrity, national unity and the safety of the people of Syria.

www.iemed.org/observatori/recursos/documents/documents-officials/nouakchott-declaration-2013

▪ 16 April, Nouakchott (Mauritania): **10th Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Ministers** of the countries of the Western Mediterranean jointly chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy. In the final declaration, the groundwork for promoting the 5+5 Dialogue over the coming years is approved. Ministers underline the role played by the forum as a political platform for cooperation and dialogue and examines the democratic processes on the southern shores, considering the historic changes taking place in the region that enable the strengthening of values shared by the Member States, such as democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and social justice. Participants also tackle the situation in Syria, the crisis in Mali (for which support is given to the military operation currently under way) and the Middle East peace. Other topics include security, migration, water and the environment, north-south economic cooperation, cultural cooperation and regional integration in North Africa through the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU). The final declaration adopted praises the "key role of the UfM to reinforce regional and sub-regional cooperation through concrete projects". Particularly, Ministers mention the relevance of the Business Forum to be organized with the Secretariat of the UfM and the UFM projects in the field of Education.

www.iemed.org/observatori/recursos/documents/documents-officials/documents-officials-adjunts/Declaration-X-reunion-CMAE-16-avril-2013.pdf/at_download/file

▪ 20 September, Rabat (Morocco): **1st Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Research** of the Countries of the Western Mediterranean. The ten Ministers reaffirm the importance of higher education, research and innovation for the economic development of the Euro-Mediterranean region and for youth employment. They discuss practical opportunities to strengthen high-level bilateral and multilateral scientific cooperation, based on the European program for research and innovation, Horizon 2020 (2014-2020). They also reaffirm their shared priorities: facilitating the transformation of knowledge into innovative products and services, the main lever for competitiveness and growth. Strengthening partnerships between higher education and research institutions will also be facilitated by the rise of European mobility program "Erasmus plus". The conference finally welcomes the proposal of the Minister to focus the work of the next conference on strengthening the middle and senior management as a factor of growth and employment.



For further information:

Visit the editions of the [IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook](#)

www.iemed.org/publicacions/historic-de-publicacions/anuari-de-la-mediterrania?set_language=ca
Section “Other Cooperation Initiatives in the Mediterranean”