

Euro-Mediterranean Securitization and EU Foreign and
Defence Policy:
Challenges for Mediterranean Regional Security

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Abstract

The emergence of the European Union (EU) as an international actor is an important development for Europeans, but also for the international community. The EU constitutes a new actor in international affairs. It goes beyond the nation state and seeks to construct a new international order based on rules. This new international actor must deal with a complex security environment, in particular in the Mediterranean region. This thesis seeks to determine how security perceptions in the region will influence the EU's roles and responsibilities in the Mediterranean region as a new security actor.

A detailed analysis of security discourse from both the EU and Southern Mediterranean shows that there are similar security concerns throughout the Mediterranean. Issues like terrorism or illegal immigration are securitised across the region, whereas issues like regional conflicts or weapons of mass destruction are considered security threats in specific areas, in particular the Eastern Mediterranean. Furthermore, security discourse also coexists with strong references to a common Mediterranean identity. This sharing of security perceptions and references to a common identity allows us to conclude that there is indeed a regional security complex in the Mediterranean.

After determining the existence of a regional security complex in the Mediterranean, an analysis of the individual actors participating in the Euro-Mediterranean RSC, at different levels, was conducted. This analysis shows that the EU occupies a central role in the region as a global great power. Moreover, an analysis of

the RSC in the Mediterranean region shows that it is an unstable security complex, susceptible to internal and external transformation in the medium to long term. As such, the EU could play a more substantial role in the Mediterranean, exercising greater influence to stabilise the region; leading the region away from instability and moving it towards a more institutional framework for conflict resolution. In this role, the EU will need to be more active throughout the region, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean. It must assume its position as a great power but with its particular capabilities and characteristics. The EU must then emphasise mediation and regional integration, including south-south integration in its policies towards the Southern Mediterranean.

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Abbreviations

ANZUS	Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
CEPOL	European Police College
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
CIREFI	Centre for Information, Discussion and Exchange on the Crossing of Frontiers and Immigration
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COPS	Comité Politique et de Sécurité (Political and Security Committee)
CSCE	Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECC	European Economic Community
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ESDP	European Security and Defence Policy
EU	European Union
EUCPN	EU Crime Prevention Network
Eurocorps	European multinational army corps
Eurojust	The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit
Euromarfor	European Naval Force
EuroMeSco	Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission
Europol	European Police Office
Fatah	Ḥarakat al-Taḥrīr al-Waṭani al-Filasṭīnī (Palestinian National Liberation Movement)
FRONTEX	Frontières Extérieures (European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union)
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council

Hamas	Ḥarakat al-Muqāwamat al-Islāmiyyah (Islamic Resistance Movement)
ICC	International Criminal Court
IDF	Israeli Defence Force
IR	International Relations
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
ISIS	International Security Information Service Europe
MEDA	The partner states of the EU in the Mediterranean: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
Mercosul	Mercado Comum do Sul (Southern Common Market)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PA	Palestinian Authority
PKK	Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan (Kurdistan Workers' Party)
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organisation
POLISARIO	Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Río de Oro
RSC	Regional Security Complex
RSCT	Regional Security Complex Theory
UMA	Union du Maghreb Arabe (Arab Maghreb Union)
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction