



Politics, Economics and the Search for Mediterranean Stability

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IEP, 2002

The September 11th terrorist attacks against the United States and the American military campaign in Afghanistan have inevitably posed new challenges to stability in a region as sensitive as the Mediterranean. Although the theatre of operations remains confined to Central Asia, a north-south rift has already begun to appear. While traditional geostrategic positions are not threatened, mutual perceptions are once again highly charged, more so than any time since the Gulf War. Europe now risks being seen by its southern Mediterranean partners as part of a monolithic West in which the United States calls the tune and acts unilaterally according to a double standard policy that favors its own national interests and requirements while ignoring humanitarian principles and respect for international legality.

This study is the product of the Institute for Mediterranean Political Studies' (IEPM) first research programme. It aims at identifying and analyzing the political, cultural and economic factors that could potentially contribute to the stabilisation of the region and the emergence of a zone of shared security and prosperity, as envisaged by the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (EMP) created at Barcelona in November 1995. Six research themes have been addressed:

- The EU Role in the Consolidation and Multilateralisation of Peace in the Middle East: An Arab Perspective;
- Northern and Southern Europe and the Euro-Mediterranean Space;
- Europe in Israel's Foreign Policy;
- Alternative Definitions of Sovereignty: National and Religious Identities in Jerusalem;
- The Political Economy of Foreign Aid to the Southern Mediterranean Countries;
- Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in the Mediterranean Region.

With a preface by Thierry de Montbrial