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PUBLIC DEBATE

Can citizens shape a free and united Mediterranean?



ONLINE - JANUARY 13TH 2021
5.00 PM (CET)

Event	Public debate	Date	Wed January 13 2021 5.00 pm (CET)
Title	Can citizens shape a free and united Mediterranean?	Duration	90 minutes
Format	Live roundtable; questions from the debaters and civil society audience	Languages	EN with translation AR FR
Audience	200 representatives of civil society, media actors and researchers from Mediterranean region	Communication channels	Zoom platform Live Broadcasting on Facebook

Speakers

- David Abulafia, Historian of the Mediterranean
- Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of Palermo
- Nayla Tabbara, Adyan Foundation
- Tarek ben Hiba, Citoyenneté, développement, cultures, migrations des deux rives

Debaters

- Hajar Maiach, Young Mediterranean Voices;
- Igor Štiks, Maydan Association

Moderator Gianluca Solera, Med Dialogue Programme

Topic

Twenty-five years ago, in Barcelona, the nations of Europe and the Mediterranean neighbourhood launched an ambitious process of cooperation and integration through political and cultural dialogue, and social and economic development. If the key-words of those days were reconciliation, cohesion, rights and fundamental freedoms, today's picture is rather grim and worrisome. Civil space is shrinking, identity-driven politics and "rule and order" are becoming convenient tools and the idea of shaping a common destiny is no longer on the agenda. The Mediterranean risks embodying the concept of a border in itself and that its resources become the target of conflicting interests.

Many civil society groups and citizens are however offering another perspective. They come to the aid of migrants in distress, strive for equality and rights, practice cooperative enterprising, challenge nationalism's closures and, even more importantly, defend the idea that we share a common destiny between the two shores and that we have to build it together.

Is a "free and united Mediterranean" a utopian dream, or an urgent and required possibility? And what can citizens do to promote this vision?



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Structure and guidelines

Sessions	Duration	Who?	What?
Introduction	5 min	Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Med Dialogue, First of a series of debates What we want to talk about, 25y after Barcelona Presentation of the speakers Translation service Rules of the question time
<p>Where do we come from?</p> <p><i>In the first part of the debate, panelists will discuss about what we have inherited from the Mediterranean common history, and will highlight the features of this common heritage, its potential for understanding and cooperation, and its latent threats for stability in the region.</i></p>	<p>25 min</p> <p>(7 min)</p>	<p>Moderator</p> <p>Mr. Abulafia</p>	<p>Moderator shows paintings of the fifth Crusades (Ex: Siege of Damietta / Saint Francis and the Sultan Malik al-Kamil)</p> <p>Question to M. Abulafia (EN):</p> <p><i>We refer to the Mediterranean as the cradle of our civilisations, we say that we share a common history. What does it mean exactly? Has not been always the Mediterranean a region of conflicting interests?</i></p>
	(5 min)	<p>Moderator</p> <p>Ms. Tabbara</p>	<p>Moderator shows the platform Taaddudiya</p> <p>Question to Ms. Tabbara (EN):</p> <p><i>You defend diversity in your work, a feature of our region, and you are teaching it. How you are making people aware that it is part of our "identity", a structural factor of our communities?</i></p>
	(5 min)	<p>Moderator</p> <p>Mr. Orlando</p>	<p>Moderator shows the Tabula Rogeriana</p> <p>Question to Mr. Orlando (EN):</p> <p><i>As a mayor you deal with daily issues of coexistence in a city with over 120 national groups, the heritage of having been a crossroads for centuries. What does it mean to lead a city which is the living representation of Mediterranean history?</i></p>
	(5 min)	<p>Moderator</p> <p>Mr. Ben Hiba</p>	<p>Question to Mr. Ben Hiba (FR):</p> <p><i>What does it mean to be a citizen of the two shores? Why you chose that name (Citoyenneté... des deux rives)? What is their role as a social group with multiple nationalities and how many people could be considered as citizens of the two shores?</i></p>



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Question time 1	15 min	Ms. Maiach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Debater 1 Ms. Maiach: One structured question – Moderator channels it to max two speakers.
		Mr. Štiks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Debater 2 Mr. Štiks: One structured question – Moderator channels it to max two speakers.
		Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audience: Moderator gathers two questions from the online audience.

The vision	25 min	Moderator	Moderator shows short section from cartoon movie The Middle Sea on common heritage (7.01 – 8.17)
<i>In the second part, panelists will try to assess whether the vision of building a common destiny in the region is realistic, outlining opportunities and challenges in this respect. Particularly, they will give their views on which bases such a vision can be nurtured, and how citizens and civil society can play a role in it.</i>	(7 min)		Moderator shows table 1.1 on perceptions about the Mediterranean from ALF report , page 20.
		Ms. Tabbara	<i>Question to Ms. Tabbara (EN):</i> <i>Can we build on such a common perception that what we share is more than what makes us different? Can we revert divisive narratives?</i>
	(5 min)	Moderator	<i>Question to Mr. Abulafia (EN):</i>
		Mr. Abulafia	<i>Building a common vision, can history help in it, especially these times where short-term political views seem prevailing in North-South and South-South relations?</i>
		Moderator	Moderator shows <i>infographics</i> from a Med Dialogue programme's Mapping research on CSO's views on common vision
	(5 min)	Mr. Ben Hiba	<i>Question to Mr. Ben Hiba (FR):</i> <i>What is your assessment of the BCN+25? Is there still a space for a common vision, and what citizens and CSOs should do to relaunch it?</i>
	(5 min)	Moderator	<i>Question to Mr. Orlando (EN):</i>
		Mr. Orlando	<i>Common transnational institutions? A political process? Isn't it unrealistic? And cities what can they do for that?</i>

Question time 2	15 min	Mr. Štiks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Debater 1 Mr. Štiks: One structured question – Moderator channels it to max two speakers
		Ms. Maiach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Debater 2 Ms. Maiach: One structured question – Moderator channels it to max two



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speakers

Moderator

- Audience: **Moderator** gathers two questions from the online audience

Ending

2 min

Moderator

- Conclusions
- Thanks to participants and audience
- Mentioning some figures on debate's viewers reminding the next debate (date, topic)