



Fondazione  
Compagnia  
di San Paolo

## ENERGY STRATEGIES 2023

### *The Mediterranean: new resources and integration*

Wednesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2023, from 2,30 to 7 PM (CEST) | Rome Cavalieri, A Waldorf Astoria Hotel, Rome

Conference organised by the **NATO Foundation**

in cooperation with **Eni S.p.A.** (*Corporate Partner*), **Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo**,  
the **Institute for National Security Studies** (*Tel Aviv*), the **Policy Center for the New South** (*Rabat*)  
and the **NATO Defense College**.

With the participation of **17 international specialists** and about **300 people** among the public (both in-person and virtually connected), the event represented a timely occasion to delve into the most pressing challenges and opportunities of a topic of great strategic relevance these days: **energy and energy security** in the **Eastern Mediterranean**. **A selection of quotes from our speakers follows below.**

**Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, *President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome*

«Our main interest is on global security, and energy is very relevant in this context. We will look at the perspective of the gradual formation of a Euro-Mediterranean energy market, which goes in parallel with the vision of cooperative security in a crucial region».

**Christopher Schnaubelt**, *Dean, NATO Defense College, Rome*

«As Mark P. Mills wrote: ‘the lessons of the recent decade make it clear that solar, wind and battery technologies cannot be surged in times of need, are neither inherently clean nor even independent of hydrocarbons, and are not cheap’. Therefore, traditional energy will remain important for the foreseeable future and the world economy will depend upon reliable and affordable sources of hydrocarbons».

**Nicolò Russo Perez**, *Head, International Affairs, Compagnia di San Paolo, Turin*

«In the NATO context, energy security plays a crucial role. The disruption of energy supply could affect security within the societies of NATO members and its partner countries, having an impact on NATO’s military operations as well».

**Nicola Graziani**, *Vatican Reporter, Agenzia Giornalistica Italia, Rome*

«This event is a great occasion to make up our minds about energy, an ever more important factor after the invasion of Ukraine, and the central position that the Mediterranean has gained in this respect. [...] Is there a role that the EU can play in such a crucial area like the Eastern Mediterranean?».

**Ahmed Badr**, *Director, Project Facilitation and Support Division, International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi*

«If we compare IRENA’s World Energy Transition Outlook 2022 and 2023, the only difference is that the gap between what needs to be done and what have been achieved is now becoming bigger, with the need for at least 35 trillion dollars investment by 2050».

**Claudia Gazzini**, *Senior Libya Analyst, International Crisis Group, Tripoli*

«At first glance, there is no doubt that the deals that were signed between Israel and Jordan, and Israel and Egypt, helped create a new market, consolidate their commercial ties, and create an export market that was not there before. Yet, these three countries were not in conflict. New discoveries and the entailed commercialisation of gas essentially just reinforce a state of cold peace».

**Remi Daniel**, *Mediterranean Dialogue Fellow, NATO Defense College, Rome (INSS, Tel Aviv)*

«A big security challenge in the Eastern Mediterranean is the existence of non-state actors, i.e., in Syria, Libya, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. From a security perspective, the arrival of gas was not only good news: gas infrastructures are becoming challenging to secure and are potential targets for enemies, notably in the Eastern Mediterranean».

**Mehmet Ögütçü**, *Chairman, London Energy Club, London*

«Energy and normalisation do not go hand in hand. The energy industry is very dynamic and involves different factors. It is not only investment or efficiency: there are geopolitical tensions, unexpected events like the invasion of Ukraine, the increasing confrontation between China and the US, as well as technological breakthroughs».

**Ashraf Mohammed Keshk**, *Research Fellow and Head of Strategic & International Studies, Derasat, Manama*

«Bahrain and the UAE support multilateral cooperation in the field of energy. [...] The priority for Manama and the Gulf countries is to tackle the threats of armed militias to energy security, especially drones, since they now target infrastructures and important waterways».

**Grammenos Mastrojeni**, *Deputy Secretary General for Energy and Climate Action, Union for the Mediterranean, Barcelona*

«Energy is a commodity and has its own market, but at the same time it also serves other purposes. It is an enabler of development, human rights, and sovereignty. [...] You have a better market if energy also serves these purposes that are not specifically market-driven».

**Marco Piredda**, *Vice Chairman, Energy Transition Committee, Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie, Paris*

«One of the few good things that the crisis we are in taught us is that there is always ground for energy efficiency. In Europe, we reduced the consumption of gas by roughly 20% without suffering huge consequences. [...] If in the next decades we manage to reduce by 25% the energy consumption in the Mediterranean, we will have done almost 40% of the effort that we need to do».

**Pasquale Ferrara**, *Director General for Political Affairs and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rome*

«The normalisation between Israel and some Arab countries has the potential to strengthen economic integration, which is not only important from a political-diplomatic point of view, but also in the wider regional security context. The deepening of these ties could pave the way for a broader cooperation in sectors such as energy security and climate change, with implication also for the EU and Italy».

**Alon Bar**, *Ambassador of Israel to Italy, Rome*

«30 years ago, we thought that the next war in our region would have been on water. Today, desalination can provide for 80% of our needs and it has become a source of cooperation between Israel, Jordan and the UAE. In light of this example, can we overcome geopolitical and economic difficulties and remain hopeful that the political context will improve also thanks to technological innovations?».

**Ahmet Evin**, *Founding dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Professor Emeritus, Sabanci University, Istanbul*

«In the Eastern Mediterranean market integration remains a serious challenge, if not a distant goal. As the discovery of gas in the region led to great expectations, the hopes of becoming a prosperous energy provider to Europe turned out to be difficult to achieve for a number of reasons: the rising demand, the small volumes of gas deposits around the island of Cyprus and maritime delimitation disputes».

**Rim Berahab**, *Senior Economist, Policy Center for the New South, Rabat*

«We cannot look at South-South cooperation without also looking at some external factors that influence energy policies within the same area. I am referring to Europe's increased need for oil and gas in the short-term but also renewables and hydrogen in the long-term».

**Leonardo Bellodi**, *Adjunct Professor, Luiss Business School, Rome*

«The agreement between Tripoli and Ankara vertically split the Mediterranean into two parts and it is difficult to lay any kind of pipeline. [...] As Europe and Italy, we want to have positive relations with Ankara, which is becoming an important transit hub, and with Libya for many motivations - not only for energy. Libya should be our first priority for a very simple reason: it is really close to us».

**Alfio Giuseppe Rapisarda**, *Head of Global Security, Eni, Rome*

«The Mediterranean is a top strategic quadrant, as new energy discoveries confirmed. [...] It is also the main junction for the digital networks' underwater infrastructures, crucial components for the protection of national interests. Europe has the possibility to become a leading actor for its neighbours by using the enlarged Mediterranean basin as a multiplier of strategic activities such as digital connections».

The **full recordings** of the event are available on the [NDCF YouTube channel](#).

For any further information, please contact the NDCF Communication Team at: [ndcf.pressmediarelations@gmail.com](mailto:ndcf.pressmediarelations@gmail.com)

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