

MEDGOVERNANCE

The geopolitical game of creating a Mediterranean macro-region

Andrea Stocchiero

Centro Studi Politica Internazionale

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Macro-region in between external and internal dimensions

- ◆ The cohesion policy in a interconnected world: macro-regions have and external dimension
- ◆ The insertion of the external dimension in the macro-regions depends by:
 - Who are the neighbours
 - The geopolitical position and interest of Member Countries

Who are the neighbours

- Baltic macro-region is a low politics for Russia and it depends by the EU-Russia partnership ... NO
- Western Balkan countries are participating in the building of the Danube macro-region in the accession process ... YES
- In the Mediterranean? Security issues are in a position of preminence against territorial cohesion; decentralisation is incipient; real stakes are on UfM/Barcelona process-Neighbourhood policy; macro-region has a weak appeal for South Med countries (central governments)

And the Member Countries?

- ◆ Italy launched the adriatic-ionic process
- ◆ France and Spain worried about UfM/Barcelona process and on possible misunderstandings on a Mediterranean Macro-region (what is it?)
- ◆ Regions ... in open order
- ◆ Private sector and civil society?
- ◆ The need for correct information and exchange of interpretations
- ◆ However, a community challenge exist

Which approach on EU macro-regions?

- ◆ Call for a balanced and general approach at EU level
- ◆ But it is a pragmatic and prudent process (3NO) aimed at achieving strategic effectiveness ...
if ineffective they could disappear?
- ◆ The need to maintain this approach avoiding a meaningless competitive race to macro-regions. New regulations for the 2014-2020 strategic framework.

Macro-regional Strategies in the EU

- A New Form of Governance?

by Clara Mine Baad Berkkán,
Ulrik Kjølsten Olsen and Lena Tempel

Orientation for the Mediterranean?

- ◆ Downgrading external dimension
- ◆ Working on creating a process and the conditions for sub-regional internal macro-regions (western mediterranean macro-region?)
- ◆ Strengthening regions and local authorities coordination with private sector and civil society organisations (key actors)
- ◆ Increasing coherence and complementarity between CBC and TN Med programmes as well as connections with regional OPs
- ◆ capitalising strategic project process (involving south med countries?)