

FOREWORD

In one form and configuration or another a research network, co-ordinated by the EDRC, has been in existence since 1998. The Commission's support has during that time been constant, even when the Commission itself had only limited possibilities to assist academic research networks in the Mediterranean area. Instrumental were some key persons, prime among whom in our case were Madame Jacqueline Lastenouse and her team, Mr. Luciano di Fonzo, now Jean Monnet Project Manager, and successive heads of the Commission Delegation in Malta, among whom I must mention Mr. Gunther Weiss, Dr. Giorgio Boggio and the current Head, Mr. Ron Gallimore. Equally key to our projects have been successive Rectors of the University of Malta, and I mention the current rector, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef, and his predecessor, the Rev. Professor Peter Serracino Inglott.

This is the third volume of papers published by the network, now called the EU-Med Transnational and Regional Research Network. The first two volumes were published in 1998 and in 2000 respectively under the titles: *The Mediterranean's European Challenge*, and *The Mediterranean's European Challenge Volume II*. This current volume is titled *Euro-Mediterranean Integration* and sub-titled *The Mediterranean's European Challenge Volume III*. The change in title reflects the true spirit of the Euro-Med Partnership as well as the co-operation that has led to the possibility of EU membership for a number of Mediterranean states. The integration of Europe and the Mediterranean is indeed the joint challenge of the Member States of the Union (some of whom are Mediterranean) and of the Mediterranean states which are not (some of them, not yet) Members of the Union.

As co-ordinator of the network and the projects, it has been my privilege to work with some of the finest academics, including some of the most promising young researchers, in the Mediterranean, both in the current grouping of the network and in previous groupings. It has been a rewarding and often uplifting experience to work with people who have won the battle with their own minds, overcoming their personal prejudices perhaps, and

dedicating themselves now to the eradication of misunderstanding and prejudice in others. As the President of Malta, His Excellency Professor Dr. Guido De Marco, wrote in his foreword to the second volume, “(T)he fundamental change to be effected is that within the states of our mind”. It is surprising and exhilarating to see how quickly everything else then follows.

It is therefore with a deep sense of gratitude to the members of the network whose work features in this volume; to all previous participants, who I hope will form part of the next grouping also; to all those mentioned above, to whom I renew my thanks; and to the excellent staff of the European Documentation and Research Centre of the University of Malta, that I have pleasure in presenting this book, and the CD version of it, which will be circulated widely to European Community Studies Associations, and further afield.

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