



Distinguished Guests, dear Friends,

Thank You for Your presence, for offering Your knowledge, Your valuable experience participating to SHADE MED 2023.

This year theme was “Managing Common Challenges together in the Mediterranean” stressing how cooperation is the best way towards peace and prosperity for all, in the Mediterranean and everywhere in the world.

It is not a coincidence that the Operation I have the honor to Command is named IRINI, Peace in Greek. Peace is not an empty word, especially today with Ukraine invasion happening on Europe’s doorstep, the awful plague of Terrorism, the recent conflict in Gaza, to mention only a few, and all reminding us how much this world is asking and crying out loud for peace.

The weakest, the more vulnerable, the children always pay the highest bill and conference like SHADE MED can play a terrific role in create the conditions for many of them to survive, to live their lives.

I think now to the people, caught in the middle of conflicts like in Africa and the Middle East, tens of thousands of migrants and refugees leaving their homes and too often dying in the most dangerous migration route by sea of the world.

There is no silver bullet, neither a certain solution but we, the international community, can make the difference. Operating at sea, like EU Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI or NATO Operation SEA GUARDIAN, in the daily job in our offices, in the Academies and Research Centers, in the Governmental Institutions we represent an extraordinary example of cooperation. Our efforts can have impact not only in the Mediterranean but everywhere around the world.

Finding the best way ahead is our duty. We owe it to the Humankind, to our friends and families, to the planet.

In these days we exchanged views, concerns and ideas on many topics. I cannot end this SHADE MED edition without special thanks to the insightful contributions of the presenters and the great job done by the highly professional moderators who chaired the panels and working groups. Let me express, like every year, our gratitude to NATO MARCOM staff for the hard job done co-organizing this conference

Those discussions are only small steps taken toward Peace and Global Security, but we know: every long travel as difficult it could be, is a series of small steps.

I like, indeed, to think of all of us as a great Marathon Team, equipped and motivated to reach the goal line, all together helping each other and building that necessary synergy able to speed up our collective pace towards a better world of peace and prosperity.

I now declare closed the 2023 SHADE MED 12th edition and wish You a pleasant journey back to Your homes and families.

Thank You

Rear Admiral
Stefano Turchetto