

State of the art of the project  
"The Southern Flank of Europe doesn't end in the sands of Sahara"

Lusíada University Lisbon - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The southern flank of Europe has been considered as the area that covers the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region including here countries like Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and all those who are in what is commonly known as the Middle Eastern region. NATO strategic partnerships reflect this vision, as is the case of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative or the Mediterranean Dialogue. It seems to us that the threats and critical points of instability, which can have serious consequences for Europe and the world at large, do not end in the sands of the Sahara and continue further South into what it was called the "African Instability Arc". This Arc of Instability covers a vast region stretching from the Gulf of Guinea to the coasts of Somalia, including the Sahel countries (Mali, Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso) to others, already in sub-Saharan Africa, such as Nigeria, Somalia, The Central African Republic, South Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire or Ethiopia. Terrorist organizations such as AQUIM (AL-QAEDA OF THE ISLAMIC MAGHREB), AL-SHABAB, BOKO-HARAM and even DAESH act in this countries and regions and constitute a highly volatile, dynamic and hybrid threat of uncertain evolution. Necessarily all this threats – piracy included - are becoming increasingly dangerous to the international security. Can the attention of the Atlantic Alliance and the European Union strategists be drawn to the threats coming from this African Arc of Instability? Or, for these, does the southern flank of Europe end up even in the sands of the Sahara?

### Participants

- *José Francisco Pavia* (CLIPIS) - Director
- *Benedict Fisher* (CERDAP<sup>2</sup>) - Director
- *Luís Eduardo Saraiva* (CLIPIS)
- *Jean Marcou* (CERDAP<sup>2</sup>)
- *Cristiano Cabrita* (CLIPIS)

