Since the end of the East-West Conflict the Mediterranean sub regions (North Africa, Near and Middle East and the Balkans) are considered as the new arc of crisis for transatlantic security. Experts from both rims of the Atlantic agree that only NATO can contribute effectively to stability and security in the Mediterranean. NATO has taken these challenges and tried to develop a Mediterranean policy. But over the last ten years it became clear that there are huge differences between NATO-member states how such a policy should be developed and implemented. To sum up: There is obviously a gap between the expressed wills of member countries to adjust the alliance to the new security threats coming from the Mediterranean and the practical steps NATO has taken since 1990. It’s one of the aims of this study to explain this puzzle.

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