Summary:
The 16th *International Aegean Conference/Rencontre égéenne internationale* encompasses all the geographical regions west of the Aegean (Western Mainland Greece, the Ionian islands and the Adriatic, Italy, Sicily, Malta, Sardinia, Corsica and the Balearic islands), giving prominence to those focal points and traits of the local civilizations which interact with their Aegean counterparts of the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC, not excluding their Neolithic background.

Some of the issues for which HESPEROS opens the floor to discussion are the nature of Mycenaean presence in Iberia, the spread of the early technology of bronze across the Mediterranean, the expansion of phenomena connected with the Cetina “culture”, the local productions and the Mediterranean trade network of goods, such as the industry of amber, glass and murex, the distribution of tumuli and their social implications as monuments for the local elites, the lack of local manufacture of Italo-Mycenaean pottery in Sicily, the nodal role of the Balkans in a “connecting cultures” process, the documentation of Cycladic elements as far away as the Ionian islands, and the aspects of the metallurgical *koine* across the LBA Adriatic and the Aegean, not neglecting the examination of “traditional” questions, such as the nature of Mycenaean imports in Italy, the spread of matt-painted pottery in the SW Balkans and the degree of “Mycenaeanization” of Epirus.