

Euro-Med Networking

Networking across the Euro-Mediterranean area is often easier said than done. Political and physical barriers often prohibit interaction between the peoples of the Euro-Mediterranean region. The Barcelona Process and now the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) have sought to create a more dynamic space where frequent interaction between professionals from all walks of life becomes the norm.

The Euro-Mediterranean Seminars in Malta are one such vehicle that have been facilitating interaction between diplomats, academics and non-governmental representatives since their launching in October 1996. During the last 15 years more than 1600 professionals from the Euro-Mediterranean area have participated in the 27 Euro-Med Seminars.

Malta's Euro-Mediterranean foreign policy vocation and the Maltese Islands welcoming location have provided a conducive environment within which political, economic and cultural issues pertaining to the Mediterranean could be debated in an open and constructive manner. As an advocate of the Law of the Sea, a proponent for a Council of the Mediterranean, as a founding member of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and home of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC), Malta has relentlessly been championing Mediterranean affairs. This issue of the Euro-Mediterranean Seminars Network commences with an

analysis entitled "A New Partnership for a New Decade", penned by the Director of MEDAC, **Professor Stephen Calleya**. This article examines the prospects of the Union for the Mediterranean and underlines the importance of successfully implementing the strategic goals that are highlighted in the Barcelona Declaration of 1995.

Dr. Michael Koehler, former Head of Cabinet of EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Maltese **Dr. Joe Borg**, and now Head of Cabinet of EU Commission for Energy, provides an article on "The EU Integrated Mediterranean Maritime Policy". This assessment gives insight into the challenges facing maritime affairs and the urgency of safeguarding the Mediterranean Sea from further unsustainable activity.

Dr. Omar Grech, Director of the Human Dimension programme at MEDAC writes about "Women's Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean Area". This analysis examines the numerous challenges that must still be superseded if achieving gender equality in the Mediterranean is to become a more realistic goal.

This issue also includes a regular feature of all EMS Network newsletters: Seminar alumni - contributions by the participants of the 27th EMS held in October 2009. The back page is dedicated to latest news and the calendar of scheduled events of the UfM. This includes the announcement of the appointment of the UfM Secretary General, the Jordanian Ambassador, **Dr. Ahmad Masa'deh**.

EMS XXVII group photo at the opening day with **Hon Dr. Tonio Borg**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta. On his right **Amb. Nehad Abdel Latif**, Secretary General of the Permanent Secretariat for the Implementation of the Egypt-EU Association Agreement, Cairo; **Dr. Ian Lesser**, Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund, Washington D.C.; **Mr. Tom McGrath**, Administrator, EC, External Relations DG. On his left: **Amb. Per E.J. Carlson**, Director, Euro-Med Co-ordinator, Sweden; **Prof. Stephen Calleya**, Director, MEDAC; **Prof. Bichara Khader**, Director, Centre for Euro-Arab Studies, University of Louvain, Belgium.



The UNION for the MEDITERRANEAN: A NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR A NEW DECADE

It is fundamentally clear that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership coupled with the Union for the Mediterranean offer a unique opportunity to strengthen political, economic and cultural ties across the Euro-Mediterranean area. But such progress will only be registered if all the Euro-Med countries direct their actions at the causes rather than the symptoms of contemporary disparities and security risks. This is not to say that humanitarian and development

The specific project areas that have been highlighted including those concerning renewable energy, de-pollution of the sea, better transport connections and a civil protection network focus on improving the physical dimension of the regional framework that to date has been lacking.

In order to facilitate the successful implementation of the Union for the Mediterranean initiative there is thus a necessity to build and nurture both a mental conceptual blueprint and

case.

A dynamic Union for the Mediterranean would be one where the necessary political will is invested by all countries in the basin and those extra-regional actors with an interest in the Mediterranean. The goal would be to create a more interactive political, economic and cultural unitary framework that connects Europe to the Middle East and Africa and the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean in a more systematic and regulated manner.

In a globalized world a common regional platform that ensures stability is essential if the Mediterranean is to continue to prosper. The Euro-Med Partnership and Union for the Mediterranean follow up should be regarded as vehicles of regional promotion that are seeking to enhance political and economic relations between the countries across the basin.

If more attention towards the Mediterranean is to be forthcoming it is crucial that more awareness is raised about the reality that there can be no security and stability in Europe if there is no security and stability along the southern shores of the Mediterranean. If the European Union cannot successfully project policies of stability in its immediate neighbourhood across the Mediterranean, its more ambitious goal of becoming a global source of stability will remain a fallacy.

The Union for the Mediterranean must thus be seen as a litmus test of the European Union's objective of assisting in the improvement of



assistance is not essential, but this should not become a substitute for efforts that are geared towards increasing higher levels of co-operation between the countries of the Mediterranean.

The Union for the Mediterranean offers the blueprint to address the physical architectural deficit that has prevented the Mediterranean area from becoming a coherent functionaleconomicregionalspace.

physical infrastructure of regionalism in the Mediterranean. In other words, the peoples of the Mediterranean need to believe that they share more than a common history, but that they also share a common destiny, be it at a political, economic or cultural level of analysis. To date, this is not the

By Prof. Stephen C. Calleya, MEDAC Director
An abridged version of the article in Mediterranean Quarterly

<http://mq.dukejournals.org/content/vol20/issue4/index.dtl>

The Union for the Mediterranean: An Exercise in Region Building?

Mediterranean Quarterly 20(4): 49-70 (2009); DOI:10.1215/10474552-2009-024

livelihoods in states that border its own member states. Moreover, the UfM track record will also have a major bearing on the extent to which the European Union is able to influence positively development in Africa and the Middle East.

Parallel to the UfM economic targets it is also therefore essential to re-visit the headline goal of the Barcelona Process to establish a common security agenda and mechanism for the Mediterranean. More than a decade has passed since the Guidelines for a Security Charter was published at the Euro-Med foreign ministerial meeting in Stuttgart in April 1999.

Economic development as envisaged by the Union for the Mediterranean will only take place if investors believe they are committing themselves to a strategic environment where the rule of law and security are guaranteed. The re-launching of a political dialogue that seeks to build a common security platform to address the long list of security risks and threats including terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, drug trafficking, organised crime, and environmental degradation, will create a more conducive strategic context within which UfM goals can be pursued and achieved.

If the EU wants to increase security in the Mediterranean at a human level its needs to decide whether

it is going to export more jobs to its southern neighbours or whether it is prepared to absorb some of the excess employment capacity that is due to grow further in the next decade. Current projections

“ Parallel to the UfM economic targets it is also essential to re-visit the headline goal of the Barcelona Process to establish a common security agenda and mechanism for the Mediterranean. More than a decade has passed since the Guidelines for a Security Charter was published at the Euro-Med foreign ministerial meeting in Stuttgart in April 1999.

estimate that the population of North Africa and the Middle East is due to grow from 200 million to 300 million by 2020.

Unless the countries along the southern shores of the Mediterranean are able to significantly increase their economic growth to above six per cent per annum, unemployment figures in this part of the world are scheduled to increase rapidly in the next ten years. This demographic time-bomb is therefore certain to be a source of instability in the Euro-Mediterranean area if not tackled in a concerted manner in the near future.

The Union for the Mediterranean therefore provides a very important strategic re-assessment of the EU's policy towards its southern neighbourhood. When all the hoopla surrounding the multilateral initiative launched by France is

done away with, the UfM boils down to being a vehicle that seeks to correct the numerous deficits that the Euro-Med Partnership was suffering from since its inception. These include addressing the

issue of co-ownership, enhancing visibility of the process and focusing on delivering more tangible results in the form of numerous regional projects that are crucial to connecting the Mediterranean to the larger international system.

The Union for the Mediterranean introduces a very important perspective that to date has been absent when it comes to promoting regional integration in the Mediterranean. The UfM project driven initiative will enhance Euro-Mediterranean interdependence, a prerequisite to being able to encourage confidence and eventual trust between states in the area. The raising of political and economic interests and stakes will serve as an insurance policy against self-centred and myopic policy making that for too long has hindered trans-Mediterranean integration. ✨



Keynote Welcome Address at the XXVII EMS by Hon. Dr. Tonio Borg, Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malta (far left). Next to him: Prof. Stephen Calleja, Director, MEDAC; Mr. Tom McGrath, EC, External Relations DG, Brussels, and Amb. Per E.J. Carlsson, Sweden.

“The EU Integrated Mediterranean Maritime Policy – Challenges for the Mediterranean”

Dr. Michael Koehler, frn. Head of Cabinet of
EU Commission for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

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(This outline is prepared from the PP Presentation by Dr. Koehler, who at present is the Head of Cabinet of EU Commissioner for Energy, Günther H. Oettinger Ed.)

Introduction – An Ocean of opportunity: An Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) for Europe

- Communication from the Commission – “An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union” and accompanying Action Plan
- Adoption: 10th October 2007. Endorsed by EU Heads of State and Government in December 2007
- Key objective: Improving governance of our oceans and seas
- Achievements to date: Improvements in governance at MS and regional level, integrated initiatives at EU level, ongoing development of cross-cutting IMP tools: Maritime Spatial Planning, Marine knowledge, Maritime Surveillance
- Forthcoming Progress report 2007-2009

Sea-Basin approach: Towards an IMP for better governance in the Mediterranean

- Regional strategies tailored to the specificities of Europe’s shared seas.
- The Mediterranean sea-basin demands such an approach.

Challenges.

- Large semi-enclosed sea bordered by more than twenty states, of which only 7 are EU Member States
- Uneven levels of development and administrative capacities
- A large part of the Mediterranean remains High Seas raising specific governance issues
- Continued need for economic growth and jobs in maritime sectors and regions
- The Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystem under increasing pressure
- Security and safety concerns

Governance weakness.

- Marine space: unlike other semi-enclosed seas (e.g., Baltic or Black Sea), a large part of the Mediterranean remains High Seas where the effective management of sea-related activities and protection of the marine environment necessitates co-operation between neighbouring countries
- In addition, approximately 16% of the marine space is made up of territorial Sea and 31% is made up of diverse maritime zones, often contested by other coastal States due either

the extent of the claim or its validity

- Regional cooperation: International agreements and organisations performed within its own set of rules: Barcelona Convention, GFCM, ICCAT, etc. Better compliance with their decisions, more transparent overview of the work done and multilateral co-operation is needed

Previous initiatives to define IMP priorities.

- High Level Conference on IMP in the Mediterranean under the Slovenian Presidency (Piran, June 2008);
- Online stakeholder consultation (June-December 2008);
- Targeted missions to Member States (Italy, Spain, Greece and France) to gather their respective input;
- Specific targeted missions to non-EU Mediterranean coastal States (Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt) in order to exchange views on integrated approaches;
- Meetings with stakeholders and organisations particularly active in the Mediterranean – IUCN, CPMR, Barcelona Convention, etc.
- An experts’ group meeting on governance and the role of maritime zones in the Mediterranean (convened by MARE in January 2009).
- Workshop on governance of the Mediterranean Sea during the European Maritime Day stakeholder conference (Rome, 18-20 May 2009).

Communication: Towards an IMP in the Med

- Set of initiatives undertaken by DG MARE to gather stakeholder views and define a set of priorities
- All pointed out to a pressing need to **improve maritime governance** at the appropriate levels.

LEADING TO:

- Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament – “Towards an Integrated Maritime Policy for better governance in the Mediterranean”. Adopted 11th September 2009 (See Resources box)
- An integrated approach: transforming Med challenges of today into real opportunities for the maritime economies, the environment, and coastal populations

Objectives and Priorities.

General objectives of the Communication:

- Identify key maritime and coastal challenges;

The EU Mediterranean IMP – Challenges for the Mediterranean

- Propose actions for improved maritime governance;
 - Stimulate dialogue between coastal States
3. Stakeholder involvement.

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at sub-regional and sea-basin levels on an integrated approach to maritime affairs.

Two main chapters/priorities:

- A. Improve maritime governance at the appropriate levels;
- B. Applying cross-cutting tools for integrated governance.

A. Towards improved maritime governance

Three main strands:

1. The role of Mediterranean coastal States (national level);
2. Governance of the marine space (including multilateral co-operation);

A.1. The role of Mediterranean coastal States.

- MS encouraged to draw up their national integrated maritime policies
- Exchanges of best practices through existing EU funding, in particular the European Territorial Co-operation Objective programmes
- Member States' IMP High Level Focal Points (HLFP) encouraged to regularly address the Mediterranean sea
- Working group with EU and non EU-Mediterranean coastal States so as to initiate IMP co-operation at technical level.
- Technical assistance for interested partners (ENP)

A.2. Governance of the marine space.

- Support dialogue amongst Mediterranean coastal States with a view to improve governance of the marine space
- Overview of existing agreements and organisations relating to maritime affairs
- Recommendations for the improvement of cross-sectoral cooperation between existing agreements and organisations
- Continue to encourage the ratification and concerted implementation of UNCLOS
- Launch a study on the costs and benefits of establishing maritime zones

A.3. Improved stakeholder involvement ...

- Encouraging stakeholder platforms to address regularly the Mediterranean Sea and its specificities
- Exploring options for better associating stakeholders from all coastal States

B. Applying Cross-cutting governance tools

Four key priorities for the Mediterranean:

1. Maritime Spatial Planning and Marine Strategies;
2. Integrated management in coastal areas (ICZM);
3. Marine knowledge and integration between marine and maritime research;
4. Integrated surveillance.

B.1. Maritime Spatial Planning and Marine Strategies

- Study on MSP in the Mediterranean basin
- Launch a project to test the application of MSP
- Assist Member States to deliver on their obligations under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

B.2. Integrated management in coastal areas and islands

- Web-based inventory on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) tools, best practices and case studies
- Support the development of the knowledge-base on ICZM under EU's 7th Framework Programme (FP7)
- Linking maritime and terrestrial planning

B.3. Facilitating knowledge-based action

- ERA-NET (European Research Area Network): strengthening coordination in marine research between Member States.
- Long-term strategic framework for scientific cooperation in the Mediterranean
- Major cross-thematic research effort under EU's FP7

B.4. Integrated surveillance for a safer and secure maritime space

- Pilot project to improve co-operation amongst national authorities of the Mediterranean Member States responsible for maritime monitoring
- Presenting a set of principles guiding

integrated maritime surveillance in the EU forthcoming Communication

International dimension

- The Mediterranean Sea specificities and challenges require a strong effort of cooperation between all the Mediterranean States
- Co-operation on integrated maritime-policy making and better governance thereof, will build on the current multilateral framework, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), existing bilateral agreements and regional cooperation under the European Neighbourhood Policy, and relations with candidate and potential countries
- While the IMP is primarily addressed to MS, the Communication calls for an overall stronger cooperation with non-EU Mediterranean Partners at appropriate levels

The Union for the Mediterranean

- UfM was re-launched at the Paris Summit of Euro-Mediterranean HoS and Gov. on 13th July 2008, with the new network of relations endorsed at the Marseille Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Nov 2008, reinforcing the achievements of the Barcelona Process, launched in 1995.
- Six projects priorities were identified, two of them with important maritime component
 - ★ **De-pollution of the Mediterranean by the year 2020**
 - ★ **The development of Motorways of the Sea, as well as the establishment of an efficient and integrated Euro-Mediterranean Transport Network.**

Next steps

1. Dissemination Strategy targeted at national and regional authorities, key stakeholders and non-EU counterparts.
2. Definition with EU Member States, through existing fora for IMP, of shared priorities to be developed for the Mediterranean Region.
3. Establishment of a working group at sea-basin level, including interested non-EU coastal States, so as to engage in a co-operative dialogue on the development of a more integrated approach to maritime affairs in the basin.
4. Launch of key studies, particularly cost-benefit analysis of maritime zone establishment and Maritime Spatial Planning application in the Mediterranean as from 2010.

In conclusion:

- IMP application in the Mediterranean sea-basin to be pursued in line with the set objectives and priorities.
- The Communication is meant to complement the various sectoral actions that the EU promotes in the Mediterranean area (e.g. de-pollution of the MED, MoS, etc.) ✨

The EU Mediterranean IMP – Challenges for the Mediterranean

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Resources

An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union
The EU Integrated Mediterranean Maritime Policy
A sustainable future for the oceans and seas

PROMOTING SEA-BORNE ECONOMIC GROWTH
ACHIEVING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
SECURING A BETTER FUTURE FOR COASTAL POPULATIONS

<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs>

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/mediterranean_en.html

Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament – “Towards an Integrated Maritime Policy for better governance in the Mediterranean”. Adopted 11th September 2009

www.euromed-seminars.org/mt/archive/docs/090911-COM466-TowardsIntegratedMaritimePolicy-en.pdf

PP Presentation by Dr. Koehler

www.euromed-seminars.org/mt/seminar27/papers/Koehler-MaritimePolicyMed-EMS27.swf

EMS on Facebook

At the beginning of the 21st century the Mediterranean, the cradle of civilization, is faced with numerous challenges that can only be addressed through concerted regional co-operation between Northern and Southern littoral countries. The EU's consistent policies towards the Mediterranean, in particular the Euro-Med Partnership (EMP), and now the Union for the Mediterranean have been promoting peace, stability and prosperity across the Mediterranean. Since 1996, the 25 Euro-Med Information and Training Seminars for Diplomats, the long standing official EMP confidence building exercise, has brought together more than 1,200 diplomats, scholars and experts from thirty-nine partner countries. The Malta Seminars have become a unique people to people network that facilitates informal interaction and open dialogue between practitioners directly involved in the implementation of Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.



As Facebook social network on the Internet became *de facto* the place to communicate with friends spread all over the world, and promote business, groups and events activities you are cordially invited to join the EMS place on the Facebook, where you can write your comments, upload photos of EMS related events and people, discuss issues of common interest and find your colleagues. This FB page is another activity to bring together EMS Alumni in a social network.

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=80685676465

and join also the Facebook if you already did not.

Dr. Michael Koehler (middle) during the EMS XXVII. Next to him Dr. Monika Wohlfeld, MEDAC Lecturer and Holder of the German Chair in Conflict Prevention and Peace Studies, and the participant from Palestinian Authority Mr. Yasser Dahlan. In the second row Mr. Paul Walton, Anna Lindh Foundation



EMS Alumni

Contributions by Participants of the XXVII Euro-Med Information and Training Seminar for Diplomats



Jochen Möller
Netherlands

The Euromed Seminar was a very worthwhile experience for me and I would like to thank the European Commission and the organizers. My two main expectations were met - getting an update on Euro-Mediterranean policies plus networking with colleagues.

I profited especially from the group exercise on Sunday. It allowed a more dynamic and open interaction. I also benefited from those presentations in the plenary sessions that focused on the concrete political background of decisions taken on the Euromed partnership, notably the Union for the Mediterranean, or on the future setup of EU external action. It was also good to learn more about concrete activities such as the EU's integrated maritime policy (*See pages 4-7 of this issue, Ed.*). Such topics are of interest to all participants as we are practitioners, not academics.

On the networking side, I enjoyed getting to know new colleagues. I even met a Moroccan and a Palestinian friend whom I had known from previous postings. I discussed many topics with my Israeli colleague, including the one about the latest novel of the Dutch author Leon de Winter, which is set in Israel in the year 2025.



Mokhtar TERRA
Algeria

The participation at the XXVII information and training seminar for Euro-Med was a fruitful and comprehensive experience. I would like to thank Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) and the European Commission for organising this seminar.

The 27th Euro-Med Seminar for diplomats gave me the chance to listen to experts and academics specialized in the Mediterranean issues, discuss and exchange views with diplomats from the Mediterranean basin on the Euro-Med partnership. I noticed a high level of the presentations by guest speakers that gave me a comprehensive overview of the importance of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

The Euro-Med Seminar gave me also the opportunity to discover Malta, its beautiful islands and its rich history marked by the exchange of cultures and the dialogue of civilizations.

Finally, I want to thank Professor Calleya, the Director of MEDAC and the organizers for the excellent and varied program of the Seminar.

Needless to say, Malta provides a wonderful setting, and the experienced MEDAC colleagues take care of organization as well as animation in the most kind and professional manner. (*Jochen Möller*)



Serkan ÖZDEMİR
Turkey

I firmly believe that it was a great privilege and distinction for us to take place in the XXVII Malta Euro Med Seminar, which was not only a way of Confidence Building in itself but also understanding, dialogue and synergy among young diplomats of Euro Mediterranean countries.

The informal character of the Seminar created a constructive atmosphere to benefit from the outstanding presentations, exchange of views, to sincerely express ideas and to discuss concepts at the Seminar and on its fringes, on a wide range of issues.

In general, the whole event strengthened the idea of cooperation and demonstrated once again that it is only attainable and sustainable if we do not allow political fortunes and misfortunes taking the good will as a hostage.

Last but not least, the chance to be able to sit around the same table, and to come together with colleagues from all around the Mediterranean basin with the single intention, which is - more cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region, has increased hope and ambition in our hearts and minds. Thus, this also makes clear that there is still a large room for it if channels are kept open and used properly.

Thanks to the organizers, lecturers and participants for all forms of contribution to this Seminar.



Hussein Ali
Syria

To be frank, I was asking myself what am I going to achieve in participating in this seminar. After all, I have already attended too many seminars and multilateral conferences. But the Euromed Seminar in October 2009 turned to be one of the best events I've attended. Excellent organization and high quality speakers, added to a wonderful place in this small, but great, island of Malta.

The deep insight of President Emeritus Guido de Marco, the Keynote Address of Hon. Dr. Tonio Borg, the Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, and the interventions, effective management, optimism and dynamism of Professor Stephen Calleya, turned the first day into a brainstorming event that motivates participants to engage in an exchange of views and sometimes in heated debates during all sessions.

In addition, the seminar provided us with the opportunity to listen to, and to discuss with, a distinguished panel of professors and high officials, and to establish a network of colleagues who are working on the Euro-Med issues. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who made this event one of its kind: Professor Calleya and his team... I thank Malta.



Ārtomir Peter FIŠINGER
EUROPEAN UNION

The Euromed seminar fully met my expectations, in particular in the sense that it has shown the whole process of integration from a wider perspective and by providing the latest state of play regarding the Union for the Mediterranean from a number of distinguished speakers.

The event has also been a unique opportunity to meet with representatives from our Mediterranean partners as well as our colleagues from the EU in the charming Maltese environment. I am confident to extend my recommendation to all Euromed diplomats to attend future sessions of the seminar.

Thank you Dr. Calleya and Ms. Cassar and the whole your team again for the impeccable organisation of the 27th Euromed seminar.

*Political and Trade Section, EU
Delegation of the European
Commission to the State of Israel*



Qais Sharari
Jordan

I would like to express my great and sincere gratitude to the MEDAC, and also to the European Commission for taking the initiative to organize this type of Seminars. I am very proud of being given the opportunity to participate in the training courses at the Euro Med Information and Training Seminars for Diplomats in Malta. I found it really constructive to attend this seminar at the beginning of my career. During these four days I learned a lot regarding the activities, achievements and prospects of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and this knowledge has added a new, very useful dimension to my thinking.

I also had the chance to meet people from both sides of the Mediterranean countries, share their views and try to understand their way of thinking, their needs and expectations. I would also like to express my respect and gratitude to the MEDAC staff for excellent organization and, above all, for their friendliness and hospitality.



Photo 1: Participants at the Opening session of the XXVII EMS.
Photo 2: Euro-Med diplomats participating in the Seminar Workshop.



Photo 3. EMS Participants and members of Diplomatic Corps in Malta (front L to R) **Amb. Nehad Abdel Latif**, Secretary General of the Permanent Secretariat for the Implementation of the Egypt-EU Association Agreement, Cairo; **Mr. Hussein ALI**, Syria; **Ambassador of Egypt to Malta Mr. Abdelmawgoud Elhabashy**



Women's Rights in the Euro-Med Area

By Dr. Omar Grech

MEDAC, Co-ordinator of the Human Dimension Programme & Lecturer in International Law

If half (or more than half) of any given population is not allowed to access opportunity and thus eventually to contribute to society – success, in terms of human development, becomes improbable not to say impossible. In this context one may also refer to utilitarian economic principles, which state that from an efficiency point of view one must maximise and exploit all resources. The wilful waste of human resources, apart from being morally repugnant, is also economically unsound. Globally the success in ensuring access to rights and opportunities irrespective of gender remains a key challenge of our time both in terms of economic development and also in terms of the kind of society in which we live.

There are throughout the world different situations prevailing in terms of women's rights. Some regions have witnessed greater advances than others. Even within regions there are disparities in progress registered by states in narrowing the gender gap. Focussing on the Mediterranean one notes that gender is an issue that has attracted considerable attention on both shores of the Mediterranean. The UNDP's Arab Human Development Report of 2002 highlighted the lack of women's rights as one of the three key deficits in human development in the Arab region (including Arab states on the Mediterranean littoral). The World Economic Forum's *Gender Gap Report of 2008* shows that no Mediterranean state figures in the top 10 states which have reduced the gender gap most significantly. If we look at the top 30 positions only France and Spain are registering a narrow gender gap (in 15th and 16th position respectively). In the top 50 positions Portugal (39) and Croatia (46) join France and Spain in doing reasonably well in this table. This is certainly not a record of which the Mediterranean can be proud.

The EU has recognised that within the Union itself there are considerable challenges in achieving gender equality. In his foreword to the Report on *Women and men in decision-*

making 2007 Analysis of the situation and trends, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Vladimir Spidla stated:

"The report shows that even if the European Union's efforts to increase women's participation in decision-making have been consistent and certain progress has been achieved, women are still under-represented in all spheres of power in most Member States and in the EU Institutions."



Dr. Omar Grech

Political participation of women and their educational attainment are two key priorities in this context. This is a fact recognised by the Gender Gap report itself which uses these two issues as indicators measuring progress. There is clearly an osmotic relationship between these two fields for a number of reasons. Firstly the lack of political participation of women in our region is due, *inter alia*, to the traditional gender roles that are assigned to men and women. Secondly the deconstruction of these gender roles has to start from the basis of where human interaction starts: families and schools. The concept of the family is itself dependent on the kind of education that the members of any particularly family receive. Are the boys and girls who will form tomorrow's families being socialised according to

specific gender roles? Are they being educated in a gender sensitive educational system? If they are not, then the stereotypical gender roles within the family and within society will be reinforced rather than deconstructed. Having greater political participation of women will, in itself, serve to challenge the gender roles which are traditionally assigned to men and women. Having more women parliamentarians, ministers, judges etc will create positive gender role models that will encourage men and women to look at their roles in societies in a different manner. Increasing public roles for women cannot and must not be the only way in which to reduce the gender gap but it will help mothers and fathers to realise that, in the words of President Obama, "our daughters can contribute just as much to society as our sons, and our common prosperity will be advanced by allowing all humanity - men and women - to reach their full potential." The Euro-Mediterranean region must realise its prosperity also rests on this and address these concerns because it is in its socio-economic interest to do so. ✨

Resources

CEDAW - The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women.
www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw

"Women's Rights in the Euro-Med: Summary & Reflections"
Dr. Omar Grech, Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta (PP Presentation)
www.euomed-seminars.org.mt/seminar27/papers/OmarGRECH-WR-EMS27.swf

27th EMS - Information & Training Seminar for Diplomats
A List of Presentation, Papers, and Documents
www.euomed-seminars.org.mt/seminar27/papers.htm

General Secretariat of the Union for Mediterranean in Barcelona

Jordanian Dr. Ahmad Masa'deh first Secretary-General of the Union for Mediterranean

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In line with the policy of co-ownership of the Union for Mediterranean (UfM) between EU-27 and 16 non-EU South-East Mediterranean and Adriatic countries, Jordanian diplomat Dr. Ahmad Masa'deh has been appointed as the first Secretary-General of the UfM.



Dr. Ahmad Masa'deh

At the Marseilles conference of Euromed foreign affairs ministers, Barcelona was chosen as the location for the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean. It was established with the aim of identifying projects in strategic areas and monitoring their progress, along with looking for sources of financing them.

The headquarters of UfM Secretariat will be in Palacio de Pedralbes, once the Barcelona residence of the Spanish royal family and famous for its gardens, some of which were designed by Antoni Gaudi. (See photo 1)

Foreign ministers of France, Spain, Egypt, Tunis and Jordan met in Cairo to support Massa'deh's candidacy. Dr. Ahmad Masa'deh was previously Jordan's ambassador to EU and Belgium, Luxembourg, Norway and the representative to NATO, as well as Minister for Public Sector Reform. The 40 year old lawyer was educated in



Photo 1

Jordan, USA and UK before becoming practising attorney at law, and legal counsel with the London-based international law firm. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Masa'deh is also a distinguished academic at the University of Jordan.

Dr. Masa'deh will have six assistants. A Palestinian will be responsible for environmental issues, an Israeli for higher education and research, a Turk will be responsible for transport, a Maltese for social affairs, a Greek for energy and an Italian for financing for small and medium sized businesses. French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said having an Israeli and a Palestinian "who normally do not work together, and sometimes clash very harshly, is an exceptional success, a diplomatic tour de force."

It is noted that Spain's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Ángel Gossaga, declared that the European Commission must step up its involvement with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and help finance projects planned between countries on both shores. The

EURO-MED Schedule

Water, Solar Energy, and 2nd Summit of UfM in Barcelona
Multilateral Mediterranean themes and priorities of Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU

12/04/2010 Euromed Conference on Water, Barcelona
Task of this conference is to approve the Strategy for the Mediterranean on water issues.

12/05/2010 MSP Conference in Valencia
The Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP) is another major work area for the Presidency. Spain will organise MSP Conference, which will take its conclusions to the EUROMED Summit in Barcelona in June 2010.

Energy cooperation in the Mediterranean region, infrastructure policy in the context of the MSP, energy technologies, the regulatory framework and the financing of associated investments will be the main issues dealt with at the MSP Conference.

5-7/06/2010 2nd Summit Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) - Euromed
Place: Centre Convencions Internacional, Barcelona
The senior official and expert meetings will be held on 5th and 6th.
The preparatory meeting for Foreign Office Ministers will take place on Sunday 6th.
The main session with the participation of the Heads of State and Government is planned for Monday 7th.

As with the 1st Barcelona Conference in 1995 there will be meetings and events on the fringes of the main conference:
Barcelona EUROMED Forum associated with the UfM Summit and Forum of EUROMED Local and Regional Authorities associated to the UfM Summit.

Secretary-General will be in charge of coordinating these projects. At the official Presentation Dr. Ahmad Masa'deh hailed Barcelona as the "capital and driver of Mediterranean unity" and pledged to maintain the momentum of UfM initiatives in areas envisaged by the UfM programme. These areas are (i) the depollution of the Mediterranean, (ii) maritime and overland highways, (iii) civil protection, (iv) alternative energies and producing a Mediterranean Solar energy Plan (MSP), (v) the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean University and (vi) the development of business in the region.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Spain, France, Egypt and Jordan, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, Czech Stefan Füle, the High Representative of the UN Alli-



Photo 2

ance of Civilisations, Jorge Sampaio, the Secretary General of the Arab League, Amr Moussa, the Catalanian President, José Montilla, and the Mayor of Barcelona, Jordi Hereu, attended Masadeh's official presentation (See photo 2).

The ceremony began by raising the 43 flags of the Member States outside the Pedralbes Palace the headquarters of the UfM permanent Secretariat.

Dr. Masa'deh immediate task is preparing the 2nd Summit of UfM in Barcelona (See the Euromed Schedule box), in June during the final month of Spain at the helm of the rotating presidency of the EU.

The UfM project has been affected by the conflict in the Gaza Strip, which ended on 18th January 2009, as Arab countries refused to sit next to Israel during meetings of the group. "It will not be easy (to stage the summit) but I am sure that we will do it," said Spanish Foreign Minister Moratinos, a former EU Middle East envoy.



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