



INVITATION

Conference

The Union for the Mediterranean

—
A successful concept for stronger regional cooperation?

Wednesday, 25 June 2008

12.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Venue:

Representation of
Baden-Württemberg to the EU

Rue Belliard 60-62
1040 Brussels

Draft Programme

12.00 p.m. Registration and lunch buffet

1.00 p.m. Welcoming

Ingo FRIEDRICH (MEP)

Quaestor and Member of the Bureau of the European Parliament, Member of the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung

1.10 p.m. Introduction:

Antonio LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ WHITE (MEP)

Secretary General of the European People's Party Secretary Treasurer of Centre for European Studies

1.20 p.m. Panel Discussion:

Moderator:

Shada ISLAM

Journalist, Senior Programme Executive EPC

Participants:

Seenot Haleem DOUS

Committee on Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security, Shoura Assembly, Egypt

Thomas SILBERHORN

Member of the German Bundestag

Jacques HUNTZINGER

Former Ambassador of France to Israel

Panagiotis ROUMELIOTIS

Chairman, Institut de Prospective Economique du Monde Méditerranéen (IPEMed)

Key Note Speech:

2.30 p.m. **Commissioner Antonio TAJANI**

Member of the European Commission, Italy

2.50 p.m. Closing Remarks

Nikolaos TZIFAKIS

International Coordination Department, Constantin Karamanlis Institute for Democracy

3.00 p.m. End of the conference

Background

The Union for the Mediterranean was agreed on in March 2008, following a compromise between the EU-27. At the same time, it is externally presented as a strengthening of the ENP and a step towards more regional cooperation between the EU and the ENP-countries in the South as well as among the ENP-countries. While the agreement lies out the basics of the institutional structure (secretariat, council presidency, etc.), there is still a lot of uncertainty about how the Union for the Mediterranean will work in practice. Moreover, reactions from the Mediterranean countries concerned have been quite limited or non-existent. To achieve a better regional cooperation, it is, however, crucial to get the commitment of the Mediterranean countries to actively participate in this partnership. Until now, most of them have shown limited interest and reacted rather reluctantly.

This panel discussion wants to shed some light on how the countries concerned feel about the Union for the Mediterranean and what vision they have for a strengthened regional integration. Furthermore, it aims to discuss the implications for political, economic and structural cooperation in key areas and also touches upon the possibilities for greater intra-regional cooperation. Additionally, the key challenges and specific conditions in the countries concerned will be discussed in order to assess the prospects of the Union for the Mediterranean to serve as a model for greater stability and prosperity in the region.

Conference languages with simultaneous translation are English, French and German.

Registration by returning the filled-in registration form by e-mail-reply to: registration@hss.de or Fax: +32 (0)2 230 70 27.

Organisers and contacts:

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