

Chronology of the Barcelona Process

January

1-4 January 2011

EU-Egypt

Brussels: The President of the European Council (EC), H. Van Rompuy, and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, C. Ashton, strongly condemn the terrorist attacks perpetrated against the congregation of a Coptic church in Alexandria, causing dead and wounded. In a letter of condolence addressed to President Hosni Mubarak and the families of the victims, the President of the EC qualifies the attack as a vicious and inhumane act bringing fear and hatred to Egyptian society as a whole.

6 January 2011

Migration

Athens: A seminar organised within the framework of the Euromed Migration II project analyses the social reports on gender in international migration, associated with the study of other factors such as social class, race and North-South relations. The Euromed Migration II project attempts to reinforce cooperation on migration management. Throughout the seminar, the papers demonstrate that all of these relations influence the image, legal status and position of migrants in the social stratification of European host societies. The seminar also reveals the diversification of female migratory profiles (legal and illegal migration, labour migration, asylum seekers, migrants in forced exile, family reunification, victims of slave trade and human trafficking, etc).

7 January 2011

Cooperation

Paris: At the third edition of the New World, New Capitalism symposium or-

ganised by the French Ministry of Industry, Energy and the Digital Economy, the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Ahmad Masa'deh, proposes a concrete Strategic Mediterranean Plan aiming to improve Mediterranean cooperation and integration. The stated Plan exhorts the EU to invest more in multilateral envelopes, beyond the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI), and put an end to the inequality created by the culture of "aid and financing" while moving towards a similar way of approaching exchanges between the North and South shores through investment and transfers.

17 January 2011

UfM

Barcelona: The Secretary General of the UfM, A. Masa'deh, and the Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), P. de Fontaine Vive, signed a memorandum of understanding to step up collaboration. The agreement reflects the development of already extant ties between the two organisations and bases the partnership on six concrete areas: exchanging information, promoting UfM projects to facilitate their financing, promoting greater comprehension of the region, improving visibility and raising awareness among stakeholders, developing networks and detaching personnel in order to allow the implementation of priority UfM projects. In this regard, the EIB will have two permanent representatives at the UfM to facilitate communication between the two institutions.

19-22 January 2011

Audiovisual

Ouarzazate: The MovieMed Festival, now in its second edition, is a Euro-Mediterranean cinema tourism gather-

ing that contributes to strengthening cooperation between actors in the field of tourism and encourages investment in and economic development of Mediterranean audiovisual production. The festival allows cinema and tourism professionals to meet and establish cooperation partnerships based on business meetings, but also to establish good practices through workshops on cinema tourism. At the MovieMed Festival, the Marseille – Provence Chamber of Commerce and its partners announce a forthcoming good practices handbook.

24 January 2011

Audiovisual

Brussels: Ten independent Arab producers are selected to participate in a DOCmed training programme divided into three one-week sessions over the course of a year. Implemented within the framework of the Euromed Audiovisual III programme financed by the EU, DOCmed targets documentary film producers, directors and scriptwriters in the Southern Mediterranean Region. This programme is implemented locally by Beirut DC (Lebanon), Eurodoc (France) and Doc in Tunis (Tunisia) in cooperation with Arte France. The project focuses on international co-production of creative documentaries as well as the establishment of improved production standards or adaptation to more advanced technology.

<http://euromediaudiovisuel.net/2012/p.aspx?l=en>

26 January 2011

UfM

Barcelona: The Secretary General of the UfM and Jordanian diplomat Ahmad Masa'deh resigns from his post because "the conditions under which [he] accepted the position have changed."

28-29 January 2011

ARLEM

Agadir: The second plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) brings together representatives of the UfM, EU Institutions and local and regional Mediterranean authorities. This is the opportunity for local and regional leaders of the Assembly to confirm their engagement to maintain dialogue and decentralised cooperation in the Mediterranean Region on social, economic and territorial development. Representatives also discuss three reports prepared in 2010. ARLEM is presided by two co-presidents equitably representing EU partners and the EU and comprises an equal number of local and regional representatives from EU Member States and Mediterranean countries, as well as members of the Committee of Regions (CoR).

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/arlem/Pages/arlem.aspx>

29 January 2011

EU-Egypt

In a joint declaration, D. Cameron, N. Sarkozy and A. Merkel appeal to H. Mubarak to play his role as president in the current situation in Egypt, avoiding all forms of violence against the civilian population and protesters, quickly implementing the promised political, economic and social reforms and ensuring that they meet the aspirations of the Egyptian people. By the same token, they urge the Egyptian President to enter a process of transformation consisting of holding free elections and forming a government that is inclusive and representative of the population as a whole, while always respecting human rights and fundamental liberties.

31 January – 4 February 2011

Civil Protection

Split: Some thirty Civil Protection Disaster Response experts meet to train on methodology and tools for early, proactive management of emergencies. Participants are from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territories and Tunisia. This training workshop is part of the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters Programme (PPRD South) and managed by a consortium consisting of Italian, French, Algerian and Egyptian Civil Protection

Authorities and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

www.euromedcp.eu/

31 January 2011

ALF

Alexandria: The Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) announces the suspension of activities at its headquarters in Alexandria as well as the repatriation of part of its staff for security reasons and to maintain communication with national networks. Indeed, the situation in Egypt has already led the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to close, as well as the Swedish Institute where the Foundation has its offices. The ALF constitutes the first institution jointly established and funded by all members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. It carries out projects fostering dialogue among cultures, the rapprochement of peoples and regional cooperation in the spheres of culture, science, education, human rights and women's empowerment. The ALF resumes its activities in the week of 7 February 2011.

www.euromedalex.org/

February

1-2 February 2011

Maritime Security

Genoa: The maritime authorities of Mediterranean Partner Countries meet during the second annual Euro-Mediterranean SafeMed II project meeting. Jointly organised by the European Commission, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) and the Italian Coastguard, which is hosting the event, the meeting aims to allow the maritime authorities under SafeMed and EU Member States to exchange their points of view and positions as well as develop an adequate response to the problems identified in applying the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

www.safemedproject.org/

3 February 2011

Health

Luxemburg: The first steering committee meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Public Health Security Project (Epi-South Plus Project), designed to improve readiness to handle shared health threats, focuses on drafting a working

plan for the new stage of activities of the EpiSouth Network approved and launched in October 2010. The Epi-South Plus project aims to improve public health security in the Mediterranean Region and Southeast Europe by developing readiness to respond to shared health threats and bio-security risks.

www.episouthnetwork.org/

3 February 2011

EU-Egypt

Brussels: High Representative C. Ashton appeals to Vice-President O. Suleiman to guarantee the security of protesters and, in general, to respect human rights and fundamental liberties. This appeal comes after a meeting between the two officials in which the High Representative expressed her concern to the Vice-President about the violence perpetrated against pacific protesters and qualified the intimidation and aggression directed at journalists as “totally unacceptable.” Since the onset of protests, both Ashton and J. M. Barroso, as well as the EU as a whole have shown particular support for Egypt and have called for dialogue to settle the “disagreements” pacifically.

3 February 2011

EU-Tunisia

Brussels: Following a meeting with the Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, A. Ouneies, the EU reaffirms its full support for the country's transition to democracy. At the same time, C. Ashton states that she is impressed by the amount of work carried out in so little time by the Tunisian Authorities and reiterates the EU's wish to see gestures accompany words. This meeting allows leaders to begin talks on aid that the EU would be liable to provide in the short and long terms on the economic and social levels to countries in transition.

4 February 2011

EU-Egypt

Brussels: In a declaration, European Council officials strongly condemn the violence and incitement to violence committed on Egyptian territory and emphasise the right of all citizens to demonstrate freely and the duty of the authorities to protect this right. The EC urges Egypt to respond to the aspirations of the people through dialogue

and not repression. The EU states that it is determined to provide its full support to States pursuing democratisation processes and the EC invites C. Ashton to establish concrete EU support measures to democratic transitions, in particular through the ENP and the UfM. www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/119143.pdf

4 February 2011

EU-Algeria

Brussels: European Parliament (EP) President J. Buzek welcomes the decision by Algerian President A. Bouteflika to lift the state of emergency in Algeria. Buzek interprets this decision as a first step towards taking into account the Algerian people's aspirations and recalls that a disagreement between people and the government is foreseeable but that the State is the guarantor of citizens' right to freely express their opinions.

7-8 February 2011

EU-Morocco

Rabat: During a visit to Morocco, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Š. Füle meets with the Moroccan Prime Minister and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economy and Finance and Agriculture and Fisheries, as well as other high representatives of the Moroccan government. The visit aims to reiterate EU support to political and social reforms carried out in the country and their continued development. This visit is crucial, since, as Füle recalls, "with an allocation of nearly 200 million euros per year, Morocco is the main recipient of funding by the EU through its European Neighbourhood Policy."

17 February 2011

Transport

Marseille: The MedGovernance Transport Seminar aims to discuss an integrated transport policy for the Mediterranean. This territorial cooperation project, launched in 2009, comprises six partner regions with different research centres and aims to draw up policy recommendations for building the Mediterranean area that take into account the role and participation of regional actors. In this regard, the Trans-Mediterranean Network for Transport (TMN-T) concept

emerges and participants agree that South Mediterranean ports, with the exception of Tangiers, must implement logistics measures in order to develop transport means other than roads.

19-20 February 2011

Local Development

Hermel: The launch meeting for the project "Promoting Women's and Youth Participation in Local Development Processes," under the Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue (CIUDAD) programme, is co-organised by the city of Hermel, the Province of Rome and the association Union de l'Action féminine (Tangiers). At the meeting, the work plan, budget and partnership agreement are defined by the organisers and the EU delegation to Lebanon using the CIUDAD support mechanism. This initiative will take place in Lebanon and Morocco, within the framework of the CIUDAD programme funded by the ENPI (15 countries are participating in the programme, under the ENP).

22-24 February 2011

Youth

Amman: As of its launch meeting, the Euromed Youth IV Programme focuses on the implementation of a shared vision among the different actors present: Euromed Youth units, the European Commission and EU delegations. This meeting aims to present a communication strategy and define the structure of communications channels between the Euromed Youth units and the other actors. The programme as a whole supports local initiatives designed to encourage and stimulate mutual cooperation as well as solidarity between youth in the Euro-Mediterranean Region.

www.euromedyouth.net

25-26 February 2011

Cities

Málaga: The 2nd Euro-Arab Cities Forum meets to debate the issue of autonomy, local governance, urban management for sustainable development and matters relative to heritage, culture and tourism. The Forum is co-organised by the city of Malaga, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, the Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean

Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities and the Arab Towns Organisation. Consisting of five thematic sessions, the Forum addresses cooperation between European and Arab cities, local governance, urban management for sustainable development and municipal services, as well as culture, heritage, tourism and financial instruments.

www.coppem.org/default.asp?p=267

March

1 March 2011

Migration

Brussels: The EP's Civil Liberties Commission asks the EU Member States to accelerate work on the "asylum package" and reiterates the indispensable nature of solidarity in allowing migrants to resettle.

3 March 2011

EU

Brussels: Following a visit to the Tunisian-Libyan border by the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and the Hungarian Minister for European Affairs under the Hungarian EU Presidency, 30 million euros in aid were allocated in order to respond to the Libyan humanitarian crisis through an emergency aid package to add to the 13 million euros already disbursed.

3 and 4 March 2011

UfM

Rome: At the 7th session of the UfM Parliamentary Assembly, the Euro MPs and MPs of Mediterranean countries send a joint message of support to the movements struggling for democracy in the South Mediterranean Region while condemning the violence of the Gaddafi regime. On this occasion, the project is discussed of creating a Euro-Mediterranean investment bank designed to financially contribute to the democratic transition processes while calling for stepped up international aid to counter the humanitarian crisis in Libya. At the session, L. Cardarelli is appointed the UfM Acting Secretary General.

8 March 2011

Women

Brussels: On the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, EU High

Representatives meet to pay tribute to the women having played an essential role in recent events in South Mediterranean countries and mark the importance of the presence of women in the new order emerging from the uprisings being experienced in Northern Africa. On this occasion, a number of European leaders recall the importance of respecting women's rights in all processes of the transitions and of development.

8-9 March 2011
Civil Protection

Rome: A forum is held at the Campidoglio Palace based on the mid-term results of the 2005-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action in the Mediterranean Region (designed to improve preparation of countries in the face of possible natural or man-made disasters). Above all, the forum provides an opportunity for the different actors involved to evaluate the contribution of the Euromed Programme PPRD South to the Hyogo Framework.

11 March 2011
EU-Arab Spring

Brussels: At an extraordinary EC meeting to define EU orientations as revolts in Mediterranean countries evolve, the Council seeks to define the priorities for future EU policies and actions supporting all measures towards democratic transformation and pacific change. Moreover, the Council commends the constitutional reform initiative in Morocco, the election announced in Tunisia and the Egyptian transition. The European Council emphasises the importance of the role of the European Commission in EU-South Mediterranean youth cooperation measures as well as of the release of additional funds.

14-15 March 2011
Urban Planning

Barcelona: The Conference on Urban Development Strategies in the Mediterranean aims to lead the different actors in the Mediterranean area towards a common approach to their vision of urban development in the region. Attending are mayors of cities on both the North and South shores of the Mediterranean, as well as experts from international and financial organisations. The final declaration puts an emphasis on

including citizens in formulating urban policy, taking the environmental factor into account in prevention and risk management policies and stepping up public-private partnerships. It is agreed to share experiences between cities, creating a triangular cooperation dynamic (North-South-South).

www.commed-cglu.org/spip.php?article582

15 March 2011
Communication

Malta: The Euromed Postal Community (Euromed PC) or Postal Euromed is the new organisation in charge of implementing exchange and cooperation projects between fourteen national postal networks in the Mediterranean region. This postal community emerged following a 2007 initiative by the Groupe La Poste aiming to step up multilateral Mediterranean cooperation, giving rise to the Constituent General Meeting in Rome, founding this new permanent structure whose mission it is to promote and defend the collective interests of the community before different international organisations as well as developing a higher level of integration among regional postal networks by transferring know-how and technology and sharing costs.

16 March 2011
Investment

Barcelona: The 3rd Plenary Meeting of the Mediterranean Investment Initiative is an opportunity to present concrete measures for attracting long-term foreign investment to the Mediterranean. This initiative brings together some thirty public and private investors from the Northern, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean as well as multilateral cooperation and development institutions. The measures presented conclude the cycle of reflection begun in 2009 aiming to make investment secure by harmonising the legal framework, placing the accent on human capital and financial measures fostering investment in the Mediterranean Region.

www.2im.coop/spip.php?article33

22 March 2011
Maritime Security

Brussels: The EC, EIB and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) launched a study on cooperation in the

Mediterranean Region within the framework of the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEM-IP). In order to foster the maritime sector in the Mediterranean, the study centres on social aspects, maritime surveillance and security and investment in maritime infrastructures.

25 March 2011
Migration

Brussels: Through Frontex, the EU launches Operation Hermes in order to assist the Italian Authorities to manage migratory flows from Northern Africa, in particular from Tunisia, to the Island of Lampedusa. This operation is taking place on demand of the Italian Authorities through the cooperation of the above-stated institutions with the Tunisian Authorities and has been extended for an additional five months (to the end of August). Its geographic scope has also been extended. Particular attention is lent to individuals requiring international protection.

www.frontex.europa.eu/

April

14 April 2011
Migration

Brussels: After the European Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs meeting in Luxemburg called for solidarity and cooperation on migration, considering the migratory pressure from South Mediterranean countries, and emphasised the importance of long-term measures, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) appeals to States to act in a spirit of solidarity to seek solutions to the causes of these migratory flows.

27-30 April 2011
Literature

Alexandria: The second "Écrire la Méditerranée" literature forum is organised by the French Institute of Egypt and Bibliotheca Alexandrina, with the support of the ALF and the Centre méditerranéen de littérature. The forum intends to bring together some twenty writers and intellectuals from Egypt and the rest of the Mediterranean Region in order to let them speak about the recent changes occurring in the region and the new challenges to which Southern Mediterranean countries must rise in order to reinvent

themselves. This platform for discussion deals with new forms of *literature engagée* or politically committed literature and the birth of a new sense of identity.

www.euromedalex.org/sites/default/files/FR_0.pdf

May

5 May 2011

Women

Brussels: An informative session is held in Brussels. The initiative, jointly organised by the Euromed Gender Equality Programme (EGEP) and the European Training Foundation (ETF), is designed to provide information on the evolution of women's rights and equality between women and men. Organised within the framework of the ENP, the initiative aims to improve gender equality on the political, institutional and legal levels. At the meeting, strengthening women's economic power and the active participation of religious dignitaries in fostering gender equality are put forward.

www.euromedgenderequality.org/index.php?langue=en

11 May 2011

EU-Arab Spring

Brussels: In a speech delivered before the EP, C. Ashton puts forth three methods to be applied by the EU to support transition processes in South Mediterranean countries. They consist of promoting mobility of youth and businesses, facilitating the development of their markets with the EU and providing resources for these countries. By the same token, Ashton recalls that the Arab Spring revolts are a historic rendezvous that the EU cannot afford to miss.

11-12 May 2011

Enterprise

Malta: The Ministers of Industry meet at the 8th Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation. Within the framework of the UfM and the ENP, discussions are held on approving the 2011-2012 Work Programme developed by the Working Group on Euro-Mediterranean Industrial Cooperation. Finally, the Ministers of Industry attending agree to continue implementing the Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Enterprise, evaluating the results, encouraging investments in the

Mediterranean Region, facilitating industrial product trade, innovation, technology transfer and marketing, and the development of sustainable enterprises and energy efficiency.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/international/files/2011-05-11-12-conclusions-from-meeting_en.pdf

24-28 May 2011

Heritage

Tunis: The Mutual Heritage Project is part of the Euromed Heritage 4 Programme and has organised the 7th Training Session on Restoration and Renovation. This session aims to train young future professionals in architecture, heritage, urban planning, education and tourism in the Maghreb, Europe and Palestine. The training is done through conferences, debates and exhibits mainly concerning 20th century heritage in the Medina of Tunis.

www.mutualheritage.net/

25 May 2011

Neighbourhood Policy

Brussels: C. Ashton and Š. Füle launch a new ENP strategy to strengthen relations between the EU and its neighbours. At the same time, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) expands its mandate to more countries in the South Mediterranean and the EIB increases aid amounts following a made-to-measure policy for each country. This new policy is established within the framework of the Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the South Mediterranean adopted in March 2011. The European Commission also publishes reports relative to the progress made on the ENP Action Plans.

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/com_11_303_en.pdf

30 May 2011

SMEs

Casablanca: Following the postponement of the conference that had been programmed for 3 March 2011 in Tunis, Morocco hosts the 9th FEMIP Conference entitled "Mediterranean Infrastructure Challenges: The Potential of Public-Private Partnerships." The conference is jointly organised by the Moroccan Ministry of the Economy, the EIB and the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry

(ASCAME) and is designed to make the recent and current public-private projects known, encourage Mediterranean Partner Countries to use public-private partnerships (PPPs) as an engine for modernisation and pursue joint PPP action in the Mediterranean Region. This conference essentially focuses on the PPP experience acquired, the legal framework of partnership projects and the improvement of PPP attractiveness.

www.eib.org/attachments/med/femip-conference-in-casablanca-conclusions-en.pdf

June

15 June 2011

EU

Brussels: At a round table organised by Members of the European Parliament (Euro MPs), Š. Füle emphasises the capital importance of democracy as a means to gain stability in Southern Mediterranean countries. Regarding the new ENP strategy, he insists on the establishment of solid, sustainable democracy and provides guidelines for the project to be in accordance with European values, and likewise states that evaluation of country progress by the EU will be based on this criteria, together with those of equality and non-discrimination.

15-16 June 2011

Free Trade

Brussels: The 5th round of negotiations between the EU and Algeria on tariff dismantling occurs soon after the 4th round, which took place on 30 and 31 May 2011 in Algiers. At the 4th round, the parties attempted to resolve their differences regarding the list of agricultural and industrial products subject to dismantling. At the 5th round, the parties negotiate the deadlines for tariff disappearance in order to allow a greater margin for preparation to Algerian companies facing the European competition that will arise as of the definitive establishment of the Free Trade Area. In this regard, Algeria's request to extend the deadline from 2017 to 2020 was accepted by the EU at the 5th round.

20 June 2011

EU-Arab Spring

Luxemburg: The European Commission and C. Ashton launch a major series of

measures to support transition processes in South Mediterranean countries consisting of “A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the South Mediterranean.” This project is the focus of work at the European Council extraordinary meeting, which declares that it supports the Partnership and sets the Council of the EU the task of analysing the different proposals contained in the project. In its conclusions on the ENP, the Council of the EU encourages this partnership initiative and calls on the leaders behind this project to ensure its implementation and continuity.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0200:FIN:en:PDF>

21 June 2011

Free Trade

Brussels: The Council of the EU supports the development of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTAs) between the EU and Northern Africa and welcomes the establishment of a Working Group for the Southern Mediterranean, designed to contribute coherent international support to democratic transition in the Mediterranean Region. The European Ministers of Foreign Affairs put forth the need for improvement to allow results-oriented regional cooperation through concrete projects.

23 June 2011

Women

The Acting Secretary General of the UfM, L. Cardarelli, shows his support to the recently created Women for the Mediterranean Foundation. The Foundation seeks to contribute to attaining greater equality between men and women and promote their role in society. At the Foundation's inauguration, the UfM Secretary General and Deputy for Social and Civil Affairs recalls that women's involvement in society is linked to a country's development level. This initiative is part of the launching of the EU programme Promoting Gender Equality in the Euro-Mediterranean Region (EGEP).

24 June 2011

Migration

Brussels: In May, the European Commission adopted a series of measures

designed to improve management of migratory flows from the Southern Mediterranean region generated by the Arab Spring. They are meant to relax visa regulations, foster partnerships for mobility and establish common EU asylum regulations. The President of the European Commission calls on Member States to demonstrate solidarity towards their southern neighbours. European leaders adopt the European Commission's proposal to begin dialogue on migration, mobility and security with ENP Partner States.

27-29 June 2011

Women

Brussels: A training workshop to eliminate stereotypes and improve the image of women in the media in the Euro-Mediterranean Region is held as part of the Euro-romed Gender Equality Programme (EGEP). This training session is the first to use the manual “Women and the Media in the Euro-Mediterranean Region,” drawn up by EGEP. At the workshop, experts familiarise journalists with women's rights issues and offer them tools for analysing women's image in the media.

July

4 July 2011

MedGovernance

The Final Policy Paper of the MedGovernance Project is published. It contains the final conclusions and recommendations to regional actors (regions and regional research centres) on the actions to be taken in partnership with EU Institutions. The document emphasises the importance of greater and more fluid cooperation between the UfM, the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) and other regional institutions and calls on regions to implement common initiatives and projects in MedGovernance priority sectors.

www.medgov.net/sites/default/files/node_files/other/medgov_finalpolicypaper_FINAL.pdf

5 July 2011

UfM

Barcelona: The UfM welcomes its new Secretary General, Youssef Amrani, with a ceremony at the Pedralbes Palace that brings together Foreign Affairs Ministers from Mediterranean countries

and representatives of the city of Barcelona. This assumption of office ceremony is marked by the role that the new Secretary General shall play in the changes in Southern Mediterranean countries after the resignation of the Jordanian, Ahmad Masa'deh in January and the Italian, L. Cardarelli, who was Acting Secretary General beginning in March. Amrani will hold the post until the election of Fathallah Sijilmassi on 10 February 2012.

5-6 July 2011

Energy

Barcelona: As part of the Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP), the first joint committee of national experts meets on initiative of the UfM Secretariat's Department of Energy. This plan is designed to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency in UfM countries. At the end of the meeting, the members approve a master plan, primarily oriented towards action by Mediterranean countries on timing, objectives and working methods for renewable energy.

7 July 2011

Transport

Brussels: In accordance with the new ENP, a plan to improve transport infrastructure has been launched by the European Commission to boost transport connections with the EU's Eastern and Southern neighbours. The measures stipulated in this plan are intended to ensure connections between EU transport networks and those of its neighbours through the establishment of a transport committee capable of supervising and channelling regional cooperation on transport.

www.euromedtransport.org/En/home_4_46

7-9 July 2011

Universities

Lecce: The UniMed (Mediterranean Universities Union) General Assembly is held to discuss different cross-border cooperation programmes and other initiatives launched in the region. The EP Members attending make a declaration on the creation of exchange programmes similar to Erasmus and Leonardo da Vinci in order to promote transnational mobility of students from both North and South-shore Mediterranean countries.

www.uni-med.net/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

11-12 July 2011

SMEs

Milan: The second Euro-Arab conference on support to SMEs aims to encourage cooperation between Arab and EU countries in order to develop SME capacity to create jobs, curb the constantly growing unemployment in Arab countries and discuss means of stimulating mutual investments in the SME sector. This year's conference particularly focuses on the food, furniture, textiles and leather and automotive industries, electronic engineering and automotive fuel delivery systems. The meeting serves as a platform for SMEs to find new professional partners.

13 July 2011

Syria

Brussels: The President of the EP meets with Haitham al-Maleh, an opposition figure and human rights activist in Syria. The meeting follows al-Maleh's release, brought about by the appeals launched by the EP and J. Buzek, among other efforts. Together, they recall that given the repression and violence perpetrated against the civilian population, the Syrian regime is closed to dialogue.

13 July 2011

Arab Spring

Cairo: The President of the European Commission, the President of the EIB and the Vice-President in charge of activities in the region travel to Cairo to meet with the Egyptian senior officials. This visit is in keeping with the European Commission's priority of providing support to sustainable growth and employment in Southern Mediterranean countries. The President of the EIB points out the importance of the economy in the process of democratic transition, recalling that the revolts originated as protests against mass unemployment. The EIB establishes energy, housing, infrastructure and small enterprise as funding priorities.

13-16 July 2011

Refugees

Tunisian-Libyan Border: A delegation from the EP visits the refugee camps along the Tunisian-Libyan border for the second time since the fall of Ben Ali and emphasises the importance of action by Member States to work towards the resettlement of refugees from areas of

conflict. During the visit, the delegation meets with the Tunisian Prime Minister, representatives of the UNHCR and other humanitarian aid organisations present, as well as with the refugees themselves. The members of the delegation stated that Tunisia is displaying an extremely high degree of solidarity with Libyan refugees and that this should serve as an example for EU Member States to respond to the international issue of refugee resettlement.

18 July 2011

EU

Brussels: Bernardino León, a Spanish diplomat and candidate recommended by C. Ashton, is appointed by the Council of the EU to the post of EU Special Representative for the Southern Mediterranean Region. This position was specifically created to allow the EU to respond coherently to the Arab Spring and step up its political role in the Southern Mediterranean countries. He is slated to collaborate with the Working Group for the Southern Mediterranean.

26 July 2011

UfM

Tunis: Secretary General Y. Amrani meets with Tunisian Prime Minister B. C. Essebsi. They underline the importance of relaunching cooperation and put the differences to use between the actors in the region to build a new common Mediterranean area. They consider the ENP and the current regional context allow the opportunity to take up a transparent strategy and adapt to the new situation. They also discuss priority issues such as human rights, the eradication of poverty, Mediterranean solidarity and the increase in financial aid to Southern Mediterranean countries announced by the EU.

August

22-26 August 2011

UfM - Arab League

Cairo: The Secretaries General of the UfM and the Arab League meet to seek solutions for developing regional cooperation and discuss the issues of the ENPI and UfM projects for promoting growth and development in the Mediterranean Basin. At the meeting, Y. Amrani emphasises the exemplary, pacific dem-

ocratic transition in Egypt and appeals to the international community and the EU to provide support to the Egyptian government in order to allow their reform process to be completed quickly and under the best possible conditions.

September

1 September 2011

EU

Paris: At the Paris conference in support of the new Libya, H. Van Rompuy states that the EU should support, protect and aid the country's democratic transition so it can return to the forefront of the international arena. Recalling the key role played by EU Member States in political and military matters, he emphasises that the time has come for the country's wealth to reach its citizens. At the same time, the EU unfreezes the financial assets and economic resources of numerous Libyan institutions in order to allow the economy to revive, which would benefit both the interim government and the citizens.

6 September 2011

ARLEM

Brussels: At a visit to the CoR, Tunisia's Minister of the Interior reiterates the Tunisian authorities' commitment to developing the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) on the morrow of the Arab Spring experienced in Tunisia. Habib Essid also announced the future appointment of three representatives from the interim local authorities in the south, centre and north of Tunisia to represent Tunisia in ARLEM. The Vice-President of ARLEM, moreover, offers Tunisia a new tool developed by the CoR and the European Commission to facilitate the process of cooperation: a forum allowing local authorities to connect with their European counterparts and exchange advice and expertise.

21-22 September 2011

Business

Alexandria: The 1st Euromed Invest Summit brings together numerous European and Southern and Eastern Mediterranean enterprises from MedAlliance networks. A plan is developed to offer concrete, realistic tools to respond to policies launched by the EU and the G8

in 2011 insofar as investment and development of SMEs. The Summit focuses on the issues of the expectations of Euromed business representatives and the need for a new economic partnership between Europe and the Mediterranean Region, with a general view to the region's economic integration.

25 September 2011
EU

Brussels: The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) hosted a meeting with 25 NGOs from the Southern Mediterranean Region and the EU in order to analyse the events shaking the region and the challenges arising therefrom for the construction of democratic, participative societies. All participants agree that the democratic transition is not yet a tangible reality and they emphasise the importance of the regional civil society's role as well as that of the EU in consolidating democratic achievements.

29 September 2011
Urban Planning

Alicante: The international seminar on the challenges of urban development in the Mediterranean Region gathers experts, the university community and representatives from the authorities associated with the development of regions and cities in the Mediterranean Basin. This seminar aims to establish a strategic urban development programme for the Mediterranean via co-operation, taking into account the need for economic growth and the population's needs.

29 September 2011
Airspace

Cairo: Following various workshops carried out in 2011, the second Conference on a Euro-Mediterranean Common Aviation Area takes place as part of the Euromed Aviation Project II. The Conference focuses on establishing a common Euro-Mediterranean airspace through global airspace agreements with Mediterranean Partner Countries with a view to handling the sharp increase in passengers that air transport will experience in forthcoming years. At the Conference, the Euromed Aviation Project II and the MASC (Mediterranean Aviation Safety Cell) Project are presented.
www.euromedtransport.org/aviation

October

October 2011
FEMISE

FEMISE publishes its annual report, this year dedicated to the fundamental transition that the Southern Mediterranean Region has just begun. The report analyses the macroeconomic situation in the region, the fall of authoritarian regimes, the position and role of youth in the transition process and the new direction cooperation should take between the EU and Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries at this historic time.
www.femise.org

5-7 October 2011
Water

Milan: WaterMed, the Mediterranean water technology fair, holds its 2nd edition to debate issues of water treatment, water reserves and their distribution, measurement and control technology and its use, and research and development on the subject. This fair gathers representatives from different universities, research centres, institutions, associations and industries, providing knowledge on water and water management in the Mediterranean Region through an exchange of know-how by experts in all sectors associated with water supply and management.
www.emwis.net/thematicdirs/events/2011/10/watermed-2011

6-7 October 2011
EuroMeSCo

Barcelona: This year's annual EuroMeSCo conference – "A New Mediterranean Political Landscape? The Arab Spring and Euro-Mediterranean Relations" – focuses on the changes and transitions resulting from the revolt movements and the analysis of the fall of authoritarian regimes, the consequences and expectations created by the Arab Spring and the future of Euro-Mediterranean relations. The work programme for 2012 is submitted to the General Assembly. The aim is to make EuroMeSCo a platform for the study of Euro-Mediterranean affairs with significant power to influence policies in the region.
www.euromesco.net

8-11 October 2011
Youth

Fez: The 4th edition of the Fez Forum on the UfM focuses on "Youth and the Challenges of Globalisation: Environment, Education, Training and Creativity." This

forum is organised by the Moroccan Interdisciplinary Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CMIESI), the Assembly of the Mediterranean and the Arab League. Participants discuss issues of human development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the heart of South-South cooperation, youths' perception of a substantial world partnership and economic, social and environmental policy issues, as well as the issue of environmental education.

10-15 October 2011
Economy

Marseille: The 5th edition of the Mediterranean Economic Week is dedicated to sustainable urban development. The week focuses particular attention on the issues of SME financing, the Arab Spring context and the role of women in the economy. Also part of the events is the Eco-Cities Forum for Mediterranean professionals and actors engaged in sustainable development.
www.semaine-eco-med.com/

19-25 October 2011
Elections

Tunisia: A delegation of the EP to Tunisia observes the elections in the country, the first elections of the Arab Spring. Before observing the elections, the Euro MPs meet with the candidates to the Constituent Assembly responsible for drafting the new constitution. They also meet with various representatives of the authorities, the parties existing in the country and civil society. The 15 members of the delegation joined another 130 EU observers, the latter having made a more in-depth pre-electoral analysis.

20 October 2011
Students

Brussels: The EU increases the number of Erasmus Mundus scholarships for students from Southern Mediterranean countries for the 2011-2012 academic year. To this end, 750 scholarships for students from the South are added to the 1200 already extant. The European Commission likewise announces future measures to promote university student and faculty exchanges from the Southern Mediterranean Region. This initiative follows the creation of partnerships between EU and Mediterranean Partner Country universities and is designed to foster mutual understanding and exchange of ideas and

knowledge. In this regard, the European Commission plans to increase the budget for the Erasmus Mundus programme.

21-23 October 2011

ALF

Krakow: The 10th annual meeting of the 43 Heads of National ALF Networks met in Poland under the aegis of its EU Presidency. This year's meeting focuses on the role the ALF and its networks should play in the face of the historic changes the Southern Mediterranean Region has undergone due to the Arab Spring. The ALF concentrates its efforts on adapting its programme of activities to the democratic transitions in the region. Moreover, it organises the 2011 Euromed Dialogue Award ceremony at the Egyptian NGO, Development No Borders (DNB). Finally, the meeting concludes with the official announcement of the establishment of a new ALF network in Libya, on the very day Libya's "national liberation" is announced by the National Transitional Council (CNT). www.euromedalex.org

25 October 2011

Maritime Transport

Brussels: At the 8th meeting of the Sub-Group on Motorways of the Sea, the practical, concrete point of departure for the MEDA MoS II programme is drafted. The programme coordinators and each of the beneficiary countries of MEDA MoS II draw up a first draft of national action plans and identify their respective needs with a view to adapting the technical assistance programme. In addition to ensuring the continuity of MEDA MoS I, the second edition of the programme focuses on studying and putting to use logistic and environmental aspects of the new projects as well as establishing "door-to-door" maritime and intermodal connections. www.euromedtransport.org/home_auroute.php

November

3 November 2011

Heritage

Kaslik: Within the framework of the Euromed Heritage programme, the Manumed Project presents the Virtual Library of the Mediterranean. This event is held at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), Lebanon. The Manumed Project is designed to contribute to the preservation of

written heritage and languages through the Virtual Library of the Mediterranean, allowing the emergence of the largest digital corpus in the world on the written heritage of the Mediterranean Region.

<http://data.manumed.org/>

9-10 November 2011

Urban Planning

Strasbourg: The first UfM Inter-ministerial Meeting since the Arab Spring revolts takes place under the French-Egyptian Co-Presidency. The focus is on sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin. The meeting allows debate on the creation of an urban development agency for the Mediterranean, called for at the beginning of the year by ARLEM. The latter represents the position of regions and cities before governments and national representatives of partners such as the Arab League, the European Commission and the European Council. At the end of the meeting, the UfM Secretary General is entrusted with the task of formulating the future Euro-Mediterranean Urban Development Strategy, in collaboration with UfM Member States.

www.ufmsecretariat.org/

14-15 November 2011

Audiovisual

Tunis: Professionals and national authorities in charge of cinema and audiovisual from the Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries meet at the First Regional Conference on the Euromed Audiovisual III Programme. The Conference revolves around the Euromed Audiovisual III Programme, which is to last for the three forthcoming years, the analysis of cooperation relations between European and Southern Mediterranean countries and among the latter, as well as the establishment of the programme's priorities. Moreover, a project is presented to collect data on cinema markets for improved comprehension and boosting of cinema and audiovisual markets.

<http://euromedaudiovisuel.net/p.aspx?t=general&mid=106&l=en>

15-16 November 2011

Economic Transition

Barcelona: The Euro-Mediterranean forum, Fostering Mutual Understanding, Harmony and Cooperation between the EU and ENP South Partners, is organised by IEMed to discuss Southern

Mediterranean economies and draw up recommendations for economic revitalisation. These recommendations are based on the experience gained in past economic transitions and determine the role to be played by central banks, macro-economic policies and international and European institutions in this context. www.iemed.org

16 November 2011

Economy

Luxemburg: A new study published by the EIB's Economic and Financial Studies Division reveals the major challenges in the post-Arab Spring period. In fact, recalling the economic components of the last few months of crisis, the study brings out the strong risk of growth decline in Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries and the negative influence that the Arab Spring and the corresponding social and political crises have exercised on public finances and on the international market. The report asserts that the greatest challenge for the Euro-Mediterranean Region is the creation of jobs and the mobilisation of national resources.

www.eib.org/

16 November 2011

UfM

Strasbourg: Y. Amrani and J. Buzek meet to discuss the major role played by the UfM in the changing Euro-Mediterranean Region. They conclude that the UfM should play a fundamental role in strengthening cooperation and regional integration in the Mediterranean area through its support to democratic transitions while paying particular attention to job creation and sustainable local development. The UfM's Secretary General states his will to continue to work in close collaboration with the UfM's Parliamentary Assembly and the EP.

16-18 November 2011

EESC

Istanbul: The Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions gathers representatives of economic and social councils, employers associations, trade unions and other economic and social interests groups as well as NGOs. Topics of discussion at the Summit are issues relating to the Euromed Region and a coordinated political response to events in the

Southern Mediterranean Region. To this end, a variety of speakers and major experts from the EU and Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries participate.

www.cese.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-euromed-summit-2011

21 November 2011

Deauville Partnership

Kuwait: While at the 8th Forum for the Future, Amrani recalls the UfM's commitment to the Deauville Partnership with Arab Countries in Transition. The Forum reviews the Partnership's initiatives and the progress made. The UfM Secretary General emphasises that the UfM's contribution to the Working Group on Investment Security in the Mediterranean Region and reiterates the UfM's full support to the process of democratic transition in Tunisia.

22 November 2011

ALF

Brussels: As part of the Partnership for Democracy and Prosperity, the High Level Advisory Group for a Renewed Strategy of Intercultural Dialogue in the Emerging Mediterranean Region meets at the European Commission headquarters. This high-level meeting follows the one convened by Š. Füle in September to establish the Foundation's programme for 2012-2014 and its role in the new European policy of support to transition processes in the Southern Mediterranean EU neighbourhood. At the current meeting, Füle reveals the in-depth partnership work in close collaboration with the ALF to revitalise civil society organisations and NGOs in the Southern Mediterranean Region.

www.euromedalex.org

21-25 November 2011

Economy

Barcelona: At the 5th Mediterranean Economic Leaders' Week, solutions for a better future in the face of the region's major problems are discussed. Delegates from both Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries focus their discussions on strengthening public-private partnerships and adapting the educational system to market needs. Y. Amrani and the ASCAME representative sign a cooperation agreement to boost the private sector in the economic and social development of the region based

on job creation and SMEs, among other priorities.

www.mediterraneanweek.org/index

December

1 December 2011

Arab Spring-EU

Brussels: At the Foreign Affairs Council meeting, EU Foreign Affairs Ministers reiterate their support for processes of democratic transition in Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries and their commitment to the EU's new partnership with these countries on the basis of *universal values* and *mutual responsibility*. The EU's response to the region's problems is the focus of the meeting: its partnership with civil society, the role of women in the transitions, the funds granted by the EIB and the EBRD, the establishment of a Free Trade Area, job creation or migration and mobility policies in the Euro-Mediterranean Region.

1 December 2011

Syria

The Bashar al-Assad Regime decides to suspend its membership in the UfM in response to measures taken by the EU that it qualifies as "unjustified political and economic sanctions." The regime considers these measures an intervention in the country's internal affairs constituting a violation of its sovereignty. Said suspension shall remain effective until the EU stops its measures of asset freezing, sanctions and visa bans.

9 December 2011

Croatia

Brussels: Croatia signs the Treaty of Accession to the EU and officially enters the EU. The Treaty will become effective as of 1 July 2013 and will make Croatia the 28th Member State of the European Union, as long as it keeps its commitments to the EU until then. The country will be able to participate in the Council's work and preparatory bodies.

15-16 December 2011

Development

Warsaw: Organised by the European Commission and the Polish Presidency, the European Development Days, just after the Arab Spring, are dedicated to

democracy, human rights and governance. Accordingly, the Development Days are attended by special guests such as the Acting Tunisian Prime Minister, the President of the Libyan National Transitional Council, as well as numerous other world leaders and representatives of different organisations of interest on the international arena. There is discussion of the link between development and democracy, as well as the EU's new approach through its Programme for Change and the effectiveness of development aid.

www.eudevdays.eu/past-edds/2011

15-16 December 2011

FEMISE

Marseille: The annual FEMISE conference deals this year with The Arab Awakening and the Role of the EU-Mediterranean Partnership. The conference is a platform for exchange between key regional actors allowing stakeholders from both Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries, the European Commission, the EIB and Euro-mediterranean organisms to discuss issues of sustainable development, employment, welfare and migration through plenary sessions on the fall of authoritarian regimes and democratic transition, and political and economic integration through transition, as well as a round table on the role of the international community in supporting transition processes.

www.femise.org/

22 December 2011

ENP

Brussels: The European Commission adopts a new support programme to encourage political and democratic reform in its Southern Neighbourhood. The programme aims to promote good governance, the struggle against corruption, the protection of human rights and of democratic values and institutions. It will operate through all governmental organisms, as well as civil society organisations and youth representatives. The programme focuses action on rationalising legislation through practice, improving the independence and proper functioning of the judiciary and training young politicians of the Southern Mediterranean Region. The programme will be officially launched in January 2012.