

Chronology of the Barcelona Process

The chronology that follows includes the most notable events that took place during 2007 as regards the Barcelona Process.

January 2007

3 January 2007

German Presidency

Brussels: For the first time an 18-month programme has been prepared for the three successive German, Portuguese and Slovenian Presidencies for the period January 2007 to June 2008. The main themes of the programme are: the continuation of the EU reform and constitutional process; the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs; and the further completion of the common area of freedom, security and justice. The EU's German Presidency priorities are the fight against international terrorism and cross-border crime, joint management of migration, and co-operation with third countries on domestic affairs.

www.eu2007.de/en/The_Council_Presidency/Priorities_Programmes/index.html

11 January 2007

Ministerial Meeting

Dresden: At an informal meeting EU Home Affairs Ministers announce their intention to work closely on migration issues with the countries of origin and transit on the EU's eastern and southern borders. To do so they will look into the possibility of partnership agreements between individual member states and third countries regarding migration and development. They will also examine how best to take advantage of the positive effects of circular and temporary migration between the EU and third countries.

16 January 2007

Fishery

Rome: The European Commission welcomes the measures adopted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the region. The Commission improves the application of existing measures, enhances the development of reproductive aquaculture, continues to support the regional projects, and develops new initiatives to increase cooperation in fisheries management in the Black Sea.

www.gfcm.org/gfcm

18 January 2007

Libya

Strasbourg: In a resolution on the conviction and imprisonment by Libya of five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor, the European Parliament reiterates its radical opposition to the death penalty and recalls that the EU considers that its abolition contributes to the enhancement of human dignity. It invites Libyan authorities to take the necessary measures to review the death sentence, thus meeting the necessary prerequisites for the continuation of the common policy of engagement.

24 January 2007

Lebanon Action Plan

Brussels: The European Neighbourhood Policy's (ENP) Action Plan for Lebanon has been adopted, which means that the whole process is now complete. The Action Plans are negotiated and agreed with each ENP country based on its needs and capacities, as well as the country's and the EU's interest. They set out political and economic reforms and short- and medium-term priorities. http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/partners/enp_lebanon_en.htm

25 January 2007

Lebanon

Paris: EU Council President and German Federal Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier tells the International Donors Conference for Lebanon that the international community is demonstrating that it wants to support the people of Lebanon at a difficult time and help them build a future in peace, stability and prosperity. The EU High Representative for the CFSP, Javier Solana, underlines that Lebanon cannot face its economic challenges alone and recalls that the EU is the main contributor to the country's reconstruction.

February 2007

10-11 February 2007

Euromed Audiovisual

Berlin: Euromed audiovisual programme holds its first networking conference. The 12 projects funded by the programme report on their first year of activity. With the attendance of representatives of the European Union and the national authorities in charge of the audiovisual sector in the 10 MEDA countries and territories, the conference offers a valuable opportunity to learn more about the financing of films from the southern Mediterranean and to discuss the creation of markets and locations for shooting films and technical industries in the south. www.euromediaudiovisuel.net/nletdetail.aspx?lang=en&treeID=122&documentID=7348

12 February 2007

Peace Process

Brussels: The agreement reached to form a Palestinian Government of National Unity and the situation in Lebanon are

among the issues discussed by EU foreign ministers during their latest meeting. The ministers welcome the agreement reached on the formation of a Palestinian National Unity government and reiterate that the EU is ready to work with a legitimate government that adopts a platform reflecting the Quartet principles. www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/92758.pdf

13 February 2007
Migration

Madrid: Europe is undergoing the greatest migratory emergency in its history and needs to provide urgent financial help for authorities facing the greatest strain, particularly those situated along the EU's southern border, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) affirms in its report. The Committee recommends creating a specific financial instrument aimed at areas with the highest immigration levels, such as Ceuta, Melilla, the Canary Islands, Southern Italy, Lampedusa and Malta.

13 February 2007
Cultural Dialogue

Strasbourg: "Cultural and religious pluralism is a strong European value," EC President Barroso tells the European Parliament. He also expresses the view that cultural diversity is a source of Europe's strength and of its ability to promote its values and interests, adding that this dialogue has to be nurtured properly. "We intend to make next year's Year of Inter-Cultural Dialogue the platform for this dialogue," he affirms.

15 February 2007
Justice and Home Affairs

Brussels: Migration, racism and xenophobia, the strengthening of FRONTEX, as well as the establishment of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, are among the issues on the agenda of the Justice and Home Affairs Council Meeting. Home Affairs Ministers want in particular to further strengthen the European border management agency FRONTEX and to cooperate closely with countries of origin and transit on migration issues. www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/jha/92800.pdf

27 February
Anna Lindh Foundation
Alexandria: The Anna Lindh Foundation

in the framework of its educational programmes is launching its first online multilingual teaching and learning resources on cultural and religious diversity. The database presents all the materials developed for the Euromed teacher training programme, together with selected materials from partners and results from school-to-school projects. Its aim is to improve mutual knowledge about cultural and religious diversity, promoting mutual respect, and to also be a platform for new ideas and new materials.

March 2007

1 March 2007

EU-Morocco Action Plan

Barcelona: External Relations and ENP Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner presents a proposed €654 million assistance package for Morocco, during the seminar on "Morocco and the EU: Towards an Advanced Statute in the Euro-Mediterranean Association," organized by the IEMed. This bilateral aid will be used to support implementation of the EU-Morocco Action Plan. Morocco is engaged in a process of very ambitious reform stemming from its own vision of modernisation and development. www.iemed.org/activitats/2007/uemarroc/auemarroc.php

6 March 2007

EU-Morocco Fishery Agreement

Brussels: The EC welcomes the ratification of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) by the Kingdom of Morocco. The EU/Morocco FPA is a mixed agreement which covers six categories of fisheries, providing fishing opportunities on pelagic species and small pelagic and demersal species, for vessels ranging in scale from artisan to industrial.

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press_corner/press_releases/archives/com05/com05_37_en.htm

6 March 2007

EU-Egypt Action Plan

Brussels: The EU-Egypt ENP Action Plan, setting the agenda for cooperation in the next 3-5 years, is adopted during the EU-Egypt Association Council. The Council establishes eight sub-committees and one working group to follow up

the implementation of the Action Plan. Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner says that the adoption of the Action Plan places Egypt among the EU's closest partners.

www.delegy.ec.europa.eu/en/eu_and_country/Action%20Plan.doc

16 March 2007

Employment

Berlin: Employment-related and socio-political issues in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership are discussed for the first time at a conference organized by the German EU Presidency in conjunction with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. In the "Employment and Social Dialogue Within the Framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership" conference, representatives of union and employer associations in the Euro-Mediterranean countries and governments from both North and South join experts and EU Commission officials in the discussions.

17 March 2007

EMPA

Tunis: Intercultural dialogue between Europe and the Islamic world is on the agenda of the 3rd annual plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA). The Assembly discusses and adopts a report on the implementation of a code of conduct in the fight against terrorism. President Pöttering focuses his speech on the dialogue between the peoples of Mediterranean border countries.

www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/empaplenary_sessions/default_en.htm

22-23 March 2007

FEMIP

Paris: FEMIP Conference on "Financial Transfers from Migrants in the Euro-Mediterranean Area: A Lever for Development," organized jointly by the EIB and the European Banking Federation, aims at deepening the exchange of experiences and raising awareness of the issues involved through interactive dialogue with the leading experts on these matters.

www.eib.org/projects/regions/med/conference/index.htm

28 March

Euromed Central Banks

Valencia: The fourth Euro-Mediterranean

seminar is attended by governors and high-level representatives of the entire Eurosystem, as well as by their counterparts from the central banks of Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, the Palestinian National Authority, Syria and Turkey. The seminar focuses on recent economic and financial developments in Mediterranean countries, fiscal policy in Mediterranean countries' macroeconomic frameworks and the recent developments and prospects for Euro-Mediterranean trade.

30-31 March 2007
EU Foreign Ministers

Bremen: An informal meeting of EU foreign ministers takes place but no formal decisions are taken at such meetings and the topics on the agenda are limited so as to allow plenty of time to examine issues in depth and in a relaxed atmosphere. The ministers discuss the future development of the ENP besides focusing in part on recent developments in the Middle East peace process, the new Palestinian coalition government and the Arab League peace initiative.

30-31 March 2007
Migration

Tunis: EuroMeSCo with the Association of International Studies (AEI) organize a seminar on "Migrants' Rights – From Existing International Conventions to a Euro-Mediterranean Charter." The three topics to be discussed during the Tunis meeting are the application of legislations to guarantee migrants' rights, the role of the Partnership in their protection, and the preparation of a Migrants' Charter.

April 2007

2 April 2007
Education

Turin: A report by the European Training Foundation (ETF) entitled "Gender Mainstreaming in Education and Employment" provides a critical analysis of gender mainstreaming policies and their effectiveness in the EU, in international organizations and in the three partner countries of Morocco, Jordan and Turkey. The chapters on the three countries present detailed information on the position of women in education and work.

They look at female participation, graduation rates, and female illiteracy rates.
www.etf.europa.eu

14 April 2007

Economy

Washington: High economic growth of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has been accompanied by strong job creation and declining unemployment in recent years. But this performance needs to be supported by deeper structural reforms, according to a report from the World Bank on the economic trends and prospects for the region. The theme of the publication is labour markets and employment. The report notes that the single most important transformation affecting MENA's labour force in the past few years is the increasing presence of women workers.

19 April 2007

Energy

Athens: the second Photovoltaic Mediterranean Conference is taking place to review new trends and the potential for development of solar energy from the southern to the northern shores of the Mediterranean. Over 300 delegates from the EU countries discuss political, commercial, financial and technological development opportunities with their counterparts from the MEDA countries.

www.pvmed.org/index.php?id=152

19-20 April 2007

Justice and Home Affairs

Luxembourg: EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministers agree on a regulation to create rapid border intervention teams and legislation to combat racism and xenophobia. These teams will be composed of experts from EU member states and be made available by FRONTEX at short notice to any member state whose borders are under a particular threat from illegal migration.

19 April 2007

Energy

Berlin: Ministers, utilities, energy efficiency agencies, members of industry and NGOs from the EU's southern and eastern neighbouring countries and the EU member states participate in the Ministerial Conference "Renewable Energy and

Energy Efficiency – Innovative Policies and Financing Instruments for the EU's Southern and Eastern Neighbours." The conference objectives are: to raise awareness of the opportunities and benefits of a wider use of renewable energies and increased energy efficiency among decision-makers, and contribute to a wider dissemination of information in the EU's southern and eastern neighbouring countries.
www.energy-conference.org/en/documents/Summary_and_Conclusions.pdf

24 April 2007

EU-Algeria Council

Luxembourg: Energy tops the agenda of the EU-Algeria Council meeting. Algeria is recognized as a viable energy supply partner and is ready to sign a memorandum on security of supply. The meeting also discusses immigration and how Algeria and the EU can cooperate in this area. Algeria is not just a transit country but also a destination country from Sub-Saharan Africa.

24 April 2007

EU-Lebanon Council

Luxembourg: At the EU-Lebanon Association Council meeting, the EU CFSP High Representative Solana says the EU would continue to cooperate in helping Lebanon recover economically and get out of the difficult political situation it finds itself in.

27-28 April 2007

Politics and Security

Malta: During the 22nd Training Seminar for Euromed Diplomats the issues examined are the prospects of negotiation in the Middle East and the Euromed Partnership after the Tampere Summit. The primary objective of the Euromed seminars is familiarization with the Euro-Mediterranean Process.

29 April 2007

Training

Rafah: The European Commission launches its first training programme for 40 Palestinian customs officers at the Rafah crossing. The programme objectives are to help improve the professionalism and working practices of Palestinian customs officers and enforce uniform application of customs procedures for passengers at the Rafah crossing.

May 2007*13-14 May 2007**ECOFIN/FEMIP*

Cyprus: Finance Ministers of the 27 EU member states and 9 Mediterranean partner countries meet to decide on the FEMIP strategic framework in the years ahead. The strategy is based on two pillars: supporting investment and job creation by broadening the range of financial instruments fostering private sector development, continuing the policy of dialogue and involvement of all economic players, thus enhancing the partner countries' sense of ownership. www.eib.org/projects/regions/med/

*14 May 2007**Arab League*

Brussels: Arab League and EU Foreign Ministers meet on the fringes of the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Brussels to discuss the Middle East peace process. This first meeting between the EU and the Arab League is attended by the Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, Syria, the Palestinian Authority and Qatar, as well as an Egyptian representative. The Arab League delegation presents the Arab peace initiative to EU Foreign Ministers. www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/94116.pdf

*21 May 2007**Media*

Dublin: Training, education and the exchange of journalists between the EU and the MEDA region are cited as important tools for preventing incitement to terrorism and radicalisation by participants at a media conference organized by the European Commission in the framework of the Euromed and the Media initiative. The conference entitled "Preventing Incitement to Terrorism and Radicalisation: What Role for the Media?" bring together 80-90 Euro-Mediterranean government officials, journalists, editors, media practitioners and academics.

*24 May 2007**FRONTEX*

Brussels: The European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Mem-

ber States of the European Union (FRONTEX) and the member states concerned launch the European Border Patrols Network with the aim of curbing illegal immigration across the Mediterranean Sea and along the South-West Atlantic coasts and to detect emergencies at sea.

*25 May 2007**Palestinian Judicial Empowerment*

Gaza: The EU is supporting the SEYADA judicial empowerment programme in the Palestinian Authority. The EU has since 2003 invested heavily to promote it because a fair, independent and efficient judiciary is a key pillar of any state. The programme also supports the compilation of a comprehensive database of Palestinian court judgments as an integral part of the Legal and Judicial Databank, known as *Al-Muqtafi*.

*26 May 3 June 2007**Euromed Youth Parliament*

Berlin: More than 100 young people from all the European Union member states and 11 Mediterranean countries convene for the first Euro-Mediterranean Youth Parliament. The goal of the event is to promote dialogue between the EU member states and their partners to the south and east of the Mediterranean, overcome prejudices, and build intercultural bridges. It is designed to make the Barcelona Process more accessible for young people. The plenary session of the Euromed Youth Parliament identifies the Middle East conflict and illegal immigration as major challenges of the future. Other issues discussed during the session include fighting corruption, culture and education, and energy security. www.goethe.de/ges/eur/prj/ejp/inf/enindex.htm

*30 May 2007**ANIMA*

Marseilles: "Investing in the Mediterranean: Towards a Mature Market?" is the theme of the 5th and last ANIMA annual conference. The European Commission, MEDA and European Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs), international investors and media representatives attend the meeting. www.euromedinfo.eu/site.169.news.en.1388.html

*30-31 May 2007**EMPA*

Warsaw: The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) Ad Hoc Committee on Women's Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean Countries meets to discuss the situation of immigrant women in EU member states and women in science.

*30-31 May 2007**EuroMeSCo*

Berlin: EuroMeSCo organizes a meeting on "Governance, Reform and Human Rights in the Euromed Region." Given the adoption of the five-year work programme and the decision to launch a governance facility at the Euro-Mediterranean Summit of the Heads of States and Governments the issue is at the core of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership's (EMP) first basket.

June 2007*5 June 2007**Energy*

Istanbul: The Joint Conference Statement of the Turkey-EU Conference "Together for a European Energy Policy" emphasizes Turkey's strategic importance and shows significant progress in integrating Turkey and EU energy policies. The EU gives strong support for Turkey's role as an energy bridge to Europe and signals Turkey's participation in the EU Energy Community. The EU also is urged to start negotiations with Turkey on Energy Chapter. The statement is given by Olli Rehn, European Commissioner for Enlargement, and the Commissioner for Energy, Andris Piebalgs. www.foreignpolicy.org.tr/documents/050607.html

*6-7 June 2007**Water*

Amman: The EMPOWERS Partnership is holding a Regional Forum on Local Water Governance that brings together representatives of international and regional water networks, NGOs, academia and donor organizations. It focuses on enhancing policy support for local level ownership and involvement in sustainable local water governance in the MENA region. The Euromed Participa-

tory Water Resources Scenarios (EM-POWERS Partnership) is a four-year regional programme working in Egypt, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza. The objective is to improve long-term access and rights to water by vulnerable populations.

8 June 2007

EU-Morocco Action Plan

Rabat: Moroccan civil society organizations meet the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) to discuss their involvement in implementing the EU-Morocco Action Plan. The meeting brings together Moroccan unions, employer organizations, agricultural cooperatives, as well as consumer, human rights, environmental and development organizations. The Moroccan associations stress the contribution they could make because of their direct contact with the population and their knowledge of the situation on the ground. They support the rapid creation of a Moroccan economic and social committee stressing the need for a forum for dialogue, reflection and coordination among civil society organizations and between them and the Moroccan government.

www.eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/cp/index_fr.asp?year=2007

11-12 June 2007

University

Alexandria: The 4th Euro-Mediterranean University Forum takes place in Egypt and is organized by the University of Alexandria and the Euromed Permanent University Forum (EPUF) with the support of the Anna Lindh Foundation. The Forum has two objectives: to launch a comprehensive action plan for the promotion of Euromed academic and scientific cooperation to be submitted to the Euromed Ministerial Conference of Higher Education and Science, and to create partnerships and project proposals in the field of Euromed academic and scientific cooperation.

www.euromedalex.org/En/IV_Euro-Mediterranean_University_Forum.html

18-19 June 2007

Economy

Brussels: 11th Euro-Mediterranean Economic Transition Conference on "Mediterranean Economies Facing the Immediate Environmental Challenge."

This conference provides an informal forum for open debate on key economic policy issues under the Partnership. Government officials from the Mediterranean partner countries, civil society groups, academics, researchers and think tanks take part in the conference. The main theme of the discussion is how to better integrate environmental considerations (including climate change) into the overall Mediterranean economic analysis and the agenda of economic reforms.

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/etn

18 June 2007

Higher Education

Cairo: The 1st Euromed Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Scientific Research is attended by representatives of the Ministries of Higher Education and Research of the members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The conference aims at examining ways and means of developing co-operation in the field of scientific research, upgrading the quality of higher education and vocational training as well as standards of University Education. In the final declaration, "Towards the Creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Higher Education and Research Area," the Euromed ministers reaffirm the commitment to implementing the relevant objectives of the Five-Year Work programme of the Barcelona Summit, Association Agreements and ENP Action Plans.

www.euromed-erconf.org

18-21 June 2007

Justice

Barcelona: The seminar on "New Instruments of International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters," of the Euromed Justice regional programme, brings together high level representatives of the MEDA countries (judges, magistrates, court registrars and lawyers), delegates from Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal, representing the EU and representatives from the Council of Europe, the European Judicial Network. During this seminar, participants examine the various challenges for the development of international judicial cooperation where organized crime has attained a trans-national dimension.

www.eipa.eu/en/pages/show/&tid=63

20 June 2007

Medibtikar

Tunis: An agreement for the implementation of the Euromed Innovation and Technology programme (Medibtikar) is signed. The aim of the programme is to strengthen the management skills and the technology transfer capacity of institutional authorities, intermediaries and SMEs of the MEDA countries and territories. It supports the creation of networks, the development of an innovation culture and the design of an enhanced innovation system to reinforce SME competitiveness in the region.

www.medibtikar.eu

20 June 2007

EU-Egypt

Cairo: Egypt and the EU hold the Joint Committee meeting on Science and Technology for the first time in Egypt. During the first EU/Egyptian Joint Committee, they approve the joint action plan for 2006-2007. This plan identifies common priorities and actions for a reinforced co-operation on research and technological development to promote the participation of Egyptian researchers in the 7th Framework Programme for RTD (FP7). This second meeting is scheduled to review the progress achieved and formulate actions for the future.

20-21 June 2007

Neighbourhood

Brussels: The European Council reaffirmed the high priority of the European Neighbourhood Policy, "which aims at consolidating a ring of prosperity, stability and security based on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as supporting the process of reform and modernisation of partners in the Union's neighbourhood." The European Council endorsed the Council Conclusions on strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Presidency Progress Report, which includes a set of measures to further strengthen the ENP.

www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/94932.pdf

21 June 2007

European Parliament

Strasbourg: Aid to Mediterranean countries in discussion at the European Parliament. "The Barcelona Process continues to be the appropriate framework for

Mediterranean policy, in which changes and the necessary political will are needed to obtain better results," according to a European Parliament report which analyses EU management of aid to Mediterranean countries. The report insists on the urgent need for direct financial support to the Palestinian Authority and for humanitarian support to Gaza.

www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5353752

22 June 2007

Energy

Vienna: Algerian gas supplies to the EU could increase by 23.5 billion cubic metres (bcm) per year by 2010 if joint infrastructure projects currently under construction are carried out according to plan. This is one of the conclusions of a bilateral meeting between the EU Energy Commissioner and his Algerian counterpart on the sidelines of the EU-OPEC Ministerial Meeting in Vienna.

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/algeria/index_en.htm

27 June 2007

EMPA

Brussels: the working group on financing the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) and revision of the EMPA's ruling procedure meet in the European Parliament. The meeting discusses and possibly makes proposals on the allocation of EMPA seats to parliaments following the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the EU and on assembly resources with a view to setting up an EMPA budget. The working group also follows up on the EMPA Bureau's decision to set up an EMPA permanent secretariat.

27 June 2007

Politics and Security

Brussels: Senior officials gather to discuss some priority areas for reforms: improving business climate to enable firms to invest, further liberalizing trade, consolidating macroeconomic stability, presenting public finance strategies for growth and flexibility of labour market.

27-28 June 2007

Transport

Marrakech: The EU-funded Euromed Aviation Project is holding its first Air Traffic Management (ATM) workshop in Morocco. The €5 million project is

launched in January 2007 in the framework of the MEDA regional programme "Promoting a Euro-Mediterranean Airspace" and addresses five main components: the aviation market, security, safety, the environment and Air Traffic Management (ATM).

www.euromedtransport.org/368.0.html

28-29 June 2007

Security

Lisbon: "Dealing with Security in the Euro-Mediterranean Area after Barcelona 10" is the title of a two-day EuroMeSCo seminar. Topics for discussion include the impact of the ENP on security cooperation and conflict resolution, EU strategies on police reform in Palestine and in Turkey, and political and security cooperation.

www.euromesco.net/images/programme_29_juin.pdf

July 2007

1 July 2007

Portuguese Presidency

Lisbon: Setting out its priorities for the coming six months, the Portuguese Presidency of the EU has signalled its intention "to develop a fresh approach towards the entire Mediterranean region. It is necessary to intensify our political dialogue with partners on the southern and eastern borders to respond to challenges that require common solutions. Stability in both regions is interlinked."

www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/

2 July 2007

Infrastructure

Cairo: The EU and the Egyptian Government sign a new grant financing agreement worth €20 million to support community infrastructure and social development activities in urban and rural areas. This new programme aims at contributing to poverty reduction and socio-economic development through activities supporting employment creation and income generation for the poor, thus enhancing the living standards of citizens in geographic areas with major concentrations of poverty.

2 July 2007

EMPA

Brussels: The situation in the Middle

East and the Arab Peace Initiative is on the agenda of the next EMPA Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights. The Committee has an exchange of views on the programme of the Portuguese Presidency and on human Rights. Representatives of the governments of the Palestinian Authority and Israel and of the Arab League attend the meeting.

www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/empa/committee_poli/draft_agendas/2007-07-02_en.pdf

2 July 2007

Education

Turin: Local experts from the 10 MEDA countries meet to discuss apprenticeships and enterprise-based learning systems in the MEDA region. The topic is highly relevant for MEDA countries since international studies have shown that apprenticeships can enhance employment prospects for young people. This meeting is part of the Education and Training for Employment (MEDA-ETE) project, set up to support the MEDA partners in the design and implementation of technical and vocational education and training policies.

www.meda-ete.net

2-4 July 2007

EU-Lebanon Cooperation

Beirut: In the context of the ENP, the European Commission and Lebanon held sub-committee meetings on (i) trade, industry and services, (ii) efforts to bring Lebanon closer to the EU's internal market and (iii) social policies. The meetings facilitated the setting of priorities for the implementation of the EU/Lebanon ENP Action Plan.

www.dellbn.ec.europa.eu/en/info/07/04jul07.htm

3-4 July 2007

Water

Madrid: Experts of the Mediterranean Water Information Partnership (MedWIP) regional workshop meet with key stakeholders to review the preliminary findings of a feasibility study related to a Mediterranean Water Observatory Mechanism. Participants also discuss the draft content of a charter for the MedWIP.

www.semide.net/medwip/about/fol668721

5 July 2007

EU-Morocco

Rabat: The EU and the government of Morocco sign a €3 million financing agreement for community compensation action in regions affected by human rights violations. In the context of its support for human rights in Morocco, the European Union has been closely following the work of the Justice and Reconciliation Commission (IER) which represents Morocco's desire to build a better future by drawing lessons from its painful past.

5-6 July 2007

Politics and Security

Brussels: At the 70th Euromed Senior Officials and Committee Meeting, foreign ministers underline the need to further strengthen intercultural dialogue with the aim of ensuring better knowledge, mutual understanding, freedom and respect for all religions, beliefs and cultures among Euro-Mediterranean peoples, in their cultural diversity. The Euromed Committee approved the new organizational structure of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between cultures.

www.eu2007.pt/NR/rdonlyres/BF5FFD2E-C039-4049-89E6-A939EC8CA775/0/EuroMed_EN.pdf

6 July 2007

Middle East

Portoroz-Koper: The Peace Process in the Middle East, the ENP and migration are among the topics discussed at the 4th Informal Meeting of the Mediterranean Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The ministers also analyse the recent French initiative for the Mediterranean Union and agree that they should actively involve the Mediterranean and eastern European partners in the dialogue on issues of mutual concern, such as economic integration, energy, transport, migration, intercultural dialogue and strengthening of the human dimension. www.eu2007.pt/NR/rdonlyres/CB0712F3-05B7-4102-A56F-2C65EACAF2E6/0/THeKOPERCONCLUDINGREMARKSSPREJETO.pdf

9 July 2007

Energy Cooperation

Brussels: During the conference on the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline project to supply gas from Nigeria to Europe, European Energy Commissioner Andris

Piebalgs emphasizes the importance of energy cooperation through the existing Euromed framework and the forthcoming EU-Africa Energy Partnership underlining the key importance of the diversification of suppliers and routes as part of the EU's strategy for the security of energy supply.

12-15 July

Rehabimed

Barcelona: "Traditional Mediterranean Architecture: Present and Future" is the title of the 1st Euro-Mediterranean Regional Conference organized by the EU-funded project RehabiMed. Topics on the agenda include traditional architecture and its heritage value and rehabilitation as a factor of social cohesion. The aim of the Rehabimed project, which is part of the Euromed Heritage programme, is to promote the rehabilitation of traditional architecture in all Mediterranean countries.

www.rehabimed.net/conferencia/angles/index_conferencia_ang.htm

14-15 July

Education

Turin: During the International Mediterranean Women's Forum gender specialists report that women in many of the MEDA countries are becoming better educated. However, the transition from education to employment is still a challenge for women in many countries. The International Mediterranean Women's Forum is a network founded to support interchange and cooperation between women from the different shores of the Mediterranean and to promote peace and human rights.

www.etf.europa.eu

16 July 2007

Research

Jerusalem: Israeli researchers, universities and companies will get full access to the EU's 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7). This is the outcome of the science and technological cooperation renewed by the European Union and Israel. Under this agreement, Israeli researchers will be able to participate in all calls for proposals under FP7 on an equal footing with researchers from the EU member states. The EU is now Israel's second biggest source of research funding.

www.delisr.ec.europa.eu/english/what-snew.asp?id=879

16-19 July 2007

Judicial Cooperation

Rabat: Members of the delegations of the Mediterranean partners and experts from the EU member states, representatives from the Council of Europe and The Hague Conference on Private International Law meet for a regional seminar on international judicial cooperation in the field of family law organized by the Euromed Justice Programme (MEDA funds). Discussions cover among other things: family law in the EU member states and the co-existence of different religious regimes among the Mediterranean partners, judicial cooperation, and the existing obstacles to the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in this domain.

www.ejpa.eu/en/topics/show/&tid=159

17 July 2007

Anna Lindh Foundation

Nicosia: The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) launches an innovative photo competition addressed to young women in Cyprus, Greece, Morocco and Spain under the theme "Violence against Women in the Mediterranean." This competition is organized within the framework of the project "Intercultural Dialogue on Violence against Women" funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation. The project aims to improve the role and the concern of Mediterranean public institutions responsible for gender equality policy.

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/alf_competition_details_final.pdf

18 July 2007

EU-Libya

Lisbon: The EU Presidency welcomes the Libyan Higher Judicial Council's decision to commute to life imprisonment the death sentences against six members of a Bulgarian medical team. The Presidency reiterates its solidarity with the Libyan children infected with the HIV virus in Benghazi and confirms the EU's commitment to help provide them with high level medical treatment. The statement reiterates the EU's commitment to work on the framework of future EU-Libya relations.

www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/Declaracoes_PESC/cfsp_018.htm

18 July 2007

EuroMeSCo

Paris: "The Role of Migrants in Euro-Mediterranean Relations" is the title of the third seminar in a series of preparatory meetings for the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2007. Among the topics for discussion are: How did migrants become a security issue?; The contribution of returning migrants to the development of their country of origin; and Migrants and their rights.

www.euromesco.net/images/programme_bis_eng.pdf

23 July 2007

EU-Morocco

Brussels: The EU-Morocco Association Council deals with the state of bilateral relations. The EC and Morocco also use the occasion to sign a joint declaration supporting energy cooperation to prepare for the eventual integration of the Moroccan energy market with the EU. The Commission and Morocco sign the Memorandum of Understanding on EU financial support for Morocco for the period 2007-10. This programme comprises some priority areas: social and economic development, human rights and governance, environment and institutional support.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1155&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

25 July 2007

Media

Ramallah: EU launches a Palestinian media training programme. It is an €850,000 project to provide support and training for 220 Palestinian media professionals over the next two years. The project will be implemented by the BBC World Service Trust in partnership with the International Federation of Journalists and UNESCO.

August 2007

8 August 2007

Health

Damascus: The European Union is co-financing a pilot project in Damascus aimed at strengthening the capacity of Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) clinics to serve as health counselling centres. The Project hopes to

attain higher standards of physical, psychological and social well-being through the adoption of a holistic approach to reproductive health. It targets mainly underprivileged women, adolescents and men in Damascus, its suburbs and surrounding rural areas.

www.delsyr.cec.eu.int/en/whatsnew/detail.asp?id=292

16 August 2007

Euromed Audiovisual II

Alexandria: The Caravan of the Euro-Arab Cinema is a project of the EU-funded regional programme Euromed Audiovisual II. The project organizes Euro-Arab film festivals in Arab and European cities, promoting cultural exchange and creating opportunities for dialogue. This time the venue of "Caravan Nights" is Alexandria where seven feature films and 23 shorts are shown.

www.cinemacaravan.com

September 2007

3 September 2007

European Neighbourhood Policy

Brussels: European Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner tells delegates to the ENP Conference that the ENP vision is a radical change in the way the EU relates to its closest friends; she stresses the Commission's commitment to hearing ideas from the participating representatives of civil society and business, journalists, academics and government representatives. She proposes focusing discussion on the specific areas of economic integration, mobility and energy, and addresses the issue of increased financial and technical assistance. President Barroso explains that "the fundamental principle of ENP is differentiation. The ENP is not a one-size-fits-all policy."

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/conferences_2007_en.htm

4 September 2007

Lebanon

Lisbon: The EU Presidency welcomes the end of the crisis caused by armed extremist militants in the Nahr el Bared Palestinian refugee camp in the north of Lebanon. In a statement, the EU reiterates its full support for the efforts of the Lebanese Armed Forces to ensure

security and stability throughout the country.

www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/Declaracoes_PESC/20070903NAHR.htm

6 September 2007

Human Rights

Strasbourg: European Parliament resolution on the functioning of human rights dialogues and consultations on human rights with third countries also takes into account the Dialogues based on a partnership and cooperation agreement under the ENP. The EP calls on the Council and the Commission to take advantage of the present situation whereby Association and Cooperation Agreements with several neighbourhood countries have expired, and to negotiate new agreements in order to mainstream human rights and effective dialogue on them into future agreements, including a follow-up mechanism.

6-7 September 2007

Politics and Security

Brussels: Euromed Senior Officials and Euromed Committee meetings take place in Brussels, bringing together representatives of the 27 EU member states and their 10 Mediterranean partners. Ambassador Sampaio, Presidency Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP), gives a presentation to the meeting, followed by an open discussion on the possibility of making progress on the MEPP during the Portuguese Presidency.

www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/20070913BARCELONA.htm

6-7 September 2007

MEDSTAT

Brussels: Meeting of the General Directors of the Mediterranean Partner Countries' National Statistics Institutes for a discussion about the results achieved and to start a dialogue on future statistical cooperation in the region. One of the main outcomes of the meeting is a general recognition of the need for sustainable data exchange in the region and a reinforced partnership between the European Commission and the national statistical institutes of the Mediterranean partner countries.

www.euromedinfo.eu/site.324.content.en.html

7 September 2007

Youth

Nablus: In cooperation with the Palestinian Mosaic Centre Committee for the Promotion of Tourism in the Jericho Governorate, the EC celebrates the completion of a project called "Youth Reads History over Old Stones" at the village of Nus Jbeil, near Nablus. The nine-month project enabled Palestinian youth to discover the art of mosaics.

www.euromedinfo.eu/uploads/File/Mosaic%20Art.pdf

7-11 September 2007

EU-Egypt Relations

Egypt: A delegation of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) visits Egypt where they meet with senior government and parliamentary officials, leading representatives of Egyptian civil society, the business community, the trade union federation, NGOs and academia. The purpose of the visit is to encourage dialogue between employers, chambers of commerce, trade unions and civil society, similar to the model which has proved effective in the European Union, and which is being gradually developed among the Mediterranean partner countries.

www.eu-delegation.org.eg/en/News/522.asp

9-10 September 2007

EU-Syria

Damascus: The European Parliamentary delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries holds its 9th EU-Syria inter-parliamentary meeting. The European parliamentary delegation discusses the Iraqi refugee crisis in Syria. Other topics on the agenda are: the pending Association Agreement with the EU, political and economic reforms in the country, and the Middle East peace process.

www.ediweb.be/europeaid/forms/newsletterArchive.asp?idNewsletter=41

10-11 September 2007

EMWIS

Istanbul: The Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-how in the Water Sector (EMWIS) is holding its 7th National Focal Point (NFP) Coordination Seminar. It proposes a common methodological approach to allow NFPs to carry out an analysis of user expectations in their country and to consolidate the re-

sults at the Mediterranean level. The seminar also makes preparations for the December conference of water directors and the 2008 ministerial conference.

www.emwis.net/

10 September 2007

EMPA

Brussels: Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly Working Group meeting on financing the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) and revision of EMPA's Rules of Procedure meets to exchange views on the financial resources of the Assembly and a discussion on the answers to the questionnaire on "possible financial resources for a future EMPA budget."

10 September 2007

Elections in Morocco

Lisbon: The EU Presidency praises the government, political parties, civil society and people of Morocco for "their efforts aimed at ensuring the success and transparency of the electoral process." The EU also welcomes steps taken to ensure a greater representation of women in parliament.

www.eu2007.pt/UE/vFR/Noticias_Documentos/Declaracoes_PESC/20070908.htm

10-12 September 2007

Training

Turin: Mediterranean entrepreneurial learning experts from 10 EU partner countries meet for a workshop on the value of applying a more systematic approach to entrepreneurial learning in the MEDA region. The workshop is being coordinated by the European Training Foundation, whose mission is to assist the EU's partner countries in developing quality education and training systems.

www.etf.europa.eu

14 September 2007

Media

Birzeit: the European Commission Technical Assistance Office for the West Bank and Gaza Strip announces the end of the first training programme for 12 civil society associations in the media sector. The Community Radio Station Project in the Birzeit area was launched in November 2006 with the aim of strengthening the democratic process

in the Palestinian Territories, empowering young people and women and helping to transform attitudes towards dealing with conflict.

www.delwbg.cec.eu.int/en/whatsnew/first_training.htm

15 September 2007

Euromed ECOFIN

Porto: EU Finance Ministers meet with their Mediterranean counterparts to discuss ways of achieving higher sustainable growth and creating more jobs. Ministers focus on public finance and economic reforms and on building efficient financial markets. They agree to launch a Euro-Mediterranean Network of Public Finance Experts in an effort to share experiences in fiscal policy issues. The Mediterranean partners recognized that particular attention should be paid to budget deficits and public debt, increasing public sector accountability and fighting corruption.

www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Reunioes_Eventos/Ministeriais/EUROMED-FIN.htm

18 September 2007

Justice and Home Affairs

Brussels: During the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting, ministers agree to further reinforce the EU's southern maritime borders, encouraging member states to provide support to individual member states facing a particular pressure and launching or reinforce concrete cooperation with third countries on border control, search, rescue and return.

www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/jha/95975.pdf

19 September 2007

MED-PACT

Venice: The Archimedes Project sets out its objectives and describes its activities in three EU cities (Venice, Genoa, and Bordeaux) and four Mediterranean partner cities (Istanbul, Beirut, El Mina and Oran). Archimedes (Actions to Regenerate Cities and Help Innovative Mediterranean Economic Development Enhancing Sustainability) is dedicated to cooperation between local authorities on both shores of the Mediterranean to ensure a more balanced and durable local development.

www.euromedinfo.eu/uploads/File/news_Archimedes_01-07.pdf

21-22 September 2007

EuroMeSCo

Turin: EuroMeSCo seminar on "Emerging Actors and Changing Societies in the Southern Mediterranean Area." Among the topics to be discussed are: the renewal of the Arab Elite; democratic transformation in Egypt: the issue of congruence between domestic reform actors inside and outside the Egyptian state apparatus; and domestic change and conflict in the Mediterranean: the cases of Hamas and Hezbollah.

www.euromesco.net

28-29 September 2007

Defence

Évora: Informal gathering of EU Defence ministers and five western Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia). The Portuguese Presidency notes that the stability of the Mediterranean is of common strategic interest. It is fundamental to include in the European agenda a greater involvement with Mediterranean countries, especially Maghreb, in order to develop and deepen the dialogue on security and defence matters. The objective of the "27+5" meeting is to discuss the possibility of reinforcing this cooperation.

www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/20070921DEFESA.htm

28-29 September 2007

International Trade

Rome: Representatives of the 27 countries of the European Union and its 10 Mediterranean partners gather for a conference on "Preventing and Managing International Commercial Disputes: Towards a Euro-Mediterranean Alternative Dispute Resolution Infrastructure." The conference is the concluding event of the three-year EU-funded MED-ADR regional project dedicated to facilitating foreign investment and international trade in the Mediterranean region.

www.adrmeda.org/romeconference07

October 2007

2 October 2007

Dialogue

Alexandria: Anna Lindh Foundation prepares for "1001 Actions" campaign in the countdown to 2008, the EU Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Building on the

Foundation's unique role as a network, the "1001 Actions" campaign intends to mobilise individuals and groups across the region to implement activities under a common banner for the promotion of dialogue.

www.1001actions.org

3 October 2007

FRONTEX

Brussels: The European Parliament's Budget Committee voted today in favour of a €30 million increase in the 2008 budget for the EU FRONTEX agency for operational purposes, including missions in the Mediterranean. The Budget Committee has delivered on its political commitment to help Malta and other southern member states on illegal immigration.

3-4 October 2007

EuroMeSCo

Lisbon: The 2007 EuroMeSCo Annual Conference takes place under the title "A Common Agenda against Intolerance. Human Rights as a Shared Concern." The theme traditionally reflects the main issues confronting the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the region in general. This year an effort has been made to address topics of more immediate political relevance, so that the conclusions of the conference will feed into the following Euromed ministerial meetings. The main goal of this annual conference is to work for the adoption of a joint human rights agenda for the Partnership.

www.euromesco.net/images/ac_the-maticprog_en.pdf

4-5 October 2007

Euromed Youth

Marrakech: The 7th Euromed Youth Meeting makes an initial assessment of the implementation of the Euromed Youth III programme. It is the first such Euromed Meeting to be organized in a MEDA country. A new website is also launched by the Euromed Young Artists Network (EMYAN), a new youth initiative that will provide its members with a vehicle for communication. Euromed Youth III is an EU-funded regional programme that aims to foster mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue among young people within the Euromed region.

www.emyan.org

10-21 October 2007

Euromed Audiovisual

Fameck: The EU-funded Med-Screen project of the Euromed Audiovisual II Programme is supporting the screening of 18 recent Arab Mediterranean feature films during the 18th Fameck Arab Film Festival. The Med-Screen project promotes the cinema of the eight Arab countries in the MEDA region with the aim of making their films more visible in the partner countries.

www.med-screen.com

10 October 2007

ENPI

Brussels: Conference on the new legal framework of EU external assistance: the IPA (Pre-Accession Instrument) and ENPI regulations. Particular emphasis is placed on the partnership principle referred to in these regulations and its potential impact for stronger civil society inclusion in the implementation and monitoring of EU external policies and the ENPI and IPA programmes.

www.ecas.org/file_uploads/1475.pdf

11 October 2007

Human Rights

Brussels: The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) Ad Hoc Committee on Women's Rights in the Mediterranean Countries meets to discuss different topics: the Integration of Migrant Women in the EU – a Two-Way Process; and Migrant Women as Factors of Development: their Economic and Social Contribution to the Development of their Countries of Origin.

www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/empa

12 October 2007

MEDSTAT

Luxembourg: MEDSTAT II, the EU-funded regional Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Co-operation programme, has just announced that its new dedicated website is now online. The site provides information in English, French and German on MEDSTAT II, its background, organizational structure and partners, as well as on the programme's activities, events and publications and statistical data.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/medstat>

15 October 2007

Peace Process

Luxembourg: During the External Rela-

tions Council Meeting, ministers encourage Palestinian President Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Olmert to take courageous steps in their political dialogue. The Council underlines the importance of the donors' meeting in December. It notes that the re-engagement and expansion of EU POL COPPS is an important element in the improvement of security. Finally, the Council reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza.
www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/96521.pdf

15-16 October 2007

EECS

Athens: Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions brings together some 120 representatives of organized civil society from the ten Mediterranean partner countries and from many EU countries as well as networks such as the Trade Union Forum and the Euromed Youth Platform. They call for a strengthening of participatory structures in the southern partner countries and propose that civil society should be given an active role in the implementation of National Action Plans in the context of the strengthened ENP.

www.eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/cp/index_fr.asp?year=2007

17-18 October 2007

Transport

Amman: The Euromed Aviation project is holding an Air Transport Workshop whose main objectives are to set out the EU market approach towards a common Euro-Mediterranean aviation area, to present the Euromed Aviation Project to the market community, and to identify the main current and future market issues in the MEDA region.

www.euromedtransport.org/350.0.html

20-21 October

Trade

Lisbon: The 6th Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Trade Conference brings together the Trade Ministers of the 10 Mediterranean countries which are members of the Barcelona Process and EU member states. Besides tariff dismantling, progress has been achieved through the elimination of quantitative restrictions, removal of non-tariff barriers and greater transparency. It assesses

the on-going negotiations for the liberalization of trade in services and the establishment of a dispute settlement mechanism. Ministers also consider the negotiation and implementation of South-South integration initiatives.

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/euromed/ministerial2007/index_en.htm

21-23 October

Euromed Audiovisual

Bologna: The Bologna Cinematheque is hosting a workshop on "The Restoration and Conservation of Film Heritage in the Mediterranean" in the framework of the programme Euromed Audiovisual II. The objective is to discuss the current state of film archives in Europe and in the Mediterranean. Participants discuss the importance of protecting cinema heritage from a historical, artistic and methodological perspective.

www.euromedaudiovisuel.net

23-24 October 2007

Education

Brussels: A two-day event to increase collaboration between the EU and the Mediterranean partner countries in the sectors of e-infrastructures and networking for research and education. The EU-MED event is hosted by three sponsoring projects that foster the creation of e-infrastructures in the Mediterranean region including the EU-funded EU-MEDCONNECT.

www.eumedconnect.net/

24 October 2007

ENPI

Brussels: €97.4 million have been allocated to the Mediterranean region under the 2007 ENPI Regional Action Programme for the South. Eight regional projects and programmes will be financed in domains such as peace, disaster prevention, investment promotion, support to the private sector, intercultural dialogue, gender equality, and information and communication.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-south/index_en.htm

24 October 2007

SMAP

Brussels: Several events take place all around the Mediterranean in support of

Coast Day, dedicated to promoting the vision of the future coast and sustainable coastal development. It is a key event that aims to raise the awareness of policy makers and public alike of the value of the coast and the necessity of using an integrated approach to managing coastal areas.

www.coastday.org

25-26 October 2007

Civil Protection

Oporto: The first joint informal meeting of Director-Generals for Civil Protection of the Euromed Programme and their counterparts from the European Union, the European Economic Area and the EU candidate countries is considered an important milestone in the Portuguese Presidency since it brings together Director-Generals for Civil Protection from both sides of the Mediterranean.

www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/20071019civil.htm

26-27 October 2007

Politics and Security

Malta: Second seminar of the semi-annual Information and Training Seminars for Euro-Mediterranean desk officers of the 35 partner countries. During the two-day meeting the main issues tackled are: the prospect for a Council of the Mediterranean, the Euromed Partnership after the Media Task Force meeting and the issue on Energy Security in the Euromed Region.

www.euromed-seminars.org/mt

29-30 October 2007

EMPA

Rome: The EMPA Committee on Improving the Quality of Life, Human Exchanges and Culture meets to discuss: the Impact of Climate Change and Desertification; Mediterranean Forest Policies and Fire Management; the Role of Satellite Television as a Bridge between Societies and Cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean Region; the activities of the Anna Lindh Foundation; and relations with the EMPA and the results of the first Working Group on the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean University.

31 October 2007

EU-Egypt Council

Cairo: Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner commends the Egyptian government and the Arab League for their initiative

in trying to bridge the gap between the two sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She adds that the EU acknowledges the position of Egypt as a strategic partner and a source of stability in the region. The Commissioner also notes that the EU is Egypt's main trading partner and says that the ENP Action Plan now allows for Egypt's deeper integration into the internal market of the EU. http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/egypt/index_en.htm

31 October 2007
FEMIP

Paris: FEMIP has granted its fifth loan to the company Autoroutes du Maroc. It will co-finance with the contributions of Arab lenders the construction of a 126km section of motorway between Fez and Taza. The motorway is expected to play an important role in the economic, tourist and agricultural development of the country's northern region.

November

1 November
Energy

Sharm el Sheikh: The EU-Africa-Middle East Energy Conference provides an opportunity for participants from Africa, the Middle East and the Gulf to discuss with the EU cooperation in enhancing regional energy security, addressing climate change and improving access to energy services, the security and sustainability of energy supplies, energy efficiency, and sustainable exploitation of resources.

1 November
EU-Israel

Tel Aviv: Twenty business leaders from Europe and Israel launch the EU-Israel Business Dialogue. The goal of the dialogue is to strengthen EU-Israel economic relations, remove barriers to trade and investment, and enhance cooperation and joint ventures. In the first year of operations the dialogue will focus on the sectors of banking and finance, energy and clean technologies, life sciences, manufacturing, telecommunications, media, and Internet.

5-6 November 2007
Ministerial Meeting

Lisbon: Ministers of Foreign Affairs of

the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership meet to provide an opportunity to assess the progress made in the cooperation during 2007 and to agree on priorities for the year to come. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to pursuing their efforts to realise the objectives set out 12 years ago. They welcomed the fact that, despite the prevailing tension in the Middle East, the Euromed partners have succeeded in maintaining a constructive dialogue covering many key issues, and stress the importance of the ENP. In the same framework EU troika meets with four separate delegations: the countries of the Arab Maghreb Union, the Palestinian Authority, the Arab Group, and Israel. www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/96969.pdf

5 November 2007

EU Troika. Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) Lisbon: The main objective of this meeting was to stimulate the process of economic integration of the Arab Maghreb countries and to resume the direct dialogue process among these countries and the European Union. For Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External Relations and ENP, the Maghreb countries are closer to the European Union and their relation with Europe is a model to follow. The goal is now economic development, job creation, and investment. www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/20071105amadouma.htm

7-8 November 2007

Medibtikar

Cairo: The aim of the Annual Conference of the Medibtikar programme is to present examples of existing initiatives which support the development of cooperative projects between technical centres, business supporting organizations or territory managers. The Medibtikar programme proposes to adapt these experiences according to the countries' specific needs, strengthening the development of this type of network. www.medibtikar.eu/spip.php?article693

8 November 2007

Med.2007

Brussels: Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External Relations and ENP, presents *Med.2007*, the latest edition of the *Mediterranean Yearbook* at

the European Parliament. According to the European Commissioner, the *Med. 2007* yearbook, which presents the main political, economic, social and cultural keys to the Mediterranean agenda, is an indispensable publication for anyone interested in the Mediterranean and its future. It includes contributions by international authors who present their analyses from a pluralist perspective and features a wide selection of data and complementary information with tables, graphics, maps, information boxes and web links.

8-9 November 2007

EU-Tunisia Council

Brussels: Euro-Mediterranean agreement between the EU and Tunisia. The Council of the European Union has decided to create a subcommittee on human rights and democracy. This is the seventh subcommittee established under the Euro-Mediterranean agreement with Tunisia since it came into force in March 1998 providing an institutional framework for implementing and enhancing cooperation. www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/jha/97023.pdf

16 November 2007

EU-Morocco

Brussels: Morocco and the European Union launch five additional institutional twinning projects in the sectors of agriculture, consumer protection, competition, decentralisation and the fight against money laundering. The projects will be carried out in the framework of the second phase of the Association Agreement Support programme. These twinning projects have shown that they not only assist with the implementation of the Association Agreement and the Action Plan but also contribute to the creation of close and lasting ties between the various branches of the Moroccan administration and their counterparts in the EU member states.

18-19 November 2007

Migration

Algarve: At the close of the first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Migration, ministers agree to take a number of "appropriate and concrete measures" concerning legal and illegal migration. Legal migration should be facilitated as one of the key elements of

Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. Efforts would focus on different categories of legal workers and could also include different forms of mobility such as circular and temporary migration. One proposal is the setting up of a working group with the aim of carrying out an in-depth study of the labour situation and labour market needs for migrants. Ministers agree on the need to address the root causes of migration (poverty, unemployment, and the development gap) and commit themselves to encouraging and promoting foreign direct investment to generate employment and reduce migration outflows.

19-24 November 2007

Economy

Marseilles: Mediterranean Economic Week actors from Euro-Mediterranean relations, Marseilles City Council and Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur Regional Council have joined with the Euro-Mediterranean public development agency to host the first "Mediterranean Economic Week." About fifteen major events provide a basis on which economists, experts, business people, politicians and the heads of local and national authorities from various countries will discuss the major issues paving the way for a consolidation of the Mediterranean Partnership and regional economic integration.

www.semaine-eco-med.com

21-22 November 2007

Economy

Marseilles: Economist Conferences and the ANIMA Investment Network, with the support of several regional partners, are organizing the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Business Summit in Marseilles, on "The Steady Rise of Euro-Mediterranean Partnerships." Topics for discussion at the Business Summit include interaction between the private and public sectors; the regulatory framework for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in the region; the financing of partnerships; investment experiences; the future of information, telecommunications and innovation in the region; and sharing best practices. ANIMA was an EU-funded regional project until June 2007. It continues its work as the ANIMA Investment Network which brings together over twenty investment promotion agen-

cies (IPA) and territorial development players across the Mediterranean.

20 November 2007

Transport

Brussels: The European Commission proposes to open negotiations with Israel on a comprehensive aviation agreement. As part of the process of creating a common Aviation Area with its eastern and southern neighbours by 2010, the Commission's aim is to establish an open aviation area between the EU and Israel, to lift market restrictions and to achieve a high level of regulatory convergence. The agreement with Israel would establish an ambitious framework integrating wider aviation issues such as regulatory co-operation in the fields of aviation safety, security, air traffic management, technology, research and industrial cooperation.

22-23 November 2007

FEMISE

Marseilles: Annual Conference of the FEMISE Network. Among the topics scheduled for discussion are: the nature of Euromed integration, growth and poverty; financial and monetary development in the Mediterranean partner countries; the effect of liberalization on labour markets in the Mediterranean partner countries; south-south integration; the liberalization of agriculture and services; enterprises and transparency; and education and training systems in the Mediterranean partner countries. The 70-member FEMISE network of economic research institutes is responsible for implementing the EU-funded €4.9 million regional programme entitled "Study and Dialogue on Euro-Mediterranean Economic Questions." It advises the Mediterranean partners on how to reform their economic, social and administrative structures to adopt common measures that promote the creation of a Free Trade Area.

www.femise.org/activites/conf_femise/conf2007_agenda.html

23 November 2007

Lebanon

Lisbon: A few hours before the end of the mandate of the Lebanese President, the EU Presidency issues a statement of regret that it has not been possible to elect a new President, in accordance with the constitution. The EU Presidency appeals

to all political parties to continue dialogue with a view to electing a new President as soon as possible. The EU Presidency, more than ever, is attached to the independence and sovereignty of Lebanon and recalls the importance of stability in Lebanon for the whole region.

26 November 2007

EMPA

Brussels: the situation in Lebanon is one of the main items for discussion by the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights.

29-30 November 2007

Neighbourhood

Madrid: At the OSCE Ministerial Council in Madrid on 29th and 30th November, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner recalls that the OSCE and the EU cooperate closely in the Union's neighbourhood since they share a common interest in fostering stability: by countering terrorism, organized crime, environmental degradation and by pursuing a positive agenda of economic reforms, good governance, respect for the rule of law and democracy. The Commissioner adds that the EU will continue to work closely with all the OSCE bodies to support local reforms and foster stability and prosperity in the EU's neighbourhood.

www.osce.org/conferences/mc_2007.html

30 November 2007

Transport

Brussels: The Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council authorises the Commission to open negotiations with Jordan for establishing a Euro-Mediterranean Aviation Agreement. The agreement will aim at creating reciprocal economic growth in the aviation sector. A comprehensive aviation agreement with Jordan is expected to cover a number of issues focused essentially on market opening between the European Community and Jordan.

www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/trans/973330.pdf

December 2007

4 December

Medibtikar

Amman: The Euromed Innovation and

Technology Programme (Medibtikar) holds its second workshop in Amman. The four-day workshop, organized in collaboration with the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation, is designed to illustrate the necessity of developing comprehensive business models for innovative projects and positioning them so as to maximise the possibility of attracting the necessary investment and expertise to further develop the business.

4 December

Intercultural Dialogue

Brussels: The European Commission launches the communication campaign for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 with the slogan "Together in Diversity." The European Year aims to contribute to mutual understanding. It will explore the benefits of cultural diversity and active civic participation in European affairs and foster a sense of European belonging. The Year has been allocated a €10 million budget, supporting the information campaign, surveys and studies on intercultural dialogue, the co-financing of the seven flagship European projects and 27 national projects on intercultural dialogue across the EU.

www.dialogue2008.eu/

4 December

Immigration

Brussels: At the meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council migration policies are discussed. The Council states that migration is relevant to increase growth potential and facilitate adjustment. In a number of countries, immigration has also contributed to dealing with bottlenecks in labour markets, helping to contain inflationary pressures and improve competitiveness. Migration has become an important factor in population growth in the EU and is the most dynamic source of population change.

www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/misc/97375.pdf

4 December

Lebanon

Brussels: The EU today approves €80 million in macro-financial assistance to support Lebanon's economic and social programme for reconstruction and development. It will also facilitate and en-

courage progress in the implementation of the EU-Lebanon European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Action Plan. ENP Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner says it is now crucial for the Lebanese to come to an agreement and elect a President, and reiterates EU support for the political reform process in Lebanon, especially through the ENP.

www.euroinfocentre.net/_News.php?cAction=Details&ArticleID=1051

5 December

Neighbourhood

Brussels: The actions and efforts required in order to further strengthen the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) are outlined in a new communication presented today by the External Relations and ENP Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner. The communication tackles a number of objectives, including greater political commitment for economic integration, managed migration and more engagement to tackle frozen conflicts. The Commission has decided on its first €50 million allocation to the Neighbourhood Investment Facility to be committed by the end of this year.

www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article_7586_en.htm

9 December

UE-Africa Summit

Lisbon: During the 2nd EU-Africa Summit of Heads of State and Government, José Sócrates, Portuguese Prime Minister and current President of the European Union, declares that this EU-Africa Summit will go down in history because it approved a strategy and an action plan between the two continents, and it has created a new spirit of cooperation, loyalty and equality among states. Sócrates also declares that the 2nd EU-Africa Summit has placed the human rights issue at the centre of the agenda, due to the common wish of European and African leaders. The current President of the African Union, John Kufuor, affirms that the 2nd EU-Africa meeting changed relations between the two continents. "The success of this summit reflects the interest and willingness of these states and creates great expectations of Africa and Europe."

www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Reunioes_Eventos/ChefesEstado/EUAfrica.htm

10 December

Energy

Brussels: Speaking in a Meeting of the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie, EU Energy Commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, calls on the leading energy companies operating in the Mediterranean to play an active role in supporting the EU Priority Action Plan for 2008-2013 in the field of Euro-Mediterranean energy cooperation. The Commissioner presents the main guidelines of this Action Plan in his speech on the "Future of Euro-Mediterranean Energy Relations" at the OME General Assembly. He says that over the last three years there has been a significant change in the energy landscape, while noting that the Maghreb and Mashreq regions have a crucial energy supply potential with major oil and gas reserves but also with a huge potential for renewable energy: solar, wind and biomass.

www.euromedinfo.eu/site.168.news.en.2711.html?PHPSESSID=79480f26550e6ad6a38b8675a507f60b

10 December

Human Rights

Brussels: In the General Affairs and External Relations Council conclusions on the implementation of the EU policy on human rights and democratisation in third countries, EU foreign ministers describe the various agreement-based, ad hoc and local human rights dialogues with third countries as "an important channel to promote human rights, rule of law and democracy and to express concerns."

www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/97506.pdf

10-11 December

Water

Bled: During the 4th Conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and South-Eastern European Countries, the Water Directors propose the elaboration of a renewed long-term strategy for water in the region. They recognize the need for greater policy coherence at the national and regional levels, and the need to explore further how financial resources could be used and coordinated more effectively.

www.semide.net/media_server/files/2/jf.8.pdf

12 December

Refugees

Brussels: The EC grants €50 million in humanitarian and structural support for the provision of basic health and education services for Iraqi refugees in Syria and Jordan. Commenting on the decision, Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner affirms that Iraqi refugees deserve access to education and health services and she also notes the tremendous efforts made by Syria and Jordan to welcome displaced Iraqi families.

14 December

European Council

Lisbon: In their conclusions at the European Council, EU leaders reiterate their support for the negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis while expressing concern over the delay in electing the President of the Lebanese Republic; they also refer to external relations issues such as the ENP and relations with the Mediterranean partner countries, as well as migration and terrorism. The European Council also welcomes Albania and Mauritania into the Barcelona Process. On migration they say that further developing a comprehensive European policy complementing member states' policies remains a fundamental priority, and describe cooperation with third countries as vital for well-managed migration flows and the fight against illegal immigration.

www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/97669.pdf

17 December

Euromed Ministerial Conference

Cyprus: The important role of energy in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is recognized in the Declaration adopted by the 5th Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Energy. In the Declaration, the ministers reaffirm their collective commitment to enhancing reciprocal energy security, com-

petitiveness and sustainability for the Euro-Mediterranean region. The ministers endorse a detailed Priority Action Plan on Euromed Energy Cooperation, 2008-2013, focusing on three priority areas: ensuring the improved harmonization of energy markets and legislations and the integration of energy markets in the Euro-Mediterranean region; promoting sustainable development in the energy sector; developing initiatives of common interest in key areas, such as infrastructure extension, investment, financing, and research and development.

www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/misc/97749.pdf

18 December

Neighbourhood

Brussels: The local and regional dimension of the ENP is discussed in the framework of the structured dialogue between EU Commissioners and European/national associations of local and regional authorities, hosted by the Committee of the Regions (CoR). In a speech Commissioner Ferrero Waldner highlights its role in bringing EU policies closer to citizens, and outlines the ENP's goals, achievements, and future prospects saying it is a new, targeted approach going beyond classical external cooperation by supporting domestic reforms.

www.cor.europa.eu/En/activities/meeting_dialogue_waldner.htm

19 December

FEMIP

Paris: A long-term loan of nearly TND 3.6 million (EUR 2 million) has been granted by FEMIP to the Tunisian microfinance association ENDA Inter-Arabe to finance its expansion. This loan will enable ENDA to provide over 50,000 micro-credits, fostering the creation of small businesses and jobs. FEMIP's renewed vote of confidence in ENDA Inter-Arabe is also expected to have an ad-

ditional catalytic effect on local investors, so helping the association to achieve its growth objectives.

28-30 December

FEMISE

Cairo: The theme of the plenary sessions of the 14th Annual Conference of the Economic Research Forum (ERF) is "Institutions and Economic Development." The parallel sessions cover 5 themes: macroeconomics and finance; labour and human development; international economics; microeconomics; and institutional economics. The conference is expected to host 250 participants, representing ERF and non-ERF affiliates, regional and international development institutions, policy makers and civil society. The event forms part of the framework of the FEMISE programme.

www.femise.org/ERF/erfconf_next.html

31 December

Human Rights

Brussels: Human rights defenders in Syria should be able to operate free of harassment

The EU Presidency declares that the EU is deeply concerned about the recent detention of members of a pro-democracy grouping in support of the Damascus Declaration. The EU recalls Syria's international commitments, namely the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Syria has signed and ratified and that clearly states the right to freedom of expression (article 19) and the right to freedom of assembly (article 21). The EU urges the Syrian authorities to immediately release all of those detained while peacefully expressing their opinions.

www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/cfsp/97872.pdf