

# MEDA NEWSLETTER

3 April 2008

## EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

### EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Presidency Conclusions of the European Council held in Brussels on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March included in Annex I a statement titled "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean".

The European Council approved the principle of Union for the Mediterranean which will include the Member States of the EU and the non-EU Mediterranean coastal states. It invited the Commission to present to the Council the necessary proposals for defining the modalities of what will be called "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean" with a view to the Summit which will take place in Paris on 13 July 2008.

Conclusions available at:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/99410.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/99410.pdf)

Source: European Council.

### STATISTICS ON TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES

According to Eurostat in an issue devoted to transport infrastructure in Mediterranean partner countries, over the period 1997-2005 infrastructure networks for all modes of transport grew considerably (principal airports +25%, principal ports +7%, motorways +60%). Compared to the European Union (EU), however, their infrastructure remains less important and less dense.

This Eurostat communiqué offers data on airports, ports, rail networks and roads. Concerning air traffic, it is concentrated in the principal airports (89% of passenger traffic in 2006); in the period 2000-2006 the number of principal airports in the region grew from 20 to 27; the vast majority of these airports are not linked to a railway network.

Ports must handle more and more movements (+50% in the period 1995-2005); the importance of ports in the region is demonstrable, for example in 2005 nearly 80% of trade between the EU and Mediterranean partners transited through ports and to satisfy this growing demand countries have built new docks.

The decline in railway networks has been halted since 2000 (the network increased by 0,04% in the period 2000-2005). At the same time, the length of roads has increased by 15%; however, motorways continue to represent only a small portion of roads (0,5 in 2006).

This issue can be downloaded at:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=1090,30070682,1090\\_33076576&dad=portal&schema=PORTAL](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1090,30070682,1090_33076576&dad=portal&schema=PORTAL)

Source: Statistics in focus, Transport, 11/2008.

### **EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY (ENP)**

A policy paper adopted by the European Commission on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April takes stock of the progress made in 2007 by partner countries in a great number of areas such as political cooperation to trade, migration and visa facilitation, energy, transport, research and innovation. The Commission also identifies areas where further efforts are required and encourages a targeted and differentiated deepening of relations with select partners that have shown particular ambition and capacity.

Individual country reports for each country with an ENP Action Plan and a sectoral report accompany the policy paper.

More information available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/509&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Source: European Commission.

### **EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC TRANSITION**

Leading government ministers, bank governors, international financial personnel, academics and media from both sides of the Mediterranean met in Brussels on 20 and 21 February for the 12<sup>th</sup> Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Economic Transition. These annual conferences are a regular part of the economic dialogue between the EU and its Mediterranean partners and strive to foster a better understanding of the policies and issues related to the process of economic transition in the Mediterranean partner countries. This year's conference examined the role of financial and banking services and their pivotal position at the heart of economic transition.

More information at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/euromed/etn/12mtg\\_0208/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/etn/12mtg_0208/index.htm)

Source: European Commission.

## **LIBYA**

The European Commission has proposed that the EU should start negotiations for a Framework Agreement with Libya in 2008. Once the Council has approved the mandate, the Commission will negotiate the Agreement with the Libyan Government, with the objective of strengthening the political, social, economic, commercial and cultural relations between both parties.

By entering into contractual negotiations with Libya, the Commission aims to:

- establish fruitful dialogue and co-operation on political issues of common interest in the bilateral relations and at regional level;
- contribute to the economic and social reforms being undertaken in the country;
- further develop trade and economic relations, notably by establishing a Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Libya and accompanying its integration into the international trade and economic framework;
- co-operate in many areas of common interest such as migrations, energy, transports, education, environment and culture.

More information at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/libya/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/libya/index_en.htm)

Source: European Commission.

## **EGYPT**

Commissioner for External Relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner and the Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation, Fayza Aboulnaga, signed on 7 March the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the National Indicative Programme 2007-2010. The focus of the €58 million assistance package under the European Neighbourhood Policy is to support the reform process and the implementation of the EU-Egypt ENP Action Plan which was adopted by the EU-Egypt Association Council on 6 March 2007.

Commission assistance to Egypt from 2007 to 2010 focuses on the following areas:

- Support for the implementation of the Action Plan: supporting reform processes in Egypt through targeted assistance in areas such as trade, customs, transport, energy and science, including co-operation in legal migration, border management and visa facilitation.
- Sustainable development and management of human and natural resources: supporting reforms in the education and health sectors, which are crucial for the sustainable development of the country. In order to attract investments in key sectors, such as energy, transport and environment, €8 million will be set aside to subsidise lending of financial institutions loans which could allow Egypt to raise an additional €250-300 million in loans.
- Reforms in the areas of democracy, human rights and justice.

Work on the Annual Action Programme 2008, which consists of four programmes worth €139 million, has been launched: among them, €80 million Transport Sector Programme and €29 million Water and Waste Water Services Programme.

For more information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external\\_relations/egypt/intro/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/egypt/intro/index.htm)

Source: European Commission.

### **EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, meeting on 27-28 March in Athens, issued declarations on the Union for the Mediterranean and on Dutch MP Geert Wilders' film on Islam, after a session which featured debates on energy and environment issues in the Mediterranean. European Parliament President, Hans-Gert Pöttering, has been elected as the new chair of the Assembly.

The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) calls, in the Final Declaration, for the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Community (EMEC) which will contribute to energy security of supply, to attraction of investments and competitiveness.

The EMPA welcomes “the fresh impetus given to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership” by the proposal for a Union for the Mediterranean, recently endorsed by the EU Spring Summit. The Paris Summit of 13 July will launch the “Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean”. The 27 Member States of the EU and the 10 non-EU Mediterranean coastal partners are to take part.

More information available at:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/029-25059-087-03-13-903-20080327IPR25057-27-03-2008-2008-false/default\\_es.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/029-25059-087-03-13-903-20080327IPR25057-27-03-2008-2008-false/default_es.htm)

Source: European Parliament.

## **FOLLOW-UP OF TENDERS, PROJECTS AND CONTRACTS**

### **TENDERS AND EU EXTERNAL AID PROJECTS**

Information on tenders (open and forecast; works, services and supplies) is available at:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS**

MED-ENEC is an EU funded project on energy efficiency in construction sector in Mediterranean partners. MED-ENEC supports ten pilot projects and has announced that its Tunisian Pilot Project has been selected as the National Winner for Tunisia for the ENERGY GLOBE World Award. The proposed project consists of an ecohotel which can be reproduced in the region as a model for ecotourism.

These pilot projects demonstrate new and energy efficient technologies as well as integrated approaches and the use of renewable energies in buildings. All the projects have started construction and are expected to be finalised by October 2008.

[www.med-enec.com](http://www.med-enec.com)

Source: European Commission. The ENPI e-bulletin, issue 34.  
<http://www.ediweb.be/europeaid/forms/newsletterArchive.asp>

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **WORLD BANK**

#### **Egypt**

The Integrated Sanitation and Sewerage Infrastructure Project was approved on 20 March by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors. This project aims to contribute to the sustainable improvement in sanitation and environmental conditions, and the water quality in the selected drainage basins within targeted communities in the Governorates of Beheira, Gharbeya and Kafr El Sheikh in the Delta region. The project has three components: the provision of sanitation systems, the establishment of a local result-based monitoring and evaluation system and institutional development and capacity building.

More information at:  
<http://www.worldbank.org>

Source: World Bank.