**Press Release** 

8<sup>th</sup> March 2012

## Commissioner Füle expresses the European Union Support to the Secretariat of Union for the Mediterranean

Strengthening the already existing ties with the European Union and moving forward in implementing concrete projects, were the main subjects of discussion between Mr. Fathallah Sijilmassi and Commissioner Štefan Füle during his visit to the Headquarters of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean.

Barcelona. - The Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean welcomed Mr. Štefan Füle, Commissioner in charge of the EU enlargement and neighbourhood policy, at the premises of the Secretariat. This visit is a cornerstone to enhancing the strong cooperation between the European Union and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean. During the working meeting, both parties exchanged views in light of the current evolution in the region. On this visit Mr. Sijilmassi commented: "I am delighted to welcome Commissioner Füle, on his first working visit to the Secretariat. It is a very important moment for us; I know I can count on the continued and increased support of the EU to the UfM and I will work towards its further strengthening." He also added that: "The UfM is a major regional platform that reflects the collective efforts and will of the 43 country members, partners, and stakeholders to deliver tangible results through concrete projects in the Mediterranean region."

From his end Commissioner Füle said: "I am happy to be at the UfM headquarters, to witness and support the progressing dynamic role of this key structure in the Euro-med cooperation."

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