



Press release

23 November, 2012

Working session with French Minister Marylise Lebranchu at the premises of the Union for the Mediterranean

The relations between France and the Union for the Mediterranean and the development of an operational collaboration to implement concrete projects in the Mediterranean region were the main subjects of discussion between the Secretary General of the UfM, Fathallah Sijilmassi, and the French Minister of Administrative Reform, Decentralization and the Civil Service, Marylise Lebranchu.

Barcelona, 23 November, 2012. - UfM Secretary General Sijilmassi welcomed today the French Minister of Administrative Reform, Decentralization and the Civil Service, Marylise Lebranchu, at the premises of the Union for the Mediterranean, in Barcelona. Both parties discussed ways and means to strengthen the cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean. They agreed on the importance of delivering projects that respond to the needs of the Mediterranean populations in terms of job creation and socio-economic development.

Secretary General Sijilmassi briefed the Minister on the state of play of the Secretariat's work on several key economic sectors for the future of the region and on projects and initiatives such as the Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4jobs), the Trans Maghreb Motorway, the desalination facility for the Gaza Strip, and the Euro-Mediterranean University (Euromed-UM) in Fes, as well as programs to empower women to participate fully in economic life. He highlighted that *"the projects and initiatives that the Union for the Mediterranean is developing will enhance job creation, promote young entrepreneurship and increase regional economic integration in the Mediterranean"*.

French Minister Marylise Lebranchu reiterated the French Government's full commitment and support to the actions and projects developed by UfM Secretariat. She stressed on the importance of local, regional and national public administration training in the development of international cooperation projects in the Mediterranean, as well as on the need of involvement of local and regional actors. The Minister and the Secretary General have agreed on ways to develop their collaboration during the next weeks.