



Press release

12 November, 2012

High-level meeting in Brussels to give a new impetus to the UfM

UfM Secretary General Sijilmassi took part in a High-level meeting held at the margins of the Bureau of the UfM Parliamentary Assembly. The meeting was an opportunity to exchange views on the different ongoing projects and initiatives and to discuss with UfM key institutions the ways to optimize the efforts for delivering tangible results in the next future.

Barcelona. - The Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Fathallah Sijilmassi, participated on 12 November 2012 in a High-level meeting upon the invitation of the President of the European Parliament and President of the Assembly, Martin Schulz.

The meeting took place within the framework of the Bureau of the UfM Parliamentary Assembly and with the presence of the Co-Presidencies of the Union for the Mediterranean: the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jordan, Nasser Judeh; and the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Stefan Füle. The President of the House of Representatives of Morocco, Karim Ghellab; the President of the Parliament of Portugal, Maria Da Asunção; the President of the Anna Lindh Foundation, André Azoulay; and the Vice-President of the European Bank of Investment (EIB), Philippe de Fontaine Vive, were also present.

During a press conference held after the meeting Secretary General Sijilmassi stated that: *“I am happy to participate at this High-level meeting and to observe the full support and commitment of the present personalities to give a greater impetus to the UfM. 2013 is a key year for launching projects already labelled by the member states. The UfM will contribute effectively to respond to the need of the Mediterranean populations by launching projects supporting job creation, promoting entrepreneurship for young women and accelerating regional interconnection”.*

He also recalled the *“important role”* of the European and Southern-Mediterranean parliamentarians *“for the success of these projects”* and highlighted the importance of reinforcing the partnership between UfM Secretariat, the parliamentarians and the civil society of the Euro-Mediterranean region. The UfM Secretary General counts on *“the political, financial and technical support from all key actors to mobilize the necessary resources and it is ready to deliver concrete results. This results-oriented approach is essential for the UfM, given the new political context in the Southern shore, and the economic crisis in the North. It is even a duty”*, said Mr. Sijilmassi. *“Shared efforts need to be undertaken to mitigate the effects of the crisis and contribute to the political stability, which is a common interest”*, he added.



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