



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

Press Release

President Schulz highlights the relevance of UfM projects to be launched in 2013

The Union for the Mediterranean hosted for the first time the meeting of the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM at its headquarters, in Barcelona, which evidences the strengthened relationship and operational collaboration between the Secretariat and the Parliamentary Assembly.

Barcelona, 15 March, 2013. The Union for the Mediterranean held the meeting of the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (AP-UfM) at its headquarters, in Barcelona. The meeting was chaired by the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz, in his capacity as rotating President of the PA of the UfM; the President of the Assembly of Representatives of Morocco, Karim Ghellab; the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jordan, Saed Hayel Srouf; and the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Fathallah Sijilmassi, as well as high-ranking representatives from Parliaments of Mediterranean countries, especially Portugal, Tunisia and Turkey.

Discussions focused on the advanced state of play of the preparations for the Summit of Presidents of the UfM Parliaments, which will be held in Marseille on 6 and 7 April 2013. According to the PA-UfM, around 40 Speakers have already confirmed their presence at the meeting, which will focus on the role of Parliaments and Civil society. This will be the first High-level political meeting since the Summit of Paris in 2008, and the first after the Arab Spring uprisings. French President Hollande will also participate in the conclusions of the Summit.

The meeting was followed by a press conference with the members of the Bureau of the PA-UfM and the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean. *'We fully support the great progress made by the Secretariat of the UfM in the implementation of concrete projects. We also want to highlight the importance of increasing investments and giving a new economic momentum to the UfM, which will benefit all the countries of the two shores of the Mediterranean'*, Mr. Schulz said.

On his part, Secretary General Sijilmassi underlined the close collaboration between the Secretariat of the UfM and the PA-UfM, and paid tribute to the *'operational and continued support of the President of the European Parliament to the activities and initiatives of the UfM Secretariat'*. He announced the launching of three projects during the first semester of 2013: *Young Women for Job Creation; Mediterranean Water Governance; and Training Activities for the Regional Logistics Network (LOGSIMEDTA)*. Other projects will be finalised and launched by the end of this year.

About the UfM

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is a unique Mediterranean institution bringing together 43 countries (27 EU member states and 16 Southern & Eastern Mediterranean countries). It constitutes a platform for coordination and consensus building among its partners.



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The Union for the Mediterranean operates from the UfM Secretariat, established in Barcelona in March 2010, and focuses on delivering concrete regional cooperation projects in six priority areas: Higher education, civil & social affairs, transport & urban development, water & environment, energy and business development. As a catalyst of projects, the UfM assists the projects promoters in all the aspects of development and implementation, from project structuring to technical assistance, including financial planning and fund-raising.

About the PA-UfM

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA UfM) was officially established in Athens on 22-23 March 2004 as the parliamentary dimension of the Partnership set up by the Barcelona Declaration of November 1995.

The PA UfM consists of 280 members: 130 EU members (81 members from the twenty-seven EU national Parliaments - three from each Parliament - and 49 members from the European Parliament), 10 members from new European Mediterranean partner countries (two for each delegation from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Monaco and Montenegro), 130 members from the ten countries on the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey), and 10 members from Mauritania.

Media UfM

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