



Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Meeting on Industrial Cooperation takes place in Brussels

The 9th Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Industrial Cooperation took place in Brussels with the aim to discuss the business environment in the Mediterranean member countries, assess the future strategic directions for Euro-Mediterranean industrial cooperation and move forward to a closer collaboration.

Brussels, 20 February, 2014. Industry Ministers from the member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean and representatives from public authorities, business associations as well as international organizations convened in Brussels on 19 February 2014, on the occasion of the 9th UfM Ministerial Meeting on Industrial Cooperation. With the aim to improve the business environment in the Euro-Mediterranean region and promote entrepreneurship and development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), ministers adopted a Ministerial Declaration and the Euro-Mediterranean Industrial Cooperation 2014-2015 Work Programme.

Participants agreed that there is a common goal to create favourable conditions for a collective and effective mobilization that will help the region meet the challenges of sustainable growth and decent living conditions for the local populations, and assumed the responsibility to continue the ongoing endeavours to further strengthen and effectively support private sector growth and innovation. They also acknowledged the results achieved by the Secretariat of Union for Mediterranean in the promotion of specific projects in the field, and invited the national coordinators of the *Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Enterprise* to ensure optimum complementarity and link regional actions with the projects and proposals carried out by the Secretariat.

The Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Antonio Tajani, Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner in charge of Industry and Entrepreneurship, and by Mr. Al-Halawany, Jordan's Industry and Trade Minister.

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean has actively participated in the preparatory work of the Meeting together with the UfM co-presidencies, and it will play an important role in the upcoming implementation of the 2014 – 2015 work programme, as well as in the implementation of regional cooperation projects promoting economic integration and support to SMEs development.

Industrial cooperation is helping to create an area of shared prosperity between the EU and Mediterranean partner countries. EU and Mediterranean industry ministers meet every 2 years to take stock of progress, decide on future priorities and adopt a 2-year work programme. On 11-12 May 2011, industry ministers met for the 8th time in Malta and adopted a work programme for 2011-2012.



MORE INFORMATION

- [Speech by UfM Secretary General Sijilmassi](#)
- [Ministerial Declaration EN](#)
- [Ministerial Declaration FR](#)
- [Ministerial Declaration AR](#)
- [Euro-Mediterranean Industrial Cooperation 2014-2015 Work Programme EN](#)
- [Euro-Mediterranean Industrial Cooperation 2014-2015 Work Programme FR](#)
- [List of UfM projects on business development](#)
- [Audiovisual Gallery](#)

About the UfM

The **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)** is an intergovernmental institution bringing together 43 countries: 28 EU member states and 15 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. It constitutes a platform for political dialogue, coordination, cooperation and consensus building.

The **Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean**, established in Barcelona in 2010, focuses on implementing regional cooperation projects and initiatives in areas such as energy, environment, education, transport, business development and social affairs. The Secretariat works in close collaboration with governments and with an active network of Euro-Mediterranean partners to assist project promoters throughout the entire project cycle: from technical assistance to project implementation, including financial planning and fundraising.

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