



5+5 Dialogue Ministerial Meeting highlights the key role of the UfM to promote regional cooperation in the Mediterranean

The Foreign Affairs Ministers of Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia met today in Lisbon to discuss the future prospects for the Western Mediterranean cooperation.

Barcelona, 23 May 2014. The Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Fathallah Sijilmassi, participated in the 11th Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the 5+5 Dialogue member countries, which took place yesterday in Lisbon.

The meeting provided an opportunity to debate regional issues and analyse the common challenges and the opportunities for cooperation among the ten countries of the Western Mediterranean. Discussions focused on the areas of security and stability, social and economic sustainable development, as well as environment and climate change.

The final adopted declaration praises the key role of the Union for the Mediterranean to reinforce regional and sub-regional cooperation through the implementation of projects and initiatives, the progress of the work carried out by the Secretariat, as well as its contribution to the economic and social development of the region. The Ministers stressed the importance of ensuring the complementarity of the actions of the 5+5 Dialogue and the UfM Secretariat. They also welcomed the sectorial ministerial meetings held under the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean.

On the sidelines of the Ministerial Meeting, Secretary General Sijilmassi held bilateral meetings with the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the 5+5 Dialogue countries. He was accompanied by his deputies, Claudio Cortese and Teresa Ribeiro.

The Ministerial Declaration will be available soon [here](#)

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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