



HR Mogherini and SG Sijlmassi discuss the key role of the UfM in strengthening Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation

UfM Secretary General Sijlmassi held talks with Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Co-President of the UfM. Within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy review, they discussed the key role of the Union for the Mediterranean to strengthen regional cooperation and address the current needs of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Strasbourg, 10 February 2015. Within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) review, UfM Secretary General Sijlmassi and High Representative Mogherini met today to discuss the role of the Union for the Mediterranean in strengthening regional cooperation and addressing the current needs and opportunities of the region. The bilateral meeting took place in the margins of the European Parliament plenary session.

Secretary General Sijlmassi presented the achievements of the Secretariat and highlighted perspectives of future work. Both parties stressed the need and the importance of strengthening cooperation and regional integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region. They agreed to seize the opportunity of the ENP's review to foster the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

This meeting takes place just after a coordination meeting between the UfM Secretary General and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan/Co-President of the UfM, Nasser Judeh. During both meetings, the Co-Presidency confirmed its commitment and involvement in the development of UfM activities.

The ongoing review process of the European Neighbourhood Policy, along with the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Barcelona Process this year, provides an opportunity to further enhance the role of the Union for the Mediterranean as a key institution for inclusive dialogue and as a platform to deal with the existing challenges and opportunities of the region.

About the UfM

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

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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