

Barcelona, 20th May 2011

French Minister of Industry, Energy and Digital Economy visits the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean

Barcelona - During his second visit to the Secretariat, French Minister of Industry, Energy and Digital Economy Mr. Eric Besson has reiterated his readiness to support and collaborate with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean; he suggested ways to move forward to materialize concrete projects that impact directly the lives of the citizens of the Mediterranean. The Acting Secretary General Mr. Lino Cardarelli commented on this occasion: *“we are very delighted to welcome Minister Besson once again at the Secretariat; this is a clear indication of Mr. Besson’s commitment towards the success of Secretariat. We are determined to strengthen the already existing relationship with the Government of France”*. He also added: *“It was a good chance to get more familiar with potential projects that the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Digital Economy of France, together with the Secretariat, which from our end we can promote and possibly implement”*.

The meeting was also attended by the Deputies Secretary Generals; Ambassador Cecilia Attard-Pirotta (Social and Civil Affairs, Ambassador Yigit Alpogan (Transport and Urban Development), Dr. Rafiq Husseini (Water and Environment), the Deputies presented their Divisions work program and progress to date. They also exchanged views on how some projects can be labeled by the UfM, especially in the Energy and Social Affairs sectors.

Both parties have agreed to maintain close coordination and meet on more regular basis.

-----END-----