



STATEMENT

Secretary General Office

**Statement of the Secretary General Mr. Youssef Amrani, on
The FIRST UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

The Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Mr. Youssef Amrani expresses his deep satisfaction with the outcome of the First Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development which was held in Strasbourg on 9-10 November 2011 and welcomes the Ministerial Declaration which entrusted the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean with the task of formulating the future Euro-Mediterranean (UfM) Urban Development Strategy with the UfM member states. The final declaration was unanimously adopted by 35 participant countries among which 15 were represented by ministers. Indeed, the Secretariat has already voiced on many occasions its willingness to take this responsibility and its readiness to accomplish this major task.

The Ministers called for the elaboration of a Euro-Mediterranean sustainable urban strategy to be formulated by the concerned Senior Official Experts with the support of the Secretariat of the UfM which will be based on several preparatory works such as;

- A Guidance framework for sustainable Euro-Mediterranean cities.
- A call to donors to favor the emergence of sustainable urban development projects likely to be labeled by the Union for the Mediterranean
- Preliminary study to determine if the creation of a coherent mechanism is needed to support sustainable urban development in the Mediterranean

The follow-up and the agenda of the above mentioned agreed preparatory work in the field of Euro-Mediterranean sustainable urban development will be done through the Senior Officials Expert meetings that will draw up an outcome document on progress achieved, with the support of the UfM Secretariat, to be submitted to the next Ministerial Conference.



Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean
Secrétariat de l'Union pour la Méditerranée

The Ministerial declaration also supports the implementation of integrated projects in sustainable urban and spatial development within the Union for the Mediterranean and encourage all urban and territorial stakeholders, to submit to the Secretariat of the UfM project proposals in the area of urban development.

The Ministerial meeting reaffirmed the relevance of urban issues for the Euro-Med cooperation within the UfM.

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean is actively working with the European Investment Bank (EIB), Agence Française du Développement and the European Commission for the preparation of the Urban Projects Finance Initiative and to make this facility -which will provide financial technical assistance to 10-15 innovative urban development projects- operational in 2012.

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