

CLOSING SESSION

Union for the Mediterranean Conference

“Towards a common development agenda for the Mediterranean”

Barcelona, November, 26th

Dear Copresidents of the UfM

Dear Ministers

Dear Colleagues

Excellency

I would like to thank you all for your very interactive and dynamic sessions.

Today we have achieved three objectives directly linked to the dimensions at the center of the UfM activity:

- 1. Ministers gave their political support and commitment** to the regional cooperation through UfM
- 2. UfM Secretariat performed as an inclusive regional platform for dialogue and cooperation.** Here I would like to pay tribute to all the audience, private and civil society, Academics actors that were involved with us during this Conference.
- 3. Since the Conference is designed as a “Call for action”** I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the **main announcements:**

Panel 1: Inclusive growth & youth employability

- **The launch of the project “Réseau Entreprendre”.** The Mediterranean Entrepreneurship Network project seeks to support the creation of “*Réseau Entreprendre*” business associations in Morocco and Tunisia to provide mentoring to new-business starters with entrepreneurial potential. Through this project, experienced entrepreneurs will volunteer to personally mentor the new entrepreneurs for the first 2-3 years in monthly meetings. Financial support will also be provided allowing entrepreneurs to consolidate their equity capital.
- **The signature of an MoU between EMUNI and Euro Mediterranean University of Fes, both Presidents, Mustafa Bousmina and Prof. Dr. Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry have agreed to** appoint Presidents of their respective institutions on each other’s Management Board and explore students mobility / exchange programs as well as collaborate in academic and scientific research.

Panel 2: Sustainable development

- **The signature of the MoU with Energy Charter,** The parties will further develop and strengthen institutional cooperation in the fields of promoting favourable conditions for energy investments and energy efficiency in the Mediterranean Region and notably in the implementation of decisions agreed within the UfM Platform on Gas, on Regional Electricity Markets, on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.
- **The signature of MoU between with CETMO/GMTMO5+5.** It is the second MoU (*first MoU was signed in November 2013, expired 2014*) to continue the collaboration with the Secretariat, and will

allow both parties to work especially in the completion of the trans-Maghreb motorway, including the elaboration of a joint action plan. This MoU is solid proof that the partnership with CETMO/GMTMO is operational and constructive.

- **Panel 3: Women empowerment**

- **The signature of MoU with Microsoft**, will contribute to support Digital economy”, Youth employability, Job creation, Women empowerment using digital skills and entrepreneurship.
- **Finally the announcement by Norway of its financial support**, will contribute to support projects in the field of women empowerment, in the framework of the cooperation agreement with UfM.

Here I would like to thank all the promoters and donors for coming today for their contribution to the success of the Conference and for their positive support.

I would like at this stage to pay tribute in front of all of you to the Deputy Secretary Generals and the whole staff for their professionalism and dedication.

The Secretariat stands ready to be more empowered to meet our collective objectives and for the way forward stemming from our meeting today.

I look forward to seeing you next year for even more achievements and projects for a better future of our region.

Thank you for your patience and attention.