



## FACTS SHEET

### ▪ ABOUT THE UfMS

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is a multilateral partnership and a framework for political, economic and social relations between the European Union and the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries. It was launched on the 13th July 2008 at the Paris Summit, gathering 43 Euro-Mediterranean Heads of states and governments, as a continuation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Euro-Med), also known as the Barcelona Process, established at the Barcelona Conference in 1995.

The Union for the Mediterranean encompasses the 27 EU member states<sup>1</sup>, the European Commission and 16 Mediterranean countries. Foreign Affairs Ministers in Marseille, on the 4th November 2008 decided that the League of Arab States shall participate in all meetings of the UfM.

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) was established by a decision of Heads of State and Government of the UfM and its Statutes were adopted on the 3rd of March 2010 by virtue of a decision passed by the Senior Officials of the Member States. Foreign Affairs Ministers in their meeting in Marseille on 4 November 2008 decided that the headquarters of the Secretariat would be in Barcelona.

On the 3rd March 2010, the first Secretary General, Ahmad Masa'deh was officially presented at the UfMS headquarters in Barcelona.

The UfM Foreign Affairs Ministers in Marseille decided to provide the Secretariat with 6 Deputy Secretaries General to assist the Secretary General in developing cooperation and partnerships in the region in order to deal with these priority project areas.

The UfM is inspired by the shared political will to revitalize efforts in increasing regional integration and cohesion among Euro-Mediterranean partners. It is linked to the goals of the Barcelona Declaration, namely working for the creation of an area of peace, stability, security and shared economic prosperity, as well as full respect of democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms and promotion of understanding between cultures and civilizations in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The 2008 Paris Declaration considers that it is crucial to translate the principles of cooperation between all partners into concrete projects for the region and thus, identified 6 project priority areas: Projects Funding Coordination and Business Development (development of SMEs), Transport (Highways of the Sea), Energy (Mediterranean Solar Plan), Civil Affairs (Civil protection), Higher Education and Research, Environment and Water (de-pollute the Mediterranean).

Heads of State and Government decided to create the Secretariat as a joint institution that will provide more co-ownership in the promotion of regional cooperation, strengthening equal footing governance and translating it into projects to deliver concrete benefits for the citizens of the region. Therefore, the UfM Secretariat aims to identify, screen, process, brand and promote regional and transnational projects in the six priority areas identified by the Paris Declaration, ensuring appropriate coordination and links with, and provide assistance to, the various interested partners.

---

<sup>1</sup> Austria, Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Palestinian Authority, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom



## ▪ ABOUT THE EIB

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the European Union's financing institution. Its shareholders are the 27 Member States of the Union. Its subscribed capital is EUR 232.4 billion and it has a AAA credit rating. The EIB's Board of Governors is composed of the Finance Ministers of these States.

The EIB is active both within and outside the European Union. The bulk of its lending is for projects in the Member States to support development and integration policies. Outside the EU the EIB is active in over 150 countries (the pre-accession countries of South-East Europe, the Mediterranean partner countries, the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, Asia and Latin America, and Russia and other neighbors to the East), working to implement the financial pillar of EU external cooperation and development policies (private sector development, infrastructure development, security of energy supply, and environmental sustainability).

The EIB is the Mediterranean region's main financial partner, with more than EUR 10 billion invested since 2002.

The Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership is its financial arm in the region. In October 2008, the EIB was asked by the Euro-Mediterranean finance ministers at a meeting in Luxembourg to support three priority initiatives of the UfM, namely cleaning up the Mediterranean Sea, the Mediterranean Solar Plan and land and sea motorways.

At the ECOFIN Council/FEMIP joint ministerial meeting that followed the Paris Summit (held on 7 October 2008 in Luxembourg) the Euro-Mediterranean finance ministers expressed their satisfaction with the active role played by the EIB in supporting three of the six priority initiatives of the UfM. Through the FEMIP Trust Fund, the EIB also provides support for the Mediterranean Business Development Initiative, another of the UfM's priority projects.

The EIB raises the resources it needs to finance its lending activities by borrowing on the capital markets, mainly through public bond issues. Its AAA credit rating enables it to obtain the best terms on the market. As a not-for-profit institution, the EIB passes on this advantage in the terms it offers to the beneficiaries of its loans in both the public and private sectors.

The EIB works closely with the other EU institutions, especially the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission. The European Investment Fund is a subsidiary of the EIB.

Press contacts:

UfMS- Lina W. Abu Rous, [lina.aburous@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:lina.aburous@ufmsecretariat.org) + 34 692975580

EIB - Anne-Cécile Auguin, [a.auguin@eib.org](mailto:a.auguin@eib.org) +352 43 79 - 83330 +352 621 36 19 48