

Mediterranean Infrastructure Challenges: The Potential of Public-Private Partnerships

Joint Statement

Conclusions of the 9th FEMIP Conference, 30 May 2011, Casablanca, Morocco

Mindful of the potential for regional initiatives to promote PPPs in the Mediterranean region, the participants recognized:

1. The importance of access to high quality infrastructure services to improve citizens' quality of life and regional competitiveness of Mediterranean Partner Countries;
2. The mutual benefit for the public and private sectors in bringing together their financial, management and technical resources to improve the supply, provision and maintenance of infrastructure facilities and services, in particular in those sectors where continuing government oversight and ownership is desirable.
3. The progress made by Mediterranean Partner Countries in improving their legal and financial readiness in order to facilitate the successful implementation of current and planned PPP programmes.
4. The benefits of sharing successful experiences and lessons learned in the development of PPP among countries in the region, both to improve the efficiency of public services and deliver the expected economic and social returns.

They invited Mediterranean Partner Countries to:

5. Assess and review their PPP legal and financial readiness and enhance, as appropriate, the legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks as well as the financial environment required to meet the funding needs of PPP projects;
6. Strengthen expertise on the processes and procedures for implementing PPP programmes and projects.
7. Reinforce, especially with the engagement of existing PPP units, regional cooperation and knowledge sharing on PPP issues.

The European Investment Bank and its partners expressed their commitment to:

8. Increase their support to Partner Mediterranean Countries, in meeting infrastructure development challenges through financial and technical support, particularly for the implementation of pilot projects, and for the EIB and other EU partners with particular attention to the European Commission and European External Action Service Communication 2011-303 entitled "A new response to a changing Neighbourhood".
9. Continue providing technical support to help increase the PPP legal and financial readiness of the Partner Mediterranean Countries including PPP policy framework formulation, legal reform, institutional strengthening, and increased capital availability for infrastructure development.
10. Assist Mediterranean Partner Countries, on a mutually agreed basis, in their capacity-building programmes; and
11. Strengthen regional and interregional cooperation in the development of PPP through network arrangements aimed at promoting the exchange of experiences.