

€ 91.9 million to the Mediterranean region with the 2010 Regional Action Programme

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The European Commission allocates € 91.9 million in new regional programmes for its neighbours from the Mediterranean

€ 91.9 million has been allocated to the Mediterranean region with the 2010 Regional Action Programme which will be adopted by the European Commission in July 2010. Nine regional projects and programmes will be financed in a wide range of domains such as Transport, Environment, Confidence Building Measures, Business Financing, Justice and Home Affairs. These new projects come as an addition to ongoing activities in the aforementioned as well as other policy domains.

The following programmes and projects will be financed with the 2010 Regional Action Programme:

- The "Partnership for Peace" project (€ 10 million) aims to promote communication and mutual understanding in the Middle East Peace Process. It supports initiatives designed to rebuild mutual trust through reconciliation, build capacity for conflict resistance, empower marginalized parties and launch joint development policies and strategies.
- The "EuroMed Road, Rail and Urban Transport" (€ 5 million) and "EuroMed Aviation II" (€ 4 million) projects aim to improve transport efficiency and effectiveness while making transport more sustainable. The "EuroMed Road, Rail and Urban Transport" project targets the terrestrial transport modes (road, rail and urban transport) while the "EuroMed Aviation II" promotes the emergence of a EuroMed Common Aviation Area and an open and secure aviation market in the Mediterranean Partner Countries.
- The "Euromed Programme on Sustainable Water Management and de-pollution of the Mediterranean" (€ 15 million) intends to promote an extensive dissemination of sustainable water management policies and practices in the region in the context of increasing water scarcity. It will address four interlinked issues (water governance, water and climate change, water financing and water demand management) and three sources of pollution (municipal waste, municipal wastewater, industrial emissions) while supporting the initiative for the de-pollution of the Mediterranean.

- The project "Support to the FEMIP – Facilité euro-méditerranéenne d'investissement et de partenariat" (€ 32 million this year) aims to provide, through the European Investment Bank, capital to the private sector. It will support private sector ventures and strengthen the role of the local financial sector.
- The projects "Euromed Migration III", "Euromed Police III" and "Euromed Justice III" address Justice and Home Affairs issues. These projects intend to foster cooperation on police, migratory and judicial issues between the ENPI South partner countries and EU countries and ENPI South partner countries themselves, and to strengthen the rule of law and human rights respect in these countries.
- The ENPI-South Global Allocation will ensure quick commitments on small actions and projects and enable the European Commission to act with flexibility. Among many others, it finances the regional Ministerial Conferences.

Background Information:

EU relations with the countries of the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East are now directed by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Within this framework, the programmes for regional co-operation tackle challenges with a regional dimension and promote interstate co-operation on issues of mutual interest. The actions identified in this Regional Action Programme result from the conclusions of the Euromed Ministerial Conferences which were held in the various cooperation areas and/or are the continuation of previous EC regional programmes.

The 2010 Annual Action Programme for the Southern partners is a document which describes the new regional programmes and projects financed by the European Union under the 2010 budget. It covers the Southern countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy, namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Territories, Syria and Tunisia.

Further information on Regional co-operation for the southern region:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-south/sustainable/index_en.htm



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