



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION - PRESS RELEASE

### **Commission grants funding for new transport, business and cultural projects in Mediterranean region**

Brussels, 29 July 2011 – The European Commission has allocated EUR 72.79 million to the Mediterranean Neighbourhood region with the adoption of the second part of the 2011 Regional Action Programme. Six regional projects and programmes will be financed in a wide range of areas, such as peace-building, transport, business financing, information society and inter-cultural dialogue. These new projects come in addition to ongoing regional activities. Financing will also be provided to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean.

The following programmes and projects will be financed:

- The "Partnership for Peace" project (EUR 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 Transport SafeMed III" (EUR 3 million) project aims to support the reinforcement of the maritime administrations in the Mediterranean partner countries. Relevant international organisations (such as the International Maritime Organisation) as well as EU bodies (European Maritime Safety Agency) will be involved.
- The project "Support to the FEMIP – Euro-Mediterranean Facility for Investment and Partnership" (EUR 32 million) 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 second phase of the "EUMERegNet" project (EUR 3.79 million) aims to further improve the mutually beneficial Information Society cooperation between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries and build on the achievements of previous programmes.
- The third phase of support to the "Anna Lindh Foundation" (EUR 7 million) will help to promote knowledge, mutual respect and intercultural dialogue between the people of the Mediterranean, and to engage Euro-Mediterranean societies in building and implementing the Foundation's activities.
- The ENPI-South Global Allocation (EUR 17 million) will ensure quick commitments on small projects and enable the European Commission to act with flexibility. It finances the regional Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conferences and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, amongst others; thereby reaffirming the Commission's determination to support this important institution in launching concrete projects for the benefit of the people of the Mediterranean.

*More follows*

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## **Background Information**

EU relations with the countries of the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East are directed by the European Neighbourhood Policy. 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 Euro-Med Ministerial Conferences which were held in the various cooperation areas and are the continuation of previous EU regional programmes.

The 2011 Annual Action Programme for the Southern partners describes the new regional programmes and projects financed by the European Union under the 2011 budget. It covers the Southern countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria and Tunisia.

## **For more info**

On Regional Cooperation:

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-south/sustainable/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-south/sustainable/index_en.htm)

On the European Neighbourhood Policy:

[http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm)