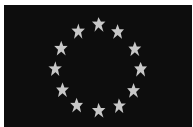


INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **EU foreign ministers discussed the cartoons issue and the Middle East Peace Process at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (27 February).** In its conclusions, the Council expressed concern with the events that followed the publication of cartoons in European media. It backed freedom of expression and strongly condemned all violent acts and threats, while at the same time acknowledging and regretting that they were considered offensive and distressing by Muslims all over the world. The ministers will actively promote dialogue, mutual understanding and respect through all existing mechanisms including the Barcelona process and the Anna Lindh Foundation. On the situation in the Middle East the Council was briefed by the High Representative on his visit to Israel and the West Bank. The EC's intention to provide emergency assistance was endorsed. For more information go to the Council conclusions:
http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/88541.pdf (original version)
- **European Parliament political group EPP-ED says religious mockery must be criticised, but violence is no means for resolving conflicts (23 February).** EPP-ED invited the Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa and ambassadors to a dinner debate at the European Parliament. For more information on the discussion go to: <http://www.epp-ed.org/Press/showpr.asp?PRControlDocTypeID=1&PRControlID=4594&PRContentID=8332&PRContentLG=en>
- **The European Commission unveiled a package worth over 120 million euros for the Palestinians (27 February).** This money is aimed to help meet Palestinian population's basic needs, such as adequate public services in the fields of electricity and water and provide emergency relief through UNRWA. Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner said this money will help alleviate hardship and relieve the pressure on the caretaker government's finances. It also authorised the partial release of resources from the World Bank Trust Fund. In the meantime, the EC is closely following the political developments in the Palestinian Territories. For details click on:
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/235&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
- **Frank and open discussion between Ahmed Ouyahia and President Barroso during the Algerian Prime Minister's visit to Brussels, on February 22, 2006.** The discussion between the Algerian Prime Minister, Ahmed Ouyahia, and President Barroso took place in a frank and open atmosphere, focusing on three key issues: trade, energy (for which a strategic dialogue framework will be developed based on the model used for other partner countries), and the Association Agreement to which the Algerian Prime minister confirmed his strong support for implementation. President Barroso expressed the wish to relaunch talks between the European Union and Algeria. He stressed that the events linked to the publication of the Danish cartoons in the European media demonstrate the need for discussion based on mutual understanding, and since the two sides of the Mediterranean are closely interdependent, common problems, require common solutions.



PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS

➤ **LAUNCHING OF A PROGRAMME FOR THE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON**

The General Commissioner of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East), Karen Abu Zayd, the Director of UNRWA, Richard Cook, and the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Lebanon, Ambassador Patrick Renauld, participated on 23 February, at Sibline, in the launching of an education programme intended to improve access to employment for the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. This project, financed by the European Union (€ 15,000,000) in the framework of the MEDA programme, aims at facilitating access to employment through the improvement of the education system provided by UNRWA in its network of primary and secondary schools in Lebanon. This new programme will further access to knowledge in different ways so as to reduce school failure and drop-out rates, and enhance the teaching skills of UNRWA teachers.

➤ **CONFERENCE IN ROME ON 7-8 MARCH 2006 TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE ENPI CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMMES**

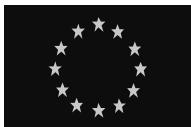
The future European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) should have a strong cross-border component (CBC) supporting economic and social cohesion as well as external policy objectives. In the perspective of drafting the "ENPI CBC Strategy Paper", the EC has launched a consultation process with the EU Member States and Partner Countries. At the initiative of the EC, INTERACT Point Managing Transition and External Cooperation (INTERACT MT) is therefore organising a conference in Rome on 7-8 March 2006, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. This conference aims to present to the ENPI stakeholders the proposed programming framework and the main elements of the CBC strategy for ENPI. The participants will also be provided with an overview of the implementing rules as well as the necessary elements for kicking off the process of preparation of the Joint cross border co-operation programmes.

➤ **MEETING OF THE MAGHREB ELECTRICITY TECHNICAL GROUP ON APRIL 7TH, 2006 IN BRUSSELS**

In cooperation with DG AIDCO, DG TREN organises the first meeting of the MAGHREB Electricity technical group for April 7th, 2006 in Brussels, as part of the regional Neighbourhood Energy programme which includes an element aimed at creating an integrated electricity market between three North African countries, (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia), and the European Union. This meeting will allow all parties to review project implementation, notably concerning the recruitment of technical assistance and to discuss the themes of the Energy Regulators' Conference organised by the Italian government in Rome on May 29th, 2006.

➤ **SIA-EMFTA : PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL REPORT FOR PHASE 2**

The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Barcelona in November 1995 set the year 2010 as the target date for the gradual establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (EMFTA). An independent sustainability impact assessment (SIA) study of EMFTA carried out by an external consultant, is expected to help the European Commission and its Partners to examine the potential impacts of agreed trade measures on sustainable development, to influence the content of negotiations and the specific features of trade regimes in different sectors, and to develop and put in motion mitigation and enhancement measures where appropriate. The Phase 2 report of this study has



been published a few months ago and generated a number of comments and recommendations from various sections of the Civil Society and from the EC.

An additional presentation of this report to civil society and a discussion on the next steps will take place in a meeting organised by DG TRADE in Brussels on 20 March 2006, one day before the opening of the EU TRADE SIA Stocktaking Conference.

Based on the SIA findings and the comments and recommendations received, the Commission will define priority areas on which the SIA should concentrate under Phase 3, with particular consideration for the most sensitive sectors and the related mitigation and enhancement measures that might be deployed. The announcement of this civil society meeting will be circulated soon through DG Trade usual channels. In the meantime, should you wish to obtain additional information, please contact Manuela GELENG at the following address: Trade-civilsociety@cec.eu.int

For further information on the Phase 2 report and the SIA-EMFTA undertaking as a whole, please visit the following website: <http://www.sia-trade.org/emfta/en/index.shtml>

MISCELLANEOUS

➤ **LAUNCHING OF A MASTER IN EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS BY THE NETWORK OF MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS**

In 2002–2004, thanks to a grant from the European Commission (under the EU INTERREG IIIB MEDOCC Programme), the Network of Mediterranean Universities and other Academic Institutions Network has been established. A Master in Euro-Mediterranean Affairs (MEMA) has been designed as a result of the activities of this network. It aims at training new leaders in Euro-Mediterranean affairs. At present, this network is self-funded, directly or indirectly, by a number of public and private institutions. The Master Programme, contributing to the further integration of Europe and the Southern & Eastern Mediterranean, will start its first session on 3rd July 2006. The deadline for applications for enrolment is the 6th March 2006, however late applications may be accepted in order to fill up all available positions.

For further information, please visit the following website: <http://www.maem-mema.org/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Mediterranean Partners

Technical Assistance to the Israeli-Palestinian Transport Cooperation Programme - Israel West Bank and Gaza Strip

Reference: EuropeAid/122303/C/SER/Multi

Budget EUR: 1900000

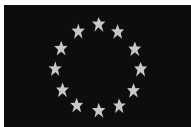
Status: Open (until 24.03.2006)

Call for Proposals MED-PACT - Local Authorities Partnership Programme in the Mediterranean

Reference: EuropeAid/122713/C/ACT/Multi

Budget EUR: 4800000

Status: Open (until 02.06.2006)



SERVICE PROCUREMENT NOTICE ALF/2006/Service/1**International Open Tender Procedure:****Call for Applications**

Technical Assistance for Organization of Missions and Events

Deadline 28 February 2006

<http://www.euromedalex.org/En/CallForApplications.htm>

SERVICE PROCUREMENT NOTICE ALF/2006/Service/2

Framework Contract for Printing assignments, Alexandria, Egypt:

Call for Applications

APPLICATION FORM SERVICE/2:

Deadline 28 February 2006

<http://www.euromedalex.org/En/CallForApplications.htm>

SERVICE PROCUREMENT NOTICE ALF/2006/Service/3

Framework Contract for Translation assignments, Alexandria, Egypt:

Call for Applications

APPLICATION FORM SERVICE/3:

Deadline 28 February 2006

<http://www.euromedalex.org/En/CallForApplications.htm>

Algeria

**Acquisition d'équipements de reprographie et audiovisuel destinés aux écoles de formation de la
Sûreté Nationale d'Alger d'Annaba et de Sidi Bel Abbes.**

Reference: EuropeAid/116491/D/SUP/DZ

Status: Open (until 26.03.2006)

Equipements et materiels scientifiques destines aux laboratoires de police scientifique

Reference: EuropeAid/117163/D/SUP/DZ

Status: Open (until 26.03.2006)

Programme d'appui au développement socio-économique local dans le Nord-Est de l'Algérie.

Reference: EuropeAid/122849/M/WKS/DZ

Status: Open (until 06.05.2006)

Programme d'appui au développement socio-économique local dans le Nord-Est de l'Algérie.

Reference: EuropeAid/122850/M/WKS/DZ

Status: Open (until 14.05.2006)

Programme d'appui au développement socio-économique local dans le Nord-Est de l'Algérie.

Reference: EuropeAid/122851/M/WKS/DZ

Status: Open (until 06.05.2006)

Programme d'appui au développement socio-économique local dans le Nord-Est de l'Algérie

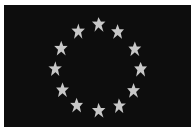
Reference: EuropeAid/122852/M/WKS/DZ

Status: Open (until 06.05.2006)

Programme d'appui au développement socio-économique local dans le Nord-Est de l'Algérie.

Reference: EuropeAid/122853/M/WKS/DZ

Status: Open (until 06.05.2006)



Egypt

Furniture Equipment Supplies for Girls? Friendly Schools

Reference: EuropeAid/122359/D/SUP/EG

Status: Open (until 03.04.2006)

Israel

Publication of Studying in Europe Brochure

Reference: EuropeAid/122841/L/SER/IL

Budget EUR: 15000

Status: Open (until 29.03.2006)

Jordan

Institutional Strengthening of the Capital Market Institutions Of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Reference: EuropeAid/122366/D/SER/JO

Budget EUR: 2500000

Status: Open (until 12.03.2006)

Support to the implementation of the Water Services Management Programme Al Meyyah

Reference: EuropeAid/122413/D/SER/JO

Budget EUR: 1175000

Status: Open (until 30.03.2006)

Lebanon

Supply contract for metrology and laboratory equipment

Reference: EuropeAid/122119/D/SUP/LB

Status: Open (until 19.04.2006)

Printing and distribution of quality newsletter

Reference: EuropeAid/122706/M/SUP/LB

Budget EUR: 90000

Status: Open (until 15.03.2006)

Morocco

Fourniture de matériel pour l'équipement des bibliothèques du Ministère et de 44 juridictions concernant les systèmes de gestion documentaire et dotation en documentation

Reference: EuropeAid/121796/D/SUP/MA

Status: Open (until 02.05.2006)

Mise en place d'un dispositif national d'accompagnement des candidats à la migration légale

Reference: EuropeAid/122342/D/SER/MA

Budget EUR: 2438000

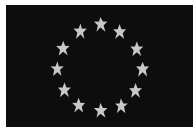
Status: Open (until 03.04.2006)

Appel à propositions pour des actions d'appui à l'organisation d'activités périscolaires aux provinces d'El Jadida Chtouka figuig Khemisset Khenifra Larache Sefrou et Taounate (Maroc) 2006

Reference: EuropeAid/122537/M/G/MA

Budget EUR: 100000

Status: Open (until 05.03.2006)



A.O. n 01/2006/SPEF/PK.

Reference: EuropeAid/122629/M/SUP/MA

Status: Open (until 07.03.2006)

Syria

Supply of Training Equipment for Vocational Education and Training Institutions in Ready-Made Garment and Maintenance

Reference: EuropeAid/122099/D/SUP/SY

Status: Open (until 06.03.2006)

Supply of books for the hiba-eu project Damascus Syrian Arab Republic

Reference: EuropeAid/122236/D/SUP/SY

Status: Open (until 18.04.2006)

Tunisia

Journées du Cinéma Européen en Tunisie 2006

Reference: EuropeAid/122685/L/SER/TN

Budget EUR: 60000

Status: Open (until 13.03.2006)

Appel à propositions pour un jumelage - Mise en place d'un Système d'information Foncière (SIF)

Reference: EuropeAid/122697/C/ACT/TN

Budget EUR: 740000

Status: Open (until 06.04.2006)

Documents: Avis d'appel à propositions (06.02.2006)

Turkey

Supply of Equipment for the Arbitration Committees for Consumer Problems of the Ministry Of Industry and Trade in Turkey

Reference: EuropeAid/121083/D/SUP/TR

Status: Open (until 24.04.2006)

Technical assistance for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs for the alignment of organic agriculture legislation to the EU acquis and the development of organic agriculture in Turkey

Reference: EuropeAid/121154/D/SER/TR

Budget EUR: 910000

Status: Open (until 20.03.2006)

Supply of specific equipment for VET institutions of SVET programme Turkey

Reference: EuropeAid/121717/C/SUP/TR

Status: Open (until 03.04.2006)

Supply of Training Equipment to In-service Teacher Training Centres and VET Teacher training faculties

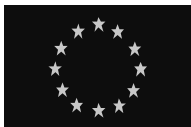
Reference: EuropeAid/122060/C/SUP/TR

Status: Open (until 20.03.2006)

Detailed information on these tenders can be found in the EuropeAid tender database at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

For the list of tenders to be viewed together with all related documents, the following should be entered in the QUERY



form:	1. <MEDA> in the pull down window 2. Status: Open 3. Type: Supplies, Works, Services, Grants (tick everything) 4. Region: Mediterranean Partners 5. Countries: ALL 6. SUBMIT QUERY
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The list of open tenders will be retrieved.