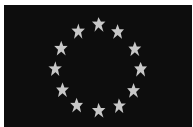


INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Parliamentarians from the EU and the Mediterranean countries agree that a solid dialogue and mutual respect can help to overcome the cartoon crisis, but opinions on the freedom of expression differed.** They discussed the issue during a meeting in Brussels (6 March) during which they began preparations for the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly scheduled for later this month. http://www.europarl.eu.int/news/expert/infopress_page/015-5784-065-03-10-902-20060306IPR05766-06-03-2006-2006-false/default_en.htm
- **Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner stated that through the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) the EU can pursue its geo-strategic goal of expanding the zone of stability, security and prosperity beyond its borders.** She was speaking on the ENP at a seminar organised by the Swedish Institute for International Affairs and the European Representation in Sweden (7 March). The Commissioner also said the ENP can help support neighbours' political and economic transition, and tackle concerns of the European citizens, like energy supplies, migration, stability and security. She underlined that the ENP applies the principle of differentiation in relations with each partner and encourages reform. To read the Commissioner's speech click on: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/06/149&format=HTML&age_d=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en
- **The President of the European Parliament Josep Borrell issued a statement on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March), calling for equality to become a reality.** Progress has been made but we are far from our ultimate objective, he said. In a message from Algeria, where he went on an official visit, Mr Borrell said women in the Mediterranean have a key role to play in the debate on society. He added their participation and involvement is crucial for the development of these societies, something which applies to both shores of the Mediterranean. To see the statement in English please click on: http://www.europarl.eu.int/president/defaulten.htm?press_releases Please note it also exists in French and Spanish.
- **EU High Representative Javier Solana was scheduled to meet the Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelwahab Abdallah in Brussels, on Wednesday afternoon, March 8.** Relations between the EU and Tunisia were on the agenda. http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/sg/88686.pdf
- **EP President Josep Borrell described Algeria as a strategic ally for the European Union and underlined the importance of the Barcelona process,** according to a press release issued by his office (8 March) on his visit to Algeria. In Algeria he met the Presidents of the Senate and the National Popular Assembly, on whose invitation he visited the country. He was also received by the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister. To read the President's speech at the National Popular Assembly go to: <http://www.europarl.eu.int/president/speeches/fr/files/sp0085.htm> (in French only)



PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS

⚡ **EUROMED CIVIL PROTECTION PROGRAMME MEETING ON 14 MARCH 2006 OF SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE BARCELONA PROCESS**

The EUROMED Civil Protection Programme was designed with the ultimate aim of creating a "Euro-Mediterranean Programme for Reduction, Prevention and Management of Natural or Man-made Disasters".

The direction taken by the programme so far has been to increase knowledge and strengthen links between partners through the implementation of a large number of training, exchange and operational cooperation activities.

The Intermediate Euro-Mediterranean Civil Protection Programme currently run jointly by Algeria, Egypt, Italy and France as well as the European Commission and the Council, will be on the agenda at the forthcoming meeting of the Senior Officials in the Barcelona Process, which will be held at the Council on 14 March 2006 in Brussels. This meeting, in which the European Commission will participate, will review all the actions carried out under this programme. At the meeting, it is also planned to begin discussions on the preparation and the content of a more ambitious long-term programme that would enable support and improved information for the Mediterranean populations in the event of catastrophes of natural or technological origin, and to develop solidarity between all the states concerned by developing a real civil protection culture in the event of a crisis. For more information about this meeting, contact: Mr. Philippe NARDIN, Executive Director philippe.nardin@interieur.gouv.fr

⚡ **FIFTH MEETING OF THE PAN-EURO-MED WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF ORIGIN, 16 MARCH, BRUSSELS**

Participants include representatives from the customs administrations and other relevant ministries from all Mediterranean Partner countries, as well as Romania, Bulgaria, the EFTA countries and the Faroe Islands. The working group will address a number of practical issues related to the implementation of the system of pan-Euro-Mediterranean cumulation of origin. For any further information, contact: Luc.Goorman@cec.eu.int

EUROMED MEETINGS

⚡ **EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

The next plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly will be held on March 26-27. For more information visit the website of the EP delegation to the Assembly: http://www.europarl.eu.int/intcoop/empa/home/default_en.htm

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

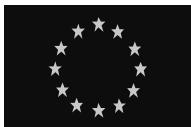
Mediterranean Partners

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)



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 Abbès.

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)

Projet d'appui aux associations algériennes de développement II - Alger-Algérie

Reference: EuropeAid/121917/C/SER/DZ

Budget EUR: 2800000

Status: Open (until 04.04.2006)

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/122853/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/122854/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/122855/M/WKS/DZ

Status: Open (until 06.05.2006)

Egypt

Architectural and Engineering services for the Waste Management in South Sinai

Reference: EuropeAid/122289/D/SER/EG

Budget EUR: 855000

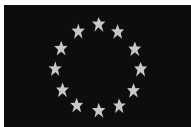
Status: Open (until 11.04.2006)

Furniture Equipment Supplies for Girls' Friendly Schools

Reference: EuropeAid/122359/D/SUP/EG

Status: Open (until 03.04.2006)

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)

Syria

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

Reference: EuropeAid/122236/D/SUP/SY

Status: Open (until 18.04.2006)

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

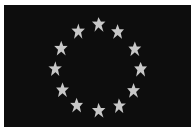
Status: Open (until 24.04.2006)

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

The list of open tenders will be retrieved.