



Euro-Mediterranean Day on Conformity Assessment

5 November 2008, Palais de la Méditerranée, NICE

Instruments for the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area

A day for reviewing and exchanging experiences with a view to extending co-operation projects to the entire area

The “EUROMED” global Euro-Mediterranean partnership includes an economic and financial component that is mentioned in the Barcelona Declaration for the creation of a free trade area by 2010. It includes the harmonisation of practices vis-à-vis standards, testing, conformity assessment and accreditation.

These practices have just been legally consolidated via the adoption of the “Goods Package”, which includes a regulation governing accreditation and market surveillance and a decision on a common marketing framework for products. These new laws have been introduced at just the right time to support current and future actions designed to strengthen the partnership between the European Union and countries of the Mediterranean basin.

The aim of this day is to take stock of the existing means of developing co-operation projects and review the achievements in this field. There will also be opportunities to exchange experiences with a view to extending these co-operation projects to the entire zone and defining a road map for the future.

**Chair: Mrs Nathalie Homobono
Deputy Director-General**

**General Business Directorate at the Ministry for the
Economy, Industry and Employment**

Provisional programme

8.45 Registration

9.30 Opening address: **Mrs Nathalie Homobono**, Deputy Director-General of the General Business Directorate

The co-operation policy with countries of the Mediterranean area – one of the priorities of the French Presidency

9.40 The European context: **Mrs Alexandra Jour-Schroeder** (Head of Unit I. 2 at the DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission)

The creation of a free trade area with countries of the Mediterranean basin is an integral part of the European Union’s neighbourhood policy.

9.50 Conformity assessment and free movement: **Mr. Jean Marc Le Parco** (Interministerial Delegate for Standards)

How the conformity assessment system, based on standardisation and regulated by accreditation, contributes to the construction of the Internal Market. The contribution of the European system to the creation of a free trade area designed to guarantee safety and equity. Issues at stake for Europe and its partners in the global consensus.



**Co-operation with the European Union:
Issues at stake and expectations of countries of the Mediterranean
basin:**

10.10 Steps towards establishing the bases for co-operation:
Mr. Hassan Shaarawi (Egyptian Ministry for Trade and Industry)

Identification of the sectors affected by co-operation with the European Union, along with the existing technical and administrative structures. Definition of technical and administrative support needs in relation to the drafting of a co-operation file. Creation of a technical and administrative partnership with the Member States in conjunction with the Commission.

10.20 Starting up a twinning partnership project:
Mr. Hilia Bouselham (Moroccan Ministry for Trade, Industry and New Technologies)
Establishment of contacts with European partners. How to identify and raise the awareness of the local economic operators concerned. Creation and launch of an operational programme.

**Conformity assessments, standardisation and accreditation:
Cornerstones of the free movement of goods**

10.40 Conformity assessment as the basis for recognition agreements:
Mr. Guy Jacques (Vice-President of Eurolab)
The vital role of conformity assessment in ensuring that the common voluntary or statutory reference frameworks to which the parties have agreed are actually applied.

10.55 Standards and consensual technical references for measuring the equivalence of the quality and safety standards of the products traded: **Mrs Rose Newton** (International Standardisation Manager – Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) – United Kingdom)
The importance of standardisation in facilitating understanding and boosting the confidence of trade partners.

11.10 Accreditation - the backbone of the assessment system: **Mr. Lorenzo Thione** (President of European Co-operation for Accreditation)
Confidence in trade relies on conformity assessment bodies providing a consistent quality of services. Accreditation, which appraises the skills and impartiality of these bodies, promotes confidence, which is a prerequisite for the involvement of the different stakeholders (companies, consumers, public authorities, etc.). What role does accreditation play in the process?

11.25 Break

11.45 *Round table discussion moderated by Mr. Serge Arondel (General Business Directorate) with the participants: The contribution of conformity assessment to the economic and political issues and objectives of Euro-Mediterranean exchanges.*

13.00 Lunch



Co-operation initiatives between the European Union and countries of the Mediterranean basin

14.30 Technical and financial assistance proposed by the European Union

Mrs Evelyne Hani (DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission)

Different instruments to support the development of co-operation and strengthen the Euro-Mediterranean partnership policy with a view to creating a free trade area.

First-hand accounts of co-operation initiatives

Joint presentations: Member State / candidate country

14.45 Experience of setting up a twinning project: example of the Jordan / Germany twinning project. Development of Quality and market surveillance infrastructures.

The Jordanian experience and application: **Mrs Rula Madanat** (Deputy Director of the Jordan Institute for Standards and Metrology - JISM)

Assistance and support of the partner Member State: **Mr. Hans Ulrich Mittmann** (former Head of the Department of Technological Operations at the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing - BAM - Germany)

15.15 Experience of the implementation of twinning: example of the Tunisia / France twinning project
Preparation of mutual recognition agreements for conformity assessments and the acceptance of industrial products

Awareness-raising and the assistance of Tunisia: **Mrs Noura Laroussi** (Director-General of Industrial Strategies, Tunisian Ministry for Industry and Energy)

Assistance and support of the Partner Member State: **Mr. Marc Lescure** (Technical Director of the French Central Laboratory for Electrical Industries- LCIE - France)

15.45 Break

16.00 *Round table discussion moderated by **Mr. Serge Arondel** (General Business Directorate) with the participants: Consolidation of experience gained and extension of partnerships. Prospects and exploration of a road map leading to the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area.*

16.45 Closing address by **Mrs Nathalie Homobono** (Deputy Director-General of the General Business Directorate)

17.00 Cocktail reception



Hôtel du Palais de la Méditerranée

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Getting there

From the airport

The Palais de la Méditerranée is situated approximately 6km from Nice International Airport - NCE. Taxis are available at the terminal exit. Check that the meter is working or agree on a price in advance.

By train

The Nice Ville station is situated on Avenue Thiers, just over one kilometre from the coast and the Palais de la Méditerranée. A ten-minute taxi-ride will take you straight to the hotel.

By bus

Bus route no. 23 serves the airport, city centre and the railway station. Buses are the most recommended form of transport in the city.

Parking

An underground car park is available at the hotel at a daily cost of 30 euros per car. Parking spaces must be booked in advance. Nice has numerous car parks, many of which are for short stays. Traffic is often heavy and as there is an efficient public transport system, you are advised to avoid travelling by car.

