

## Foreword

Dear partners, colleagues and friends, welcome to the third edition of the newsletter of the GO-EuroMed research project. This newsletter comes at a time of flux in Euro-Mediterranean relations. Earlier this year the future of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership was the sub-



ject of an at times heated debate among EU governments. The launch of the 'Union for the Mediterranean' in Paris on 13<sup>th</sup> July places the EMP firmly back on the EU's agenda. We asked Spain's Ambassador for the EMP, Mr.

Sendagorta, to comment on the future of the EMP framework. Meanwhile, the region waits for no-one. As I write actors on both sides of the Mediterranean are struggling to find ways to resolve the political instability in Lebanon.

The third stage of the GO-EuroMed project is in full swing. The consortium recently held a workshop in Beirut, the success of which was due to the excellent work of our partners and hosts at the LCPS. You can read about our meetings in Madrid and Cairo in the following pages. We are currently working on our stage III deliverables as well as preparing for our November conference in Brussels, which will be announced shortly. For further developments, please visit us at [www.go-euromed.org](http://www.go-euromed.org).

*Prof. Dr. Michael Bolle*  
Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence  
Freie Universität Berlin



المركز اللبناني للدراسات  
The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies



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## **The Union for the Mediterranean: a new impetus for the EMP?**

By JMC Berlin

During the French presidential campaign in February 2007, Nicolas Sarkozy launched in Toulon the idea of creating a “Mediterranean Union”. This resulted from the assumption that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (also Barcelona Process) had failed in achieving its ambitious goals stated 1995 and that EU external relations had focused rather on the Eastern European neighbourhood.

Once elected, President Sarkozy further developed his proposal, particularly launching the idea of a union just for Mediterranean coastal states. This caused tough reactions from several EU member states and Turkey, leading to hard negotiations, particularly between President Sarkozy and German Chancellor Merkel. Finally, on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> European leaders agreed on the creation of a “Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean” (UMed), to be officially launched in Paris the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2008. As expected, the European Commission (EC) was entailed to developing a proposal.



Last week, on May 20<sup>th</sup>, the European Commission presented its proposal on the UMed to be further developed until the Paris summit. Although the EC’s initiative has incorporated the UMed into the existing EMP framework rather than establishing any new structures, it contains major changes regarding both, the French proposal and the existing framework of the Barcelona process itself.

First, instead of being a parallel initiative to the EMP, grouping only EU member states with an immediate Mediterranean coastline, the UMed is supposed to represent an upgraded step of the Barcelona process, in which not only all EU States are foreseen to be members, but also other Mediterranean coastal states (Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Monaco), some former EMP observer states (Albania, Libya and Mauritania). Although this membership enlargement enriches the Euro-

Mediterranean dialogue, it also entails major challenges in terms of political decision making processes. Consisting of 44 member states plus the European Commission, the UMed will face the challenge of harmonizing heterogeneous preferences among more actors. For that reason, a sophisticated and well balanced institutional design will have to be agreed on and implemented.

Second, in order to face this challenge and as a mean for improving co-ownership, the institutional governance of the EMP has been further developed. Three institutional innovations have been proposed: a Co-Presidency, a Joint Permanent Committee and a Secretariat. In this context, the Co-Presidency principle seems to strengthen EU’s coherence as it comprises the Council’s and the Commission’s presidencies, as well as EU’s High Representative for CFSP. On the other side, Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) should devote serious attempts towards achieving a coherent bargaining position. Similar to the EU’s governance system, the power of the chair in theory gives MPCs greater room for setting the agenda of EuroMed cooperation and by coalition building on certain issues. Whether this is a genuine chance for MPCs to enhance their coordination will depend on the actors’ willingness to allow the framework to function as it should.

The creation of a Joint Permanent Committee (JPC) and a Secretariat are expected to reinforce the effectiveness of the EMP framework by allowing for greater flexibility and transparency. Involvement on projects’ implementation on a voluntary basis might allow for implementing the reinforced cooperation principle of EU’s Lisbon Treaty. Although decision making in the JPC might become more complex, the very nature of project based cooperation might lead to a long term stronger cooperation by delivering more visible successes. An effective coordination among the secretariat - as EMP project’s clearing-house - and the JPC seems to be a prerequisite for UMed’s success.

Nevertheless, the UMed represents a unique opportunity to streamline existing initiatives and to bring them under a single umbrella. This may present a real chance to resolve some of the confusion surrounding the way in which bilateral efforts under the ENP have been communicated to Mediterranean neighbours.

While the planned initiative no longer resembles the Sarkozy’s original idea for a Union comprised only of countries bordering the Mediterranean, the French President has nonetheless succeeded in returning Mediterranean issues to the top of the EU foreign policy agenda.

### The MPSG Meeting in Cairo

By Andreas Kern, JMC Berlin

The 1<sup>st</sup> Macroeconomic Policy Standing Group Workshop of the GO-EuroMed research consortium has been held in joint cooperation with the Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations (CEEBA) and the German Arab Chamber of Industry & Commerce (GACIC) in Cairo on **7<sup>th</sup> May 2008**, from **10 AM to 5 PM**. Under the label ‘Promoting Shared Prosperity’ the workshop has been aimed at bringing together Egyptian as well as representatives of other MPCs and of the European Union from the public, the private sector and academia.



During the workshop a special emphasis was placed on Egypt’s negotiations with the EU as a benchmark case for Mediterranean Partner Countries and the importance of the Barcelona process for the design and implementation of a sustainable economic growth process in the Euro-Mediterranean region and especially in Egypt. In their key note speeches Dr. Alaa Ezz, Secretary General of the Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations (CEEBA) and Dr. Herret, CEO of the German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GACIC) welcomed the opportunity to host the joint workshop with the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for European Integration from the Free University Berlin, and emphasized the role of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in promoting shared prosperity in the Euromed region. Mr. Abdellatif, Chairman of Financial Advice Corporate Transactions (FACT) and Chairperson of the CEEBA remarked that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership has created a wide spectrum of opportunities for Egyptian and European Businesses to strengthen their cooperation and benefit from these intensified trade links.

In the aftermath H.E. Mr. Michael Ryan, First Counsellor of the Delegation of the European Commission in Egypt emphasized that institutional drawbacks within Barcelona Process have to be addressed in designing the new institutional framework of the Mediterranean Union. Following H.E. Mr. Ryan, Dr. Christian Fahrholz, Jean Monnet Chair for European Integration representing the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for European Integration and the Go-EuroMed Research consortium pointed to the need for deeper macroeconomic coordination between the European Union and MPCs to sustain socio-economic stability and promoting shared prosperity in the region.

### Panel I – The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership – A Macroeconomic Perspective

Chairing the first Panel, Dr. Fahrholz and Dr. Ezz introduced to the importance of adding a macroeconomic perspective in assessing the efficacy of the Barcelona Process in ‘Promoting Shared Prosperity’. Following the introductory remarks, Dr. Nevine Eid presented the final results of the Macroeconomic Policy Standing Group’s first working paper “The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership as a Macroeconomic Anchor”<sup>1</sup>. Dr. Eid stressed the importance of intensifying the dialogue between the European Union and Egypt for sustaining macroeconomic stability in the Euromed region. In the aftermath Ms. Peters presented the latest research findings of the European Commission regarding growth and inflation dynamics in the region. Applying a comparative data analysis on key economic figures among MPCs, Ms. Peeters pointed to the fact that the economic growth outlook is creating large opportunities in achieving prosperity in the medium to the long run, but that this process is object to downside risks, which need to be addressed by government officials on a macroeconomic level. At the outset of his remarks H.E. Dr. Bayoumi stressed the achievements of the initiated reform process in Egypt. He further emphasized the importance of a continuation of mutual trade liberalisation efforts on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea and stressed the importance of economic and political integration across MPCs. In this H.E. Dr. Bayoumi very much welcomed the Barcelona Process as an opportunity for the MPCs to enhance economic cooperation and coordination. In order to reap the benefits of the EMP, H.E. Dr. Bayoumi stressed the need for a stronger commitment of the European Union and MPCs to the assigned goals of the Barcelona Process.

<sup>1</sup> This research paper can be downloaded on [www.go-euromed.org](http://www.go-euromed.org) in the Macroeconomic Policy Section.

**Panel II – Assessing the EMP: A view from Politics, Business and Science**

Dr. Alaa Ezz and Dr. Christian Fahrholz opened the afternoon session, which was labelled “Assessing the EMP: A view from Politics, Business and Science”. In his introductory remarks Dr. Ezz the importance of the Barcelona Process for the Euromed region and for both the public and private sector in sustaining a peaceful and constructive dialogue across the Mediterranean Sea.



Dr. Ezz further argued that deeper integration was not about inventing “new white elephant(s)” institutions, not being prepared for effectively supporting the aim of achieving shared prosperity. Professor Thierry Baudassé and Professor Raphaele Bellando from the Université d’Orléans representing the GO-EuroMed consortium introduced to the role of financial markets in the Mediterranean Partnership. The two researchers argued that although financial market liberalisation efforts need to be further enhanced in the region, the sequencing and speed of reforms as well as the effectiveness of accompanying regulatory frameworks are going to determine the success of these measures. Although the Egyptian government has been trying to further open up its boarders to international competition and enhancing international trade linkages, these measures have been target to scepticism within the Egyptian business community, Dr. Barakat argued in his introductory remarks. In order to address this issue Dr. Barakat explained that the Egyptian government has started to invest heavily into strategies, which are aimed at supporting SMEs, setting incentives to modernize their production processes in order to increase their international competitiveness.

**The Way Forward**

Dr. Fahrholz invited the audience for the final session of the workshop in saying that both Egypt and

Europe follow two views which lead into the same direction, although approaches towards the Barcelona Process might differ across the Mediterranean Sea. Following Dr. Fahrholz’ brief remarks, Dr. Alaa Ezz emphasized that economic and political institutions between the European Union and Egypt already exist and thus new institutions should be created carefully without undermining the functioning existing multilateral and bilateral institutions. Instead participating parties in the Barcelona should concentrate on reaping the benefits within already existing frameworks and thus increase the mutual commitment and confidence into the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. H.E. Michael Ryan, 1<sup>st</sup> Counsellor of the Delegation of the European Commission in Egypt opened his remarks on the way forward by addressing the urgent need to actively participate in the Barcelona Process and welcomed the opportunity to address these issues in cooperation with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt within the workshop. In his response to H. E. Mr. Ryan, Dr. Barakat stressed the necessity of enhancing the ongoing dialogue across the Mediterranean Sea. In this respect both H.E. Mr. Ryan and Dr. Barakat emphasized the opportunities arising from the Mediterranean Union. H.E. Mr. Ryan said that creating and developing the Mediterranean Union represents a large opportunity for



Euromed relations to further improve, but an exceptional challenge for the European Union. The Mediterranean Union is the first joint European institution being created in cooperation with Non-EU member countries. Along these lines H.E. Mr. Ryan and Dr. Barakat emphasized the need for a careful and balanced institutional design, which should enable participating parties to cooperatively achieve the aim of the Barcelona Process to establish a region of shared peace and prosperity.

## Interview with Fidel Sendagorta, Spanish Ambassador for EuroMed Affairs:

By Pablo Gándara, JMC Berlin



### What role does Spain play in promoting peace and stability in the Mediterranean?

Since its accession to the European Communities 1986, Spain has always played an important role for supporting peace and stability in the Mediterranean, either in the multilateral or bilateral fora. Both goals can not be targeted without the integral development in the economic, scientific, technical, cultural, social and environmental area. Therefore Spain strongly supported launching the EMP at the Barcelona summit 1995.

Since then, this process is the multilateral framework for our regional policy, achieving our presence in the region. Against this backdrop in November 2005, during the Summit in Barcelona celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the EMP, we launched a work programme covering its three pillars (political, economic and socio-cultural) and adding a new pillar on migration, social integration and security and justice. Furthermore, we also approved the EuroMed Code of Conduct against Terrorism, which promotes common standards and procedures.

### What will Spain's priorities be during the French presidency of the Council?

The French presidency will post Mediterranean issues at the top of the agenda, especially in the context of the Paris Summit on July 13th for launching the "Barcelona Process: a Union for the Mediterranean". Therefore our priority is to contribute to the success of this summit and support the institutions and common projects of the Barcelona Process.

In any case it is fundamental that the southern partners perceive these ideas as open proposals for discussion, to be developed among all partners in a genuine partnership spirit. The Mediterranean Forum and other instances are valuable platforms for thinking about the new phase starting. No doubt, Spain will remain committed to solve the most challenging political conflict in the region: the Arab-Israeli peace process. It is evident that this problem hampers any cooperation with the EU. Deepening the EMP with our southern partners requires a just, long term peace in the Middle East.

### What is the most important preoccupation of Spain regarding the Union for the Mediterranean?

I don't like to talk about "preoccupations" but rather about chances and ideas to move forward. The first big chance this initiative has brought is putting the Mediterranean again at the top of European foreign policy. Therefore we believe that this political momentum should be used to get concrete initiatives for matching the legitimate demands of our EuroMediterranean civil societies.

Yet it is important that new initiatives will be articulated within the existing Barcelona framework, which since thirteen years has created a "EuroMed heritage" which should not be ignored or undermined. In this sense, we appreciate that the last European Council mandated the Commission to develop the "Barcelona Process: A Union for the Mediterranean". This entails the idea of deepening the process through common institutions like a secretariat and through common projects, especially in the areas environmental development, energy and, most important, promoting the development of SMEs as true motors for job creation in the region.

### Will the Med Union replace or complement the Barcelona Process?

Coming back to the conclusions of the European Council, it was agreed that the Union for the Mediterranean will be a new phase in the further development of the Barcelona Process, keeping its structures and mechanisms. This is a new political impulse towards a more equilibrated governance of the process through a secretariat, a system of north/south co-presidencies, and joint ownership, allowing us to go further than up to now. Against this backdrop I would like to remind everyone of the limited institutionalisation at the core of the Barcelona Process with a EuroMed Parliamentary Assembly in the political basket, a FEMIP facility in the economic chapter and the Anna Lindh Foundation in the Socio-Cultural pillar.

### Do opportunities exist for narrowing the gap between both shores of the Mediterranean?

We have to start with the fact that there is an enormous gap in economic and human development between both shores of the Mediterranean basin.

The income level of MPCs is not even 11,8% of EU's average. The Maghreb's GDP, around US\$ 150 billion, is lower than Spain's although the Maghreb has more than twice the population. Furthermore, in some countries unemployment is about 40% and the regional average is about 20%. Finally, the agricultural sector absorbs about 30% of the regional labour force.

Also, the demographic structure of the Mediterranean partners is very peculiar: whereas in the north there is an aging tendency, the south has a young society. Today, 1/3 of its population is younger than 15, putting an enormous pressure on the labour market. Job creation is therefore a big priority for our partners.

In this sense, Spain and Italy have launched an Agency for Entrepreneurial Promotion in the Mediterranean to be officially presented during the Paris summit on July 13th. Its goal is promoting SMEs in the region, starting with Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt. SMEs create more than 90% of jobs in the region.

The region has enormous investment opportunities as the growing activity in the region of actors like the Gulf countries, China and the United States shows. Sectors like de-pollution and the use of renewable energies can be a major attraction for European and especially for Spanish companies.

a key note on the state of the art in the EMP. He stressed the fact that France's proposal for a Mediterranean Union has launched a vivid debate about the future of the EMP. José Maria Beneyto, CEU at San Pablo University, presented the GO-EuroMed research project, which assembles a team of economics and political science institutes from European Union and Mediterranean Partner Countries.



### Summary of GO-EuroMed Conference in Madrid (20.02.2008)

By Pablo Gándara, JMC Berlin

The 3<sup>rd</sup> GO-EuroMed conference took place in Madrid on 21st-22nd of February 2008. The meeting was hosted by University San Pablo CEU. The conference's 1st day consisted of a public event called "The Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue: a Challenge for the XXI Century". The event was attended by scholars from Spain, journalists and general public, and broadcasted online. Experts from politics and academia discussed at three panels about the future of the EMP. Particularly remarkable was the debate about the institutional future of the EMP in the light of France's proposal for a Union for the Mediterranean. The conference's 2nd day consisted of a GO-EuroMed internal meeting for discussing the way forward towards research on stage 3. Participants agreed on a common approach and on cooperation procedures.

#### Minutes of public meeting

##### 1st Session

Alfonso Bullón de Mendoza, CEU San Pablo University, welcomed participants from European and MENA countries to the conference.

Mark Furness, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at the FU Berlin presented the main results of GO-EuroMed Stage II. Fidel Sendagorta Gómez del Campillo, Special Ambassador for Mediterranean Affairs of the Spanish Foreign Affairs Ministry, hold

#### Panel 1: The Future of the Barcelona Process

During his introductory notes, Miguel Ángel Basteineir, Spanish Newspaper El País, referred to the new Roadmap in the Middle-East conflict agreed in Annapolis in November 2007. Ibrahim Saif, University of Jordan, referred to the goals of the EMP, specifying that people would lose faith if the EMP keeps its modest performance. Bichara Khader, University of Louvain, concluded that although the 1995 committed goals would remain very ambitious, the EMP has not failed.

#### Panel 2: The European Neighbourhood Policy, an opportunity for the Mediterranean?

Hugues Mingarelli, DG External Relations European Commission, noted that although the ENP was originally not designed for the MPCs, it is compatible with the EMP as its key objective is the gradual integration of economies into the EU single market. Mr. Mingarelli noted that the European Commission make strong efforts for dismantling both tariff and non-tariff barriers, assisting MPCs in the implementation of EU's *aquis communitaires*. He further underlined EC's efforts towards liberalizing sensitive products in agricultural issues and towards achieving visa facilitation agreements with the MPCs. Mr. Mingarelli finally noted that in the infrastructure the EU has helped to improving electricity and pipelines connections in the South and East Mediterranean region. However the ENP hasn't been able to shorten the economic gap between both sides of the Mediterranean shore.

Senén Florensa, European Institute for the Mediterranean (IEMed) in Barcelona urged for a 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the EMP based on the design of additional structural funds for the Mediterranean. He asked for a reshuffle of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) funding to the EMP after agriculture will be further reformed due to international prices and multilateral commitments.

Mr. Álvaro Vasconcelos, European Union Institute for Security Studies in Paris, urged the EC to solve the confusion of initiatives like EMP, ENP, 5+5 and MedUnion, which would not contribute to EMP's ownership by the people.

#### **Panel discussion: Recent Developments and Cooperation Initiatives in the Mediterranean**

Bruno Delaye, Ambassador of France in Spain, referred especially to the Mediterranean Union. The Mediterranean Union is based on the concept of cooperation rather than integration and on a variable geography principle. The proposal is not about dividing the UE, but about boosting cooperation with the MPCs. Regarding the implementation, France would be flexible, as the MedUnion is not primarily about a new institutional setting, but about accelerating economic convergence.

Haizam Amirah Fernández, Elcano Real Institute for International and Strategic Studies, noted that the proposal has a strong potential as a new debate about effective ways of cooperation is needed. Gemma Aubarell, European Institute for the Mediterranean (IEMed) noted that the key issues for all cooperation initiatives remain a) closer cooperation among certain EMP countries, b) project based implementation according to realistic plans of action, c) linking public-private sectors, d) linking EMP cooperation with other multilateral donors and initiatives (IMF, Worldbank, US Aid, etc.), and e) inclusion of decentralized networks of cooperation already at work in all three EMP baskets.

#### **Closing Ceremony**

Alfredo Dagnino and José María Beneyto, San Pablo CEU University and Institute for European Studies respectively, thanked all participants for valuable contributions. Álvaro Iranzo Gutiérrez, Foreign Policy for the Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa of the Spanish Foreign Affairs Ministry hold a key note speech on the EMP. The French proposal of a MedUnion should not threaten European cohesion. The Spanish Presidency of the EU in 2010 would reinvigorate the EMP and the MedUnion.

### **News from the GO-EuroMed Partners**

Current Work, Research and Projects

#### **JMC Berlin**

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for European Integration held the 1st Macroeconomic Policy Standing Group Workshop of the GO-EuroMed research consortium in joint cooperation with the Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations (CEEBA) and the German Arab Chamber of Industry & Commerce (GACIC) in Cairo on 7th May 2008.

World leading economist Paul Krugman held a lecture on international policy on 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the Free University of Berlin.

#### **IDEE Madrid**

The University Institute for European Studies at CEU San Pablo University (IDEE) is performing a wide spectrum of activities in relation with research and dissemination of European and International law, International relations and EU policies.

##### *Current research*

Together with the Institute for Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Defence, the Institute is researching in the security sector reform (SSR). The main findings of the research will be published by the Ministry of Defence. The project deals with the new elements that have to be taken into account when analysing security issues. The role of the OSCE and NATO in relation with the SSR or the foreign policy of the European Union are, among others, the topics that will be analysed by the research team.

##### *Events*

Upcoming: The 8<sup>th</sup> of May the University Institute for European Studies will host a Seminar on the relations between Russia and the European Union. Experts and Scholars from the Member states and Russia will meet in order to discuss about the diplomatic and political challenges, energy, security and commercial relations.

##### *Publications*

The main findings of the Institute research projects will be published in two new books on the effects of the potential accession of Turkey to the European Union and the challenges faced by the European Union in the near future.

#### **Sabancı, Istanbul**

He spent three months (15 January-15 April 2008) at Cambridge University/UK. During this period he has been invited as speaker in the Framework of Go-Euro Med Project "(Dissemination) 29 February 2008: "Relations of Turkey with the EU and with the Region\ " University of London, SOAS,

London. 28-29 March 2008 Conference on EU and World Politics\'' organised by CRASSH at Cambridge University. Prof. Yilmaz is currently at the Center for European Studies at Harvard University (15 April-31 July 2008).

### **LEO Orléans**

Ahmed Driouchi went twice to visit the LEO to organise future research cooperation and work on WP13. In March, Isabelle Rabaud has presented a synthesis of WP9 at a conference in Tours on the legal and economical aspects of the externalisation of the EU immigration policy. In May Thierry Baudassé, Raphaëlle Bellando and Christophe Laviaille went to Cairo to attend a meeting on macroeconomic aspects of the EMP, and at this meeting Thierry Baudassé and Raphaëlle Bellando made a presentation on the relation between financial development and sustainable growth. In May, the LEO has invited Nicolas Meisel (Agence Française de Développement) and Jacques Ould-Ouldia (French Ministry of Economics, Finance and Employment) to present their paper on "Is 'good governance' a suitable development strategy?". Isabelle Rabaud and Anne Lavigne will attend the VIIth International Days of Jean-Monnet at the University Mohamed V at Rabat (Morocco) in June.

### **SGH Warsaw**

In the third year of the Go-EuroMed project Poland will coordinate the Working Package 12 which will deal with the issue of Bilateral Institutions. The team of International Security Department will focus on the subject of 'Trade bilateralism between the EU and MPCs'. The aim of this research will be to create a convincing policy advice both to the Commission and to the MPCs concerning their trade cooperation and bilateral institutions that could or should be established. We will search for solutions by conducting in-depth research and analysis of possible and desired solutions considering bilateral institutions in terms of trade relations between the EU and MPCs. In the research we will try to answer several questions, such as: What type of agreement between the EU and the Mediterranean is available? What model of cooperation would fit here the most (advantages, argumentation, and desired features etc)? Is there a regional leader who can help the others in getting better position in the negotiations meeting the Mediterranean interests? Is there a country in the region who would like to open up symmetrically in its relations with the EU? If so what type of consequence we can expect here for the country in question as well as for the region as a whole? and other.

These questions are essential for creation of suitable policy advice.

### *PALM in Warsaw*

On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 the Polish team of the Go-EuroMed (International Security Department, Warsaw School of Economics) hosted second Public Awareness Local Meeting, which aimed to develop the assessment of the Barcelona Process in the eyes of both Polish and Mediterranean diplomats. Invited guest included: First Counselor of the Moroccan Embassy in Warsaw Mr. Abdelillah EL QAISY, as well as the Director of the Department for Africa and the Middle East in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Poland – Mr. Michal Murkocinski. The participants of the seminar included Polish scientists, academics, members of the organizations dealing with MENA region, Mediterranean diplomats from Algeria, Morocco and Lebanon as well as Polish students. The main speech of the day concerned the Meaning of the Barcelona Process for Morocco. Polish diplomat presented Polish stance and role in the formulation of the goals within the process. In the end the participants of the seminar had a chance to try delicious Lebanese cuisine.

### **IEAPS Ifrane**

December 2007 & January, 2008: Participation of Prof. Driouchi to seminars organized by "Laboratoire d'économie d'Orléans"- LEO, France and launching of activities about WP13: GO-EuroMed research (3<sup>rd</sup> stage, WP13).

February, 2008: Advancing in local development research in the region of Chemaïa, Morocco: Meetings of Prof. Driouchi with local operators and representatives for further promotion of the new economic and social platform in the region. Organization of a workshop about the preliminary results of the FEMISE project, the progress of the research and the division of tasks with interesting discussions and papers about the "Interdependencies between Health, Education and Socio-Economic components" in the MENA region. Workshop on "Intellectual Property Rights and Economic Impacts" with the participation of project partners, Ifrane and Rabat.

March, 2008: On the occasion of Women's Day, the IEAPS introduced and discussed the study about the role of education and knowledge in poverty alleviation programs with focus on women that participate to the Azrou Center (A center for community development) in Azrou- Morocco. Participation to the National Committee for Assessment of Economic Research programs undertaken by two laboratories in Tunisia.

April, 2008: Presentation delivered by Prof. Driouchi about "International markets and economic perspectives of agriculture in Morocco" during the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Congress on Amelioration of Agricultural Production in Settat, Morocco. Publication & release of the book *Creative Urban Regions: Harnessing Urban Technologies to Support Knowledge City Initiatives*, edited by Tan Yigitcanlar, Koray Velibeyo and Scott Baum. In this book appears the contribution of Prof. Driouchi under "Chapter II: Urbanization, Knowledge and Competitiveness in Developing Economies". Prof. Driouchi participated to the 9<sup>th</sup> Forum prepared by the National School of the Mineral Industry (ENIM) in Rabat on "Perspectives of Prospective" with focus on different organizations including large public and private enterprises. IEAPS introduced and discussed the current state of the art through a literature review of "Economic Growth, Inequalities and Poverty" to the Council of the Observatory of Human Development, Morocco. Prof. Driouchi animated a four day seminar at the

South Mediterranean University in Tunis (Mediterranean School of Business) about "Business, economic and social practices in North Africa and Mediterranean region" in Tunisia. It is 1200 years ago that Idris II built the city of Fez. A special musical celebration of this anniversary took place in Fez on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. In commemoration of the anniversary of the founding of Fez ([www.maroc1200.org](http://www.maroc1200.org)), the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) at al Akhawayn University in Ifrane and La Fondation Esprit de Fès ([www.espritdefes.com](http://www.espritdefes.com)) are organizing an interdisciplinary conference on 'Fez in World History' on October 9-11, 2008. The conference is mainly focused on exploring the universal and global dimension of the city (history, anthropology, urban geography, archaeology, comparative literature, etc.).

### The GO-EuroMed Project

The Political Economy of Governance in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

The GO-EuroMed project focuses on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, in the context of EU efforts to improve governance throughout its neighbourhood.

The GO-EuroMed project assembles a team of economics and political science institutes from EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries, together reflecting the diversity of a dynamic region. Research aims to identify multilateral, bilateral and domestic institutional design and management strategies for the key trade, investment and labour sectors. The project evaluates growth strategies in the light of key political and social challenges facing the region, in order to produce economically desirable and politically feasible institutional solutions capable of furthering the Barcelona Process' goals in the Mediterranean Basin.

The GO-EuroMed project is cordially supported by the European Commission within the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme "Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge based society".

### GO-Euromed Newsletter

The GO-Euromed Newsletter is edited by the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Ihnestrasse 56, 14195 Berlin, Germany, Tel: +49-(0)-30-838 5 49 66, Fax: +49-(0)-30-838 5 23 57, eMail: [office@jmc-berlin.org](mailto:office@jmc-berlin.org). To subscribe to this newsletter or to cancel it, please contact [www.go-euromed.org](http://www.go-euromed.org).

### Project Participants



Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence,  
Freie Universität Berlin,



Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence,  
Instituto de Estudios Europeos,  
Madrid, Spain



Lebanese Center for Policy  
Studies



Center for Strategic  
Studies, University of  
Jordan, Amman



Laboratoire  
d'économie  
d'Orléans, France



Sabancı University,  
Istanbul, Turkey



International Security  
Department, Warsaw  
School of Economics,  
Poland



Al Akhawayn  
University, Ifrane,  
Morocco