



PRESS LINE ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE

The eighth Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Ministers took place in Tampere, Finland, on 27-28 November. The Conference of Foreign Ministers:

- addressed key issues relating to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership under the chairmanship of Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja.
- reviewed the progress made in implementing the five-year work programme adopted in November 2005
- set out guidelines for work over the coming year which are expected to include:
 - joint work on the fight against terrorism including implementation of the Code of Conduct agreed last year, with a particular focus on the role of the media in preventing incitement and ensuring human rights in the fight against terrorism.
 - liberalisation of trade in services and the right of establishment, negotiations on deeper agricultural liberalisation, regulatory convergence and cooperation to enhance investment to further deepen economic integration.
 - a ministerial conference on energy, with the aim of agreeing on priorities for co-operation to secure security of supply between Euro-Mediterranean partners, promote energy efficiency and conservation.
 - a ministerial conference on migration, which will focus on legal migration, migration and development, and illegal migration.
 - implementing the Horizon 2020 initiative for the depollution of the Mediterranean sea
 - the launch by the Commission of a scholarship scheme for university students from the region and the holding of a ministerial conference on higher education



- start implementation of the action plan agreed by the first ministerial meeting on strengthening the role of women in society in Istanbul in 2006

The working dinner of Ministers focussed on the situation in the Middle East and took place in a positive mood against the background of the public commitment of 26 November 2006 by Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas to a ceasefire. Ministers stressed the importance to consolidate this comprehensive ceasefire.

Speakers at the plenary session tackled issues such as dialogue between cultures, the European Neighbourhood Policy and the related financing instrument, funding issues.

The meeting also discussed the outcome of other ministerial meetings that took place earlier this year, notably in the fields of Industry (Conference of Ministers of Industry (Rhodes 20-21 October), the first Euromed Ministerial Conference on strengthening of the role of women in society (Istanbul 14-15 November 2006), Environment (Third Euromed Conference of Ministers of the Environment (Cairo, 20 November 2006) objective of de-polluting the Mediterranean), as well as the Euromed Ministerial meeting on Economy and Finance/FEMIP, a Euromed Ministerial meetings on Transport and Trade in Marrakech (24 March 2006).

