



MEDITERRANEAN ACADEMY OF DIPLOMATIC STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA



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PRESS RELEASE

TENTH EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION AND TRAINING SEMINAR IN MALTA

The Tenth Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar is taking place in Malta May 11th – 14th 2001. The four days of deliberations are focusing on recent developments in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Process, particularly developments since the Euro-Mediterranean Marseilles meeting in November 2000. This international gathering is bringing together diplomats from the majority of European Union member states and the Mediterranean Partner countries that signed up to the Barcelona Declaration of November 1995. The conference is organized by the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies of the University of Malta, which has been entrusted by the European Commission to co-ordinate this endeavour.

In the last five year the Euro-Mediterranean Process has provided the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies a welcome normative framework for expanding its training activities in the Euro-Mediterranean regional setting. The objectives of the Information and Training Seminar are to enhance the understanding of diplomats from the European Union and the Mediterranean partner states about the various aspects and the functioning of the European Union with special reference to the Barcelona Process and issues pertaining to the Mediterranean.

Throughout the four-day conference academic specialists and other professionals from both Europe and the Mediterranean will present a series of lectures on developments within each of the three chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean Process, namely the political and security, economic and financial, and the cultural and human resources chapters. Particular attention will be dedicated to the Fourth Foreign Ministerial Euro-Med Meeting that was held in Marseilles last November and developments in the Process during the Swedish Presidency.

The underlying objective of this information and training seminar is to improve the flow of information, exchange of perspectives and the promotion of dialogue between the various cultures and civilizations in the Mediterranean area. Furthermore, the meeting also serves as a valuable networking function, as officials attending the programme are all directly involved in the current implementation stage of the Barcelona process. The gathering thus offers those present with an opportunity to assess the state of the Euro-Mediterranean Process more than five years after its launching. Participants will also be able to deliberate upon viable plans of action that will lead to the sustainable and balanced development of the Euro-Mediterranean area.

The Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training meeting also highlights the important role Malta continues to play in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership process. Mr. Anton Tabone, Speaker of the House of Representatives addressed the opening session of the Tenth Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar on Friday.