

ESTRATTO DELLE CONCLUSIONI DELLA RIUNIONE MINISTERIALE EURO-MEDITERRANEA DI NAPOLI

(2-3 DICEMBRE 2003)

5. The Ministers reviewed progress in particular in implementing the Partnership on three specific issues:
- The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly;
 - The future course of FEMIP;
 - The Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue of Cultures.

SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND HUMAN PARTNERSHIP

Dialogue between Cultures

55. The Ministers agreed to enhance the achievements of the Partnership by strengthening the present instruments and regional programmes and, at the same time, ensured the launching of new instruments, principal among which is the Euromed Foundation, which should start to function rapidly and thus become the most visible aspect of activities in this field.
56. The Ministers welcomed the successful implementation of ongoing programmes: Euromed Heritage entering its phase III in 2003, Euromed Audio-visual preparing its phase II, Euromed Youth preparing its Phase III, and, finally, the launching of the Euromed Youth Platform supporting dialogue between youth representatives and governments on policies for young people. They agreed to facilitate the functioning of these programmes. While reaffirming the crucial role of media in promoting better governance, mutual understanding and social cohesion, the Ministers agreed on the need for enhanced endeavour in the audio-visual field and welcomed the ongoing initiatives on media co-operation in the Euro-Mediterranean region, including those promoted by the Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Audio-visual Operators.

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation

57. While endorsing the relevant modalities agreed upon by the Senior Officials, as contained in Doc. de Séance No 57/03 Rev. 2, the Ministers decided the setting up of the Euromed Foundation, to promote the dialogue of cultures and civilisations. The Foundation should become a catalyst for all initiatives aiming at increasing dialogue and common understanding on the basis of the guiding principles for the dialogue between cultures and civilisations agreed upon at the Mid-Term Conference in Crete. Its organisation, at least in the initial stage as a network of networks with a light administrative structure, will allow a regular dialogue, notably between cultural circles outside official diplomatic and cultural forums. Partners

confirmed their support for the launching of the Foundation in ensuring on a voluntary basis that it is granted financial resources consistent with the objective of its successful start-up. The Ministers took note of proposals from some Partners regarding the headquarters of the Foundation and instructed the Euromed Committee to pursue work with a view to a decision being taken as soon as possible.

58. The Ministers took note of the report of President Prodi's High Level Group ("Groupe des Sages") presented in October in Alexandria which should help define the main principles for the dialogue of peoples and cultures in the region that should guide the functioning of the Foundation.