



Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja will be awarded with the “Mediterranean Prize for Diplomacy 2007”

27th November 2006, Tampere

The Mediterranean area can become a place for peaceful coexistence between different religions and cultures only through a long and focused joint actions between political, economic and cultural actors of the two shores and in collaboration with European Institutions, following the great example of Finland during her presidency at the European Union that is now coming to an end.

These are the reasons given by the jury of the “Mediterranean Prize for Diplomacy” in awarding this prestigious recognition to Erkki Tuomioja, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, on the eve of the Euro-Mediterranean conference held in the Finnish city of Tampere.

Today, Michele Capasso, President of the Fondazione Mediterraneo, nominates the Minister for the Prize underlining the important role of Finland in the promotion of the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue through activities such as the Euromed Civil Forum. This event was organized, for the first time in the Southern shore, thanks to the Finnish premiership, on 4th November in Morocco.

In this spirit, the jury of Fondazione Mediterraneo has decided to award the golden plaque of the Prize for Diplomacy to Erkki Tuomioja.

Since 1997 the Mediterranean Prize has been awarded to outstanding personalities such as Kiro Gligorov, Hassan II of Morocco, Hussein bin Talan of Jordan, Suzanne Mubarak, Leah Rabin, Recepp Tayyp Erdogan, Naguib Mahfouz and Juan Carlos I King of Spain.

The Algerian Minister of foreign Affairs, Mohamed Bejaoui, was the last to be awarded with the “Mediterranean Prize for Diplomacy”

The award ceremony will take place in Naples at the beginning of 2007 on occasion of the day of studies on the role of Finland in the promotion and appreciation of the Mediterranean culture.