



Helsinki 14 September 2006

I have the pleasure to invite you to the 8th EuroMed Foreign Ministers' Conference, which will take place in Tampere (Finland) on 27 and 28 November 2006.

The Conference is taking place at a time when Euro-Mediterranean partnership constitutes more than ever the central instrument of solidarity and cooperation between the European Union countries and the Partner countries.

The Conference will allow Ministers to review the work undertaken since the 2005 Barcelona Summit, to propose priorities for implementation of the Five-Year Work Programme for 2007 while taking into account opportunities provided by the European Neighbourhood Policy and also to have an exchange of view on the intercultural dialogue. The Conference will also consider the outcome of three EuroMed sectoral Ministerial meetings organised during the second half of this year, namely on Industry (Rhodes), Environment (Cairo) and on the role of women in society (Istanbul). Furthermore, Foreign Ministers will discuss the working methods of the partnership aiming at enhancing its co-ownership, efficiency and visibility.

One of the common objectives of the Partnership is to enhance the participation of the NGOs to the Barcelona Process. In this regard, the EuroMed Non-governmental Civil Forum will be organised in Morocco prior to the Foreign Ministers' Conference. The understanding between our peoples will be further enhanced by the holding, in the margins of the Tampere Foreign Affairs Conference, of a meeting between the national networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

I look forward to seeing you in Tampere on 27 November.

Yours sincerely,

Erkki Tuomioja
Minister for Foreign Affairs
President of the Council of Ministers of the
European Union

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