

**1. The Euro-mediterranean Summit in Barcelona
and the Anna Lindh Foundation**



Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures
Fondation Euro-Méditerranéenne Anna Lindh pour le Dialogue entre les Cultures
مؤسسة أناليند الأورو-متوسطية للحوار بين الثقافات

First Euro-Mediterranean Summit in Barcelona:

Anna Lindh Foundation nominated as the instrument of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership for the Alliance of Civilizations

Barcelona, 29 November 2005. At their first Summit convened in Barcelona at the tenth anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, the Heads of State and Governments of the 35 Member States welcomed the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures as the youngest institution of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The work Programme approved for the coming five years includes a commitment by all Member States to “support the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation... to improve intercultural understanding through regular dialogue, promotion of exchanges and mobility between people at all levels”. The British Prime Minister Tony Blair, in his concluding statement as Chairman of the Summit, stressed the need to improve intercultural dialogue “through the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation and in support of the United Nations Alliance of civilizations”.

The project of such a United Nations Alliance is a political initiative by the Spanish Prime Minister Zapatero and the Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan. It was subject of a special working meeting, at which the President of the European Commission nominated the Anna Lindh Foundation as the instrument of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership for the Alliance. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, welcomed this proposal as recognition of the first common institution of the Barcelona Process which was established in the South, with its Headquarters in Alexandria, Egypt.

The Summit discussed also recent Parliamentary Resolutions. The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly called on 21 November in Rabat, Morocco, “for more effective coordination amongst all international, bilateral and regional initiatives aimed at strengthening the dialogue between cultures and civilisations; believes, in this field, that a fundamental impulse ought to be provided by the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation, through the contribution of its national networks”. The European Parliament had adopted, on 27 October, a resolution on the Barcelona Process which welcomes the setting up of the Anna Lindh Foundation and invites the Governments and the European Commission “to explore ways and mechanisms for supporting the establishment, strengthening and development of the Anna Lindh Foundation’s national networks in all 35 partner countries, (and) invites the Foundation to contribute to the visibility and co-ownership of the Barcelona

process, so as to give the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership a face at the national as well as at the regional level”.

The Anna Lindh Foundation was established by the sixth Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in The Hague on 30 November 2004 as a “network of national networks”, with one institution or organisation in each country acting as Head of a national network for involving civil society and public institutions in the dialogue between cultures.

During their meeting in Barcelona on 27 November, the Heads of the 35 national Anna Lindh networks agreed on principles of their work, including autonomy and openness to other actors fostering the participation of citizens in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and the task of representing the Anna Lindh Foundation in their countries. Having been nominated one year ago, they welcomed the Barcelona Resolution of the European Parliament and appealed to their Governments and to the European Commission “to renew their mandate or to re-establish each national network by 1 April 2006”, enabled by appropriate resources and supported by capacity-building and training.

Traugott Schoefthaler, Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation: “Three months after entering into our operational stage, we feel encouraged by the confidence placed into the youngest Euro-Mediterranean institution. Our contribution to the Alliance of Civilisations will focus on the prevention of conflicts and clashes between ethnic, cultural or religious communities. We need a new and better understanding of the dialogue between cultures which allows each individual and social group full enjoyment of the internationally agreed human rights. Non-discrimination along origin, gender, race, language, religion or any other belief must be understood as a positive objective of fostering cultural self-determination and the recognition of multiple and dynamic cultural identities of each human being.”

Forthcoming activities of the Anna Lindh Foundation include:

2 December: Opening of the Alexandria Biennale

4-7 December, Alexandria: Roundtable on Faith, Violence, and Intercultural Dialogue; and preparation of an academic network on the Dialogue between Cultures.

11-18 December, Alexandria: Training for the Palestinian and Egyptian national networks in project development and management.

17-20 December in Naples, Italy: Euro-Mediterranean Youth Encounter on overcoming gender stereotyping.

More: www.euromedalex.org

Excerpt of the Barcelona Summit conclusions
10th anniversary of the euro-méditerranéan partnership
27 -28 november 2005

Statement by the Chairman, Mr Tony Blair, current President of the UE

(...)

7) To reinforce and support the efforts of all countries in the region to meet the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the areas of education, vocational training and of gender equality, given the importance of human development and knowledge-based societies to modernisation. To significantly enhance national efforts to meet agreed targets for standards of education across the region, through developing educational systems, administration and management, with a particular focus on creating skilled workforces. In this context partners will increase significantly resources devoted to education.

(...)

10) To act jointly against racism, xenophobia and intolerance, stressing respect for all religions, rejecting extremist views which attempt to divide us and incite violence and hatred, and joining together to promote common understanding. To improve intercultural dialogue aiming at promoting understanding, building on our cultural heritage, including through the work of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures, and in support of the UN Alliance of Civilisations.

11) To strengthen dialogue between governmental and non-governmental actors across the Euro-Mediterranean region, including through the promotion of dialogue between Parliamentarians within the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, contacts between civil society associations, youth, trade unions, business and professional associations and cooperation between regional and local administrations.

The partners recall the application presented by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to join the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership which will be given consideration in due time.

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Education and socio-cultural exchanges

9. Recognising the crucial role of education for political, social and economic development, partners will improve equitable access to quality education in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All objectives. Euro-Mediterranean partners commit to undertake measures aiming to:

- (a) Halve the number of illiterate female and male adults and children by 2010;
- (b) Ensure equality of access to quality education at all levels for girl and boy students by 2015;
- (c) Ensure that by 2015 all children complete at least primary education;
- (d) Reduce disparities in educational achievement between Euro-Mediterranean states under internationally recognised education standards;
- (e) Increase completion rates at the different education levels, particularly for girls and students with special needs;
- (f) Enhance graduate employment through efficient, high quality higher education and greater cooperation across higher education and research.

(g) Increase awareness and understanding of the different cultures and civilisations of the region, including through conservation and restoration of cultural heritage.

10. With a view to contributing to the above objectives, Euro-Mediterranean partners will:

- (a) Increase significantly funding devoted to education in the Mediterranean region through EU assistance and Mediterranean partners' national plans and raise education as a priority sector within the ENPI;
- (b) Increase enrolment rates through increasing the number of schools and rehabilitating existing schools, and by measures to stimulate demand including community involvement;
- (c) Expand and improve illiteracy eradication and adult education programmes across society with special focus on females;
- (d) Expand and improve education opportunities for girls and women, as a basic right;

(e) Work to strengthen the quality and relevance to the labour market of primary and secondary education and training by increasing the effectiveness of the school system, promoting skills, innovation and active self-learning, providing continuous education and training for the teaching force, making appropriate use of educational materials and information technology and e-learning, and through the monitoring of quality assurance, including support for participation in international assessments (e.g. TIMSS);

(f) Support market based reform of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, the involvement of commerce and industry, and rationalisation of qualifications;

(g) Enhance the capabilities of universities and higher learning institutions, including by encouraging networking between them within the Euro-Mediterranean region, and improve the relevance of their programmes to labour market demands and the knowledge-based society;

(h) Introduce a standard of university education qualification transferable within the Euro-Mediterranean region, encourage distance education and electronic communications and promote student exchanges;

(i) Increase access to the internet and create a Virtual Library to increase the accessibility of textbooks, reference books, publications and documents including in the original Arabic and through translating between Arabic and European languages

(j) Support the work of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures to improve intercultural understanding through regular dialogue, promotion of exchanges and mobility between people at all levels;

(k) Work to increase the involvement of civil society in the Euro-Med partnership,

(l) Launch a substantial scholarships scheme for university students from Euro-Mediterranean Partner countries and increase mobility grants for Higher Education staff;

(m) Strengthen youth dialogue through the Euromed Youth Platform and promote youth exchanges.

(n) Co-operate to combat discrimination, racism and xenophobia and to increase tolerance, understanding and respect of all religions and cultures

(o) Enhance the role of the media for the development of intercultural dialogue, including by supporting the setting up of multicultural and multilingual channels and portals.

(...)