

First Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Scientific Research

The first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Scientific Research, will be held in Cairo on Monday 18th June 2007. The conference will be co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Hany Helal, Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research; H.E. Dr. Annette Schavan, German Minister of Education and Research, EU Presidency; and H.E. Dr. Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research. The conference will be held at the JW Marriott Hotel Cairo, Ring Road, Mirage City, Kattameya, and will be attended by representatives of the ministries of Higher Education and Research of the members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (27 EU Member States and 10 Mediterranean partner countries).

The conference aims at examining ways and means of developing co-operation in the field of scientific research, upgrading the quality of higher education and vocational training in Mediterranean Partner Countries, as well as standards of University Education. A joint declaration will be issued at the end of the conference, entitled "Towards the Creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Higher Education and Research Area", which will define guidelines for future co-operation among all Euro-Mediterranean countries.

Education and Research, Technological Development and Innovation are of great importance to all Euro-Mediterranean partners and merit the highest attention in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. This was confirmed by the Five-Year Work Programme agreed upon at the 2005 Barcelona Summit and emphasized by the conclusions of the 8th Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Finland in November 2006.

During the conference, the EU and Egypt will also sign a new grant financing agreement worth €11 million [EGP 85 million] in support of the Egyptian government's Research, Development and Innovation initiatives. Furthermore, the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education will sign an agreement about a new jointly financed short-term scholarship scheme.

On occasion of the Euro-Med ministerial and the signature of the two agreements, you are cordially invited to attend a press conference on Monday, 18th June 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the

JW Marriott Hotel Cairo, Ring Road, Mirage City, Kattameya (Tutankhamun Ballroom).

The press conference will be held by H.E. Dr. Hany Helal, Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research; H.E. Dr. Annette Schavan, German Federal Minister of Education and Research; and H.E. Dr. Janez Potocnik the European Commissioner for Science and Research. Simultaneous interpretation English/Arabic/German will be provided. A press release will be issued on June 18th with the results and conclusions of the Conference.

For more information, please log on to:

<http://www.euomed-erconf.org/> or contact Mrs. Walaa Hassan: Walaa.hassan@tempus-egypt.com