20th November 2011

PRESS RELEASE

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION AND TRAINING SEMINAR, MALTA

The thirty-first Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar was held in Malta between November 11th - 14th 2011. The four days of proceedings took place during the historic transformation that has swept across the southern Mediterranean throughout 2011. The Seminar focused on recent developments in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, now referred to as the Union for the Mediterranean. Particular attention was dedicated to identifying the progress registered in implementation of the Union for the Mediterranean agenda and EU policy decisions towards the Mediterranean that have been taken during the Hungarian and Polish Presidencies of the European Union during 2011.

This Euro-Mediterranean Seminar brought together diplomats from the majority of the twenty-seven European Union member states and the Mediterranean Partner countries that signed the Barcelona Declaration in November 1995 and Union for the Mediterranean partner states. The Seminar was organized by the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies of the University of Malta under the auspices of the European Commission who assist in coordinating this official Euro-Mediterranean confidence building initiative.

Throughout the four-day seminar academic specialists and other professionals from Europe and the Mediterranean presented a series of lectures on developments within the political and security, economic and financial, and the socio-cultural and human dimensions of contemporary Euro-Mediterranean relations.

Specific attention was dedicated to topics that include: The Euro-Med Partnership and the Polish EU Presidency, Perspectives and Prospects for Political Change in the Mediterranean, and development in the Southern Mediterranean. An Evaluation of progress registered to date when it comes to political reforms as a result of the Arab Spring also took place. An Assessment of the main Economic Challenges in the Mediterranean and the Challenge of Good Governance, and the Role of Culture and Media in the transformation of the Region was also discussed.

The Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training meeting for diplomats, or Malta Seminar as the distinguished gatherings have become more commonly known, was addressed on Friday, November 11th 2011 by the Hon. Dr. Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, who delivered the keynote opening address.

Further information on the Euro-Mediterranean Seminars can be found at www.euromed-seminars.org.mt