



Rev.V

**Presidency Conclusions**  
**of the Conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers**  
**of West Mediterranean Countries**

Tripoli 29-30 May 2002

The Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the 5+5 Dialogue met in Tripoli on 29 and 30 May 2002 taking into consideration the results of the Ministerial Meeting in Algiers in 1991, the Ministerial Meeting in Lisbon in 2001 and the Preparatory Meeting of High Officials held in Rome on 26 March 2002. The following presidency conclusions were reached :

The 5+5 Dialogue launched in 1990 was the first regional initiative for laying down the foundations and setting up a specific framework for a Dialogue and cooperation among the party states of the 5+5 Group with a view to creating the necessary conditions for peace, security and stability in the region. It served as an important reference for the multilateral initiatives that were launched in the Mediterranean region, ensuring that the security and safety of the region was a collective responsibility shared by all parties to the Dialogue.

- The Ministers welcomed the promotion of the African Union on the one hand and the promoting of dialogue and cooperation between Africa and the European Union on the other hand as reaffirmed in the Africa – Europe Conference in the Cairo Summit, and welcomed the coming Summit in Portugal on 4 and 5 April 2003.

# مؤتمر وزراء خارجية دول غرب البحر المتوسط

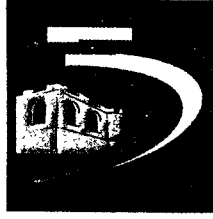
Conférence des Ministres des Affaires Etrangères  
des Pays de la Méditerranée occidentale



Conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers  
of Western Mediterranean Countries

Tripoli 2002 / 5 / 30 - 29 مارس

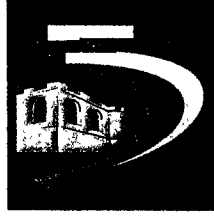
- The Ministers referred to the results of the Lisbon Meeting held on 25 and 26 January 2001 which reactivated the 5+5 Dialogue and reaffirmed their desire to continue to support cooperation among West Mediterranean countries. They pointed out that the 5+5 Dialogue stood parallel to other multilateral mechanisms in the Mediterranean emphasizing the necessity of avoiding overlapping with a view to obtaining a distinctive contribution of views and proposals.
- The Ministers reaffirmed the guidelines agreed upon at the Lisbon Conference particularly regarding the joint commitment to relaunch the 5+5 Dialogue as it represents an added value within the framework of the Mediterranean countries' current initiatives. They noted the importance of finding a real common Mediterranean identity that would serve as a basis for these initiatives, and reaffirmed their desire to realize the objectives agreed upon by all Member States, and commitment to reactivate initiatives for a balanced regional integration.
- In this context, the Ministers expressed support for efforts to give a new and effective impetus to the Arab Maghreb Union and expect, with optimism, the results of the Algiers Summit scheduled for 21 and 22 June 2002. They also expressed their conviction that relaunching the Arab Maghreb Union will constitute an essential and vital contribution for the development, stability and integration of the region and in the Mediterranean region in general . The 5+5 Group will support and reactivate the Arab Maghreb Union.
- The Ministers welcomed the positive results of the Euro - Mediterranean Valencia Conference held on 22 and 23 April 2002 which succeeded under Spain's chairmanship to give impetus to the Barcelona project.



- The Ministers also welcomed with satisfaction the Agadir Declaration on the establishment of a free – trade zone which will contribute to promoting integration in the Mediterranean region.
- The Ministers agreed that the European – Arab Maghreb Dialogue is strategically important for the peace, stability and development of the region .With regard to combating terrorism, the Ministers support and encourage cooperation among countries of the region particularly at the level of the Interior Ministers Conference of the West Mediterranean countries . They also emphasize the necessity of enhancing cooperation in the field of combating terrorism particularly after the September 11 attacks.
- Bearing in mind the challenges imposed by globalization on West Mediterranean countries, the Ministers agreed on the necessity of undertaking serious action for the enhancement and realization of the necessary regional economic integration to attract more foreign investment. They also agreed that such an approach should be supported through the establishment of the Regional Financial Institution endorsed in the Algiers Declaration in 1991 . In this context, the participants expressed support for the establishment of a Euro - Mediterranean Development Bank.
- The Ministers having discussed the question of immigration and human exchange in the West Mediterranean, agreed unanimously to prioritize cooperation in this field . They referred in particular to the necessity of establishing, urgently, the bases for a comprehensive, balanced and integrated cooperation among all countries of the region with a view to confronting this issue in a regular and coordinated way. In this context, the Ministers expressed support for the Tunisian initiative for a Regional Ministerial Seminar on Immigration in October 2002 which represents the first important opportunity to define fundamental and effective initiatives in this regard.



- The Ministers agreed that creating a climate of peaceful coexistence in the West Mediterranean through cultural initiatives will reinforce a common Mediterranean identity and dialogue between civilizations based on common values and roots. An increasing mutual understanding has been recognized as essential for dealing with the challenges.
- The Ministers reaffirmed the agreement in Lisbon to hold an annual ministerial meeting of West Mediterranean countries on the basis of alternation. It was decided to hold the next Foreign Ministers meeting in France as scheduled at the beginning of 2003.
- In conclusion, the Ministers expressed their wish to launch the initiatives agreed upon in Lisbon and which were not implemented for various reasons amongst which were the events of 11 September. They will be implemented during 2002 and 2003 as follows:
  - a meeting in Morocco with the participation of representatives of governments and the private sectors of Member States of the West Mediterranean to determine investment opportunities;
  - a meeting in Tunisia to promote and implement the south-south and north-south cooperation in the West Mediterranean countries in the field of trade facilities;
  - a meeting in Malta with the participation of universities and cultural institutions of Member States on the common identity in the West Mediterranean on the bases of shared values and roots;
  - a meeting on the infrastructure in Algeria;
  - a meeting in Mauritania on the challenges of globalization with emphasis on knowledge and use of informatics and new technology and to hold this meeting within the framework of 5+5 prior to the Geneva World Summit scheduled for 2003 on modern technologies.



The Ministers welcomed the Tunisian government's invitation to hold a Summit for the West Mediterranean countries 5+5 in 2003.

The convening of meetings of sectors in West Mediterranean countries in all fields.

Organizing a Ministerial Seminar on Immigration in Tunis in October 2002 preceded by a Preparatory Meeting for Experts one week prior to the Ministerial Seminar.