

## THE EUROMED PERMANENT UNIVERSITY FORUM OFFICIALLY REGISTERED IN BELGIUM

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ROYAUME DE BELGIQUE  
SERVICE PUBLIC FEDERAL JUSTITIE



DIRECTION GENERALE DE LA  
LEGISLATION ET DES LIBERTES  
ET DROITS FONDAMENTAUX

6/CH/15.584/S

ALBERT II, Roi des Belges,  
A tous, présents et à venir, Salut.

Vu la loi du 27 juin 1921 sur les associations sans but lucratif, les associations internationales sans but lucratif et les fondations, notamment les articles 40 et 50, §1, respectivement modifiés par les articles 282 et 284 de la loi programme du 27 décembre 2004 ;

Vu la requête du 5 mars 2008 par laquelle Monsieur A. MEUNIER, agissant en qualité de secrétaire de l'association internationale «EUROMED PERMANENT UNIVERSITY FORUM», en abrégé «EPUF», à 1000 Bruxelles, demande pour cette association internationale en formation, la personnalité juridique ;

Vu l'acte authentique du 19 février 2008 ;

Vu la conformité du but avec l'article 46 de la loi précitée ;

Sur la proposition de Notre Ministre de la Justice,

KONINKRIJK BELGIË  
FEDERALE OVERHEIDSDIENST JUSTITIE



DIRECTORAAT-GENERAAL  
WETGEVING, FUNDAMENTELE  
RECHTEN EN VRIJHEIDEN

6/CH/15.584/S

ALBERT II, Koning der Belgen,  
Aan allen die nu zijn en hierna zullen  
Onze Gaven.

Gelet op de wet van 27 juni 1921 betreffende de verenigingen zonder winstoogmerk, de internationale verenigingen zonder winstoogmerk en de stichtingen, inzonderheid op de artikelen 40 en 50, §1, respectievelijk gewijzigd bij de artikelen 282 en 284 van de programmawet van 27 december 2004 ;

Gelet op het verzoekschrift van 5 maart 2008 waarbij de Heer A. MEUNIER, handtend als secretaris van de internationale vereniging «EUROMED PERMANENT UNIVERSITY FORUM», afgekort «EPUF», te 1000 Brussel, voor die internationale vereniging in oprichting, de rechtspersoonlijkheid aanvraagt ;

Gelet op de authentieke akte van 19 februari 2008 ;

Gelet op de overeenstemming van het doel met artikel 46 van voormelde wet ;

Op de voordracht van Onze Minister van Justitie,

*The first page of the Royal*

*Decree*

We are pleased to announce that the EuroMed Permanent University Forum was officially registered in Belgium as an International Non Profit Organization on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2008. This process has taken a long time to be finalized and has been possible thanks to all

your support and help. The association's headquarters are at 1000 Bruxelles, rue de la Loi, 227, while the Executive Secretariat has its head office in Carrer S.Pau 4 – 43003 Tarragona – Catalonia - Spain. At present the association is made up of 95 members (universities and networks.)

## THE EPUF'S FIRST YEAR



*The last 12 months have been very intense for our collective project. We have succeeded in turning what was an idea with great potential into a point of reference for any institution wanting to engage in the creation of the euro-med higher education area. The European Commission, the Presidency of the European Union and other EU institutions (such as the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly and the Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions) have called for the collaboration of the EPUF in drawing up the Euro-Mediterranean policy for higher education.*

*We are starting to go along the way towards the ultimate objective of our road map, which is to work for peace and dialogue between cultures. And we want to do this through one of the main instruments society has created for training its citizens: the university.*

*There is a lot left to do, we have just started our ambitious project, but if we join our efforts, nothing will prevent us from reaching our goal.*

*Thank you all for your valuable support and collaboration.*

**EPUF Executive Secretariat**

*Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter! We hope that it will become a space for communicating and disseminating news of our activities and a new way of stimulating ideas, interaction and exchanges. Do not hesitate to contact us for any information you might need regarding members, contacts, projects, etc. We will be pleased to help you!*

## THE FUTURE OF THE EPUF

After the IV Euromediterranean University Forum in Alexandria, the subsequent Ministerial Conference in Cairo (June 2007) and the First General Assembly in January, the EPUF concluded the first and most important phase of its trajectory, whose bases were established during the First Euromed Rectors' Conference, held in Tampere, October 2006.

At this point, just as the association has been officially registered and its position has become more consolidated, two elements seem to be unquestionable.

The first is that the importance of its role is recognized by all relevant agents involved in the Barcelona Process and responds to a need perceived throughout the Euro-Mediterranean area.

The second is that the European Commission and the Member States of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership consider the EPUF as a fundamental reference point on issues related to Higher Education and Research in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

We are now about to start a new phase for the Network that should be guided by the main objective of consolidating EPUF at a structural, institutional and territorial level.

There is also a certain need to "redefine itself" as network and association. Nevertheless, one main topic remains clear: the EuroMed Permanent University Forum is an advocacy organization for the

*"We are now about to start a new phase for the Network that should be guided by the main objective of consolidating EPUF at a structural, institutional and territorial level"*

EC and the Member states of the Barcelona Process, and its main objective is to move forward the creation of a shared Euro-Mediterranean higher education area. The strategy and the mechanisms which demonstrate the efficiency of the EPUF lie in producing and drafting thematic papers analysing the *status quo* of the academic institutions on the southern shore of the Mediterranean and of course through the strengthening of the network. The EPUF could also act as a consulting entity or even as an evaluator for the process initiated, if necessary.

The challenge for every association also lies in its members being actively engaged and sharing the general principles of the network and participating in collective responsibilities. Until now the Working Groups have been a good instrument for achieving this, albeit in an uneven manner.

To keep working together, we propose a redefinition of these Working Groups and their methodology of work.

Following the lines established in the Alexandria Declaration and the road map articulated in the Cairo Declaration, these thematic areas (which fit in perfectly with the EPUF's values) could be used along with the active contributions of all the members to redefine the Working Groups and the aims of the network itself.



*EPUF Executive Secretary, Mr Enric Olivé, presenting EPUF at the Euromed Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, Athens, 15-16 October 2007*

## THE FIRST EPUF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, RABAT, 27/02/08

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2008, the EPUF held its First General Assembly in Rabat, hosted by the Université Mohamed V – Agdal, in its Institute d'études hispano-lusophones (IDHL). On this occasion, and on the day before the Assembly, the EPUF and IDHL organized a Seminar on "Quality in universities in the EuroMed area", with the support of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). The Seminar brought together experts from around

*"The Assembly was an important occasion to get together several members of the network and start working for the construction of the EPUF as new-born International No-profit Organization."*

Europe and the Mediterranean as well as a representative of the European Commission, Mr Luis Delgado, from the DG Research.

The Assembly was an important occasion for several members

of the network to get together and start working to construct the EPUF as a *new-born* International Non-Profit Organization.

The Agenda of the Assembly included fundamental issues such as electing the members of the **new Executive Committee** and establishing **new Working Groups**.

The members of the Executive Committee were chosen following the proposals of the representatives who attended the meeting in Rabat. After that, an election was held and the new members were nominated.

They are:

**President:** Mr Francesc Xavier Grau i Vidal, Universitat Rovira i Virgili

**Vice-President:** Mr Hassan Nadir Kheirallah, Alexandria University

Université Mohamed V – Agdal, Morocco

Université Virtuelle de Tunis, Tunis

Université de Saint Joseph, Beyrouth

Princess Sumayya University, Jordan

University of Westminster, UK

Tampere Polytechnic University of Applied Sciences, Finland

University of Malta, Malta

Università degli Studi di Foggia, Italy

Santander Group

Compostela Group

The Executive Secretary and the coordinator of the Working Groups proposed 6 new thematic areas that will serve as the basis for creating the renewed Groups.

They are:

A) *THE CAIRO PROCESS*

B) *QUALITY: Harmonization and quality assurance.*

C) *EFFICIENCY and Capacity Building*

D) *PARTICIPATION & KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY: Development and promotion.*

E) *INNOVATIVE METHODOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY*

F) *MOBILITY*

Some members of the Assembly proposed also that Prof. Giliberti could follow as General Coordinator of these Working Groups.



*The Institute pour les études hispano-lusophones, of the Université Mohamed V-Agdal in Rabat, where the Assembly was held.*

**EPUF EuroMed  
Permanent University  
Forum**

*If you ever need any  
information about the topics  
treated in this newsletter,  
please contact us at:*  
Executive Secretariat  
URV-Universitat Rovira i  
Virgili  
Carrer S.Pau,4  
43003 Tarragona. Catalonia  
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E-mail:  
executive.secretariat@urv.cat



## CALL FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW WORKING GROUPS.

The Executive Secretariat announces a call for all the EPUF universities and networks inviting them to take actively part in the process. We will gather proposals from all the members regarding which of the Working Groups they want to join so that we can start working on them. Candidacies should be submitted to

[executive.secretariat@urv.cat](mailto:executive.secretariat@urv.cat) not later than 9<sup>th</sup> of May.

In addition, each working group should have two coordinators (one European/one Mediterranean) and each member can

propose a representative for the task. The choice will be then made on the basis of a mutual accord by the Executive Committee. Candidacies should be also submitted to

[executive.secretariat@urv.cat](mailto:executive.secretariat@urv.cat) not later than 9<sup>th</sup> of May.

*It is time to get working: we look forward to your numerous proposals!!*

### NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Group of Experts for the Cairo Declaration

As another result of the good work done by the EPUF during its first year of activities, we are pleased to announce that our network has been invited by the European Commission to attend the First EuroMed ad hoc working group on higher education and research, which will be charged with the follow-up of the Cairo Declaration. The meeting will be held in Brussels on 5th of June 2008. The EPUF will be represented by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Enric Olivé and by a representative of the Vice-presidency of the network, from Alexandria University.

#### Meeting of the Executive Committee

In May after receiving the proposals for the Working Groups, the new Executive Committee will hold its first "virtual" meeting. Following the proposals, the agenda for this meeting will feature the election of the coordinators of the Working Groups. After that, the decision will be communicated to all members.

#### The opening ceremony of the EMUNI

We remind you that on June (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>) the official celebrations for the opening of the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) will be held in Slovenia. On the 9th of July, a Rectors' Conference on Intercultural dialogue will be held. The aim of the Conference is to debate and explore the role of higher education as a key element for human and social development and to propose new routes for interchanges between higher education institutions in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

Having been a member and supporter of the project from the beginning, the EPUF will also participate. On this occasion, there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee to which the coordinators of the Working Groups (who by then will have already been nominated) will also be invited.

Hope to see you then!!!