

EUROPE-MEDITERRANEAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Constructing the Euro-Mediterranean Space: Where are We Headed ?”

Marseille, November 22nd – 24th, 2007

Press release

Institut Aspen France and Aspen Institute Italia organized their last *International Conference on Europe-Mediterranean Relations* in Marseille on November 22-24.

This 2007 conference was dedicated to the topic:

“Constructing the Euro-Mediterranean Space: Where are we headed?”

Europe-Mediterranean conferences of Institut Aspen France and Aspen Institute Italia have for many years provided in-depth reflections on development conditions around the Mediterranean Region, relations with Europe, with other regions in the world, and also the economic and human challenges this region has to face.

As this 2007 conference which took place in the “Mediterranean Economic Week” organized by Marseille’s regional and local governments, the purpose of Institut Aspen France and Aspen Institute Italia was to contribute to the European and international agenda, fuelling discussions on these topics and bringing viewpoints together from both sides of the Mediterranean.

It brought together some forty participants from Europe and the Mediterranean area around the Aspen Table – political, economic intellectual and media personalities – as well as International Organizations’ representatives such as: **Assia Bensalah**, Ambassador, Kingdom of Morocco ; **Jean-Michel Debrat**, Deputy Executive Director, French Development Agency ; **Philippe de Fontaine-Vive**, Vice President, European Investment Bank ; **Bichara Khader**, Professor, Catholic University of Louvain ; **Alain Le Roy**, Ambassador (France) in charge of the Mediterranean Union Project; **Alfredo Mantica**, Senator (Italy) ; **Marialina Marcucci**, President, Nuova Iniziative Editoriale ; **Omar Massalha**, Director, Division of Relations with International Organizations and New Partnerships Sector for External Relations and Cooperation, Unesco ; **Hugues Mingarelli**, Deputy Director General for External Relations, South Mediterranean, European Commission ; **Ayse Nilufer Narli**, President, Department of Sociology, Bahçesehir University (Turkey); **Giulio Pecora**, Deputy Chief Editor, Ansamed; **Juan Prat y Coll**, Ambassador of Spain ; **Nagy Rizk**, The Building Block Equity Fund (Lebanon), **Mark Weiss**, Night Editor, Jerusalem Post, etc.

Ahmed Reda Chami, Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade of Morocco, was the guest speaker of the official dinner offered by Jean-Claude Gaudin, Senator, Mayor of Marseille.

Institut Aspen France is an independent, non-partisan international forum for discussion and dialogue, with Michel Pébereau as Chairman of the Supervisory Board (Chairman 1994-2004: Raymond Barre) and Elisabeth Lulin as President of the Board of directors. It is affiliated with the Aspen Institute in the United States, Berlin, Rome, Tokyo and New Delhi. Its goal is to organize informal meetings between leaders and players from the fields of economics, politics, academia, trade unions, culture and the media so as to encourage better mutual understanding and to gain a better outlook on the economic and societal changes facing them.