

EUROPE-MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

Casablanca – May 28th-29th, 2005

PRESS RELEASE

Institut Aspen France organized an **International Conference on Europe-Mediterranean Relations** in Casablanca from May 27th to 29th, in a partnership with Aspen Institute Italia.

The French partner of *The Aspen Institute* in the United States, Institut Aspen France, located in Lyon since 1994, is an international forum for discussion and dialogue for high-level leaders from the fields of economics, politics, academia, associations, trade unions, the media, etc.

The Institute's Advisory Board is presided by Mr. Michel Pébereau, Chairman of the BNP Paribas Group, who took over from Raymond Barre (Honorary Chairman, Chairman from 1994 to 2004). Institut Aspen France is affiliated with *The Aspen Institute*, founded in 1949 in Aspen, Colorado, whose headquarters are located in Washington D.C. and which is at the center of an international network with other Aspen Institutes based in Berlin, Italy, Japan and India.

The Institute has a twofold aim: to help decision-makers to better identify the challenges facing them by working together to seek out solutions to contemporary problems, and to encourage informal meetings between leaders from different geographical, cultural and professional worlds.

This twofold objective is notably implemented within the framework of international conferences dealing with the main political, economic and societal challenges of our times.

In continuity with the work on the Mediterranean by the Aspen Institutes in France and Italy, the 2005 conference was dedicated to the question:

“Europe-Mediterranean: How Can the Partnership be Renewed?”

Beyond the Barcelona process, and within the new international context that has appeared in recent months, this was a privileged opportunity to take stock and have in-depth discussions on the future of the South of the Mediterranean, the evolution of its relations with Europe and the United States and the conditions for a consistent, effective Euro-Mediterranean policy.

Some forty personalities from the Mediterranean, Europe and the United States, from the fields of politics, economics, academia, international, non-governmental organizations and the media discussed these questions. Personalities such as **Hassan Abouyoub** (*Ambassador*), **Theodore Ahlers** (*Director of the Maghreb Department at the World Bank*), **André Azoulay** (*Advisor to His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco*), **Assia Bensalah Alaoui** (*University Professor of International Law, Mohammed V University Law School*), **Emma Bonino** (*European MP, European Parliament*), **Gianni de Michelis** (*Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, European MP*), **Philippe Faure** (*French Ambassador to Morocco*), **Philippe de Fontaine Vive** (*Vice-President and Member of the Management Committee of the European Investment Bank*), **Patrick Hardouin** (*Deputy Assistant Secretary General, NATO*), **Omar Kabbaj** (*President of the African Development Bank*), **Gérard Mestrallet** (*CEO, Suez*), **Maura Nobili** (*President, Manpower Italia*), **Fathallah Oualalou** (*Minister of Finance and Privatization, Kingdom of Morocco*), **Michel Pébereau** (*Chairman, BNP Paribas*), etc., took part in this conference.

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