



PRESS RELEASE

Euro-Mediterranean Association of Schools of Public Administration (MEDPAN), created in Brussels on 30 November 2009.

On 30 November 2009, representatives of nine Mediterranean Partner countries, together with those of several EU Member States, met in Brussels for the first General Assembly of MEDPAN – the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Public Administration Schools. The creation of MEDPAN is a result of the long-standing cooperation between the public administration schools and training institutes within the EuroMed Training of Public Administrations Programme: a project funded by the European Commission to create administrative capacity in the Mediterranean partners for the implementation of the association agreements with the European Union. Over a time span of six years, with a budget of €6 million, and having 10 Mediterranean Partner countries as beneficiaries, this programme, managed by the European Institute of Public Administration, through its Centre in Barcelona (European Centre for the Regions), has organised over 50 seminars and six regional conferences, as well as training over 1300 civil servants from beneficiary countries.

The newly created MEDPAN Association aims at contributing to the objectives of the Union for the Mediterranean/Barcelona Process by setting up a platform to accompany and support public administration training schools and institutes in the Euro-Mediterranean area, in their efforts to develop human resources towards improving and modernising public administrations in the region. It aims at enhancing cooperation between the various schools and institutes of public administration, as well as between players involved in training throughout the region, in order to foster sharing and implementation of their knowledge and practices.

The first general assembly of MEDPAN adopted the statutes of the Association as well as the 2010 work plan, and also appointed its Board of Directors. These are the directors of the *École Régionale d'Administration* of Bastia (France) as President; and the director of the *École Nationale d'Administration* in Morocco, as Vice-President. The director of the EIPA Centre in Barcelona, Javier Sánchez Cano, is pleased to announce that his European Centre for the Regions will hold the post of Secretariat of this new MEDPAN Association.

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