

Second Euromediterranean Ministerial Conference on Health Cairo 16-17 November 2008

➤ General objectives of the conference

The conference will be the opportunity to advocate for a greater importance of health dimension in the Barcelona process: Union for the Mediterranean.

The conference will aim at fostering mutual cooperation and at developing joint work programmes with a view to strengthen health systems and to ensure effective collective response to common health challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean region such as communicable and non communicable diseases.

A ministerial declaration is being discussed and will be adopted by the participants. The declaration will be the base for the development of future cooperation and projects in the region. Participants will be welcome to propose their priority fields of cooperation/projects.

➤ Themes of discussions (ministerial conference 17th)

The three main themes that will be tackled during the 2nd ministerial euromed conference on health (17th november) are:

- Strengthening of health systems
- Non communicable diseases
- Communicable diseases

These topics will be discussed by the ministers on the 17th and should constitute the backbone of the final declaration.

Considering that 43 countries are part of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean, the speeches of the Ministers/Heads of delegations will have to be limited to 3 minutes.

➤ Workshops (High officials/experts, 16th)

• Themes

The day before, 16th, will be dedicated to the high officials discussions on these issues. The themes have been narrowed down to, respectively:

- «Health systems and personnel in the Euromed region: a common challenge »
- «Fighting cancer in the Euromed region »
- «Controlling infectious diseases in the Euromed region »

- **Participants**

Expected participants are national high officials, e. g. Chief Medical Officer. The same participants will participate to the validation of the final declaration in the evening of the 16th.

The three themes will be tackled one after the other (2 hours per theme). This way, all the experts/high officials will be able to take part in all the discussions. Considering the limited number of delegates per country, it is possible that not all countries will be able to be represented by a high official who is also an expert on the very topic. It is of course up to each country to select the delegates, according to its priorities and availabilities.

The working languages during the workshops will be French, English, Arabic.

- **Objectives**

The objectives of the workshops are the following:

- to review the current situation, the needs, the current actions addressing these needs, possible solutions, **perspectives for joint programmes and projects in the region.**
- to prepare and focus the discussions of the ministers the following day.
- to allow personal contacts between high officials in order to facilitate future cooperation.

- **Moderators**

Each workshop will be moderated by an expert

The role of the moderator will be to start (short introductory presentation) and moderate the discussions.

- **Validation of the ministerial declaration (16th november)**

A ministerial declaration draft has been circulating for comments. A last version has been sent out to the 43 countries by the General secretariat of the EU Council on the 30th October for last comments. Comments are expected until 5th November.

A senior officials meeting is planned in the evening of the 16th in order to formally validate the final draft. As indicated on the program, only senior officials will be able to attend this meeting.

Saturday 15th November 2008

Ministers will be arriving at their own discretion either on Saturday or Sunday
Experts are expected on Saturday evening

Assistance Desk at the Airport
Transfer to the hotel
A Conference welcome desk for accreditation and information
will be operating in the Hotel
Dinner will be provided depending on the time of arrival.

20:00-23:00

Welcome buffet/dinner will be served at the hotel.
(Omar Café)

Sunday 16th November 2008

Sunday 16th will be dedicated to the experts' meeting
Ministers and the rest of their delegation are expected on Sunday evening.

08:00-9:00

Registration and welcome coffee

09:00-09:15

Opening remarks (Egypt, France and European Commission)
(Aida Ballroom)

9:15-11:00

Workshop A : “Health Systems and personnel in the Euromed region: a common challenge”
Experts/High Officials

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

11:30-13:00

Workshop B: “Fighting cancer in the Euromed region”

13:00-14:30

Lunch

14:30- 17:00

Workshop C: “Controlling infectious diseases in the Euromed region”

17:00-17:30

Coffee Break

17:30-18:00	Plenary session (chaired by Egypt, France and Commission): Approval of the final declaration (senior officials only)
<i>Arrival of the Ministers and the rest of their delegation Registration</i>	
21:00	Dinner offered by the French Ministry of Health
Monday 17th November 2008	
8:00-9:00	Breakfast + Late registration
09:00-9:30	Plenary Session (Aida Ballroom) Addresses by the Ministers of Egypt, France and Health Commissioner
09:30-11:00	Report of Workshop A and discussion (Health systems and personnel)
11:00-11 :15	Coffee Break
11 :15-13:00	Report of WS B and discussions (Non communicable diseases)
13:00-13:15	“Family Picture”
13:15-15:00	Formal lunch offered by Egyptian Ministry of Health
15:00-16:30	Report of WS C and discussions (Communicable diseases)
16:30-17:00	Adoption of the declaration
17:00-17:30	Press conference: Egypt, France, EC
19:00-20:00	Culture evening: Light and sound show at the pyramids
Tuesday 18th November	
<i><u>Departure of the Ministers and Senior Officials</u> <u>at their own discretion</u> Transportation will be provided</i>	