

# UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

## THE SECRETARIAT OF THE BARCELONA PROCESS: UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN



(Barcelona, Spain)

## UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (UfM)

The Heads of State Summit for the Mediterranean (Paris, July 2008) decided to create a Secretariat for UfM (Final Statement, Marseille, 3-4 November, 2008)

Barcelona symbolizes the effort made by Europe and the Mediterranean Countries to build a joint future for the Region.

At the Paris Summit, Barcelona was chosen unanimously the seat as of the Permanent Secretariat

→ Final Statement, Marseille, 3-4 November 2008

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## ➤ *The Secretariat should:*

- ✓ Give an impulse to the UfM Process in terms of follow up, promotion of new projects and searching for funding and partners
- ✓ Work in operational liaison with all structures of the process, particularly with the co-presidencies, including the elaboration of working documents for the decision-making bodies.
- ✓ Work as a focal point for projects funding in the framework of the UfM
- ✓ Have a separate legal personality with an autonomous status

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## ➤ *Main Objectives*

- ✓ Strengthen the political level of partnership
- ✓ Enhance the usefulness and visibility that regional cooperation has for the citizens of the Region
- ✓ Develop an institutional framework to make possible a balanced distribution of responsibilities and power
- ✓ Implementation of the six regional cooperation projects that were approved in Paris (July, 2008):
  - Mediterranean Solar Plan
  - Euromed Initiative for business development
  - Terrestrial and maritime motorway
  - Mediterranean De-pollution
  - Euromed Initiative for civil protection
  - Piran (Slovenia) Euromed University

## ➤ *Operational Issues*

The mandate of the Secretariat is of a technical nature, while the political mandate related to all aspects of the initiative remains the responsibility of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Senior Officials

The appropriate Euromed Sectoral Ministerial meeting will instruct the Secretariat to propose the necessary follow-up.

→ The Secretariat will inform the Joint Permanent Committee and report to the Senior Officials

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## ➤ *Statute*

The Statute of the Secretariat will be adopted by Senior Officials on the basis of a proposal to be prepared by a Drafting Group of experts

### Drafting Group

**Co-Presidency:** FR and EG

**European Presidency** (currently SE) **Working in the Secretariat statutes**

**ES** (Secretariat country)

**CE**

**General Secretariat**



**Secretariat Statutes approval is a priority**

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## ➤ *Organization and composition*

*The objective is to achieve a sufficiently high level of involvement of all partners to increase co-ownership and participation.*

### General Secretariat Composition

#### - *Secretary General*

It will be the legal representative of the Secretariat

It will be responsible for the overall running of the Secretariat and will have the full executive authority.

It was decided to have a General Secretary from a south country

Term of office will be for 3 years,  
renewed once for a maximum of 3 years

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## ➤ *Organization and composition*

### Government Council

Composed by five Deputy General Secretaries:  
2 from southern countries  
3 from northern countries

Term of office will be for 3 years, renewed once for a maximum of 3 years

The final composition of Government Council is not already decided

Principal Deputy General Secretary will work as a Assistant Secretary

To be decided

## ➤ *Funding*

- ✓ The running costs of the Secretariat will be funded from an operating grant on a shared and balanced basis by the Euro-Mediterranean partners
- ✓ The host country will provide the premises of the Secretariat free of charge
- ✓ Senior Officials shall adopt the annual budget of the Secretariat upon proposal of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretaries General.

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## ➤ *Central Office*



(Pedralbes Palace, official Secretariat's building)

## ➤ *Near Future*

The drafting group is actively working in the Statutes of the Secretariat

- ✓ Last meeting was held in July 16 2009
- ✓ It is expected the Statutes to be approved by the Ministers at the Next Foreign Affairs Ministerial Conference (Nov 2009).

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<http://www.bcneuromed.es/>

**Thank you for your attention**

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