

4th CONGRESS OF THE SOUTH-NORTH MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE

4-6 October 2015/Milan, Italy

Rural Communities, No Longer Left Behind

“Rural and Regional Development in the South and North Mediterranean and the New Neighborhood Policy”

The rural populations South and North of the Mediterranean face immense challenges: economic turbulence, rural exodus, social and political upheavals, pressure on agricultural lands, lack of access to services and infrastructure, weak public and private investment, competition for natural resources and in particular water, increasing environmental stress from factors including severe climatic events. **These challenges have particularly negative impacts on women and youth.**

The Milan Congress brings together actors for development, farmers, policy and decision makers and entrepreneurs as equals to incite open dialogue, build on mutual respect and mutual appreciation. The goal is to find opportunities and identify collectively the innovations and solutions promising for rural communities.

The Congress will forge a common vision of the future, mission of the Fondation du Dialogue Sud-Nord Méditerranée in collaboration with the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR). The two organizations, in partnership with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and CIHEAM–Centre International des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes, sponsor and support policies and programmes in favour of these rural communities.

This inclusive dialogue is built on the foundation of regional dialogues held in the four corners of the Mediterranean (Vólos, Alexandria, Montpellier and Rabat): each workshop attracted local authorities and government, actors for development, farmers and entrepreneurs in order to share examples of local initiatives and brought them together for new forms of shared and reinforced cooperation at all levels.

Following two days of dialogue, les Participants will adopt a Final Statement to propose practical, collective actions to put in place. The Final Statement will be presented to ministerial authorities who will react and relate the results to their respective policies.

With the Support of:



PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

OPENING SESSION

09:30

- During the day, arrival of the participants at Malpensa, Linate and Milan.
- Transport to the hotels (Varese) or to Expo.
- Welcome of participants to Expo and free time for individual visits to the Pavilions at the Expo.

15:30

- Welcome at the Conference Center of Expo 2015, entrance SUD-MERLATA
- Projections of a Video presentation on Mediterranean initiatives (Tunis meeting)

16:30

Opening of the Congress

By Congress Partners:

Mme Fatima Malki Bensoltane (Fondation) and Dr Mark Holderness (GFAR)

- by the representative of the DG of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Italy
- by the President of the European Movement Italy, **Mr. Virgilio Dastoli**
- by the representatives of the responsible Ministries of Italy or by the General Commissioner of Expo 2015 (requested)

17:00

Chair of the Session: **Mr. Pat Cox**, President of the Fondation Jean Monnet

Remarks:

- **Mr. Fathallah Sijilmassi**, General Secretary of the Mediterranean Union
- **Mr. David Sassoli**, Vice-President of the European Parliament and of the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly
- **Dr. Aziz Dargouth**, President of AARINENA
- Representative Leader of a Farmers' Organization (requested)
- **Mr. Dominique Burgeon**, Director, Emergencies and Rehabilitation Division, FAO

- General Secretary of the Union du Maghreb Arabe (requested)

18:00 General presentation of the themes and ambitions of the Congress:
Dr. Bichara Khader, Emeritus Professor, UCL-Université catholique de Louvain

18:30 Review of the 4 regional workshops
 Overview and Context:
Prof. Vincent Legrand and **Mme Nadia Kerraz**, General Reporters

 - **Prof. Dimitri Goussios**, University of Thessaly (Volós, Greece)
 - **Dr. Sameh Fawzy**, Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Alexandria, Egypt)
 - **M. Julien Frayssignes**, CIHEAM – IAM (Montpellier, France)
 - **Pr. Larabi Jaidi**, Université Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (Rabat, Maroc)

19:30 Closing remarks by the Co-Presidents

19:30 Departure of the buses for Varese

20:30 Welcome Reception

MONDAY 5 OCTOBER

DAY OF DIALOGUE

08:00 Welcome and registration of the participants at the Palace Grand Hotel (Varese)

09:00 Introduction to Day 2: objectives and working methods

09:30 ***Mediterranean Rural Communities: Status and Challenges to achieve their desired futures***

Discussions in 4 Working Groups of 40 to 50 participants:

Workshop 1: Innovations in agriculture, natural resources and food security

Co-Chair: **Mme Gül Gunver Turan**, European Movement – Turkey

Co-Chair: **Dr. Aziz Dargouth**, President of AARINENA

Discussants:

M. Fouad Ammor, Groupement d'Etudes et de Recherches sur la Méditerranée

Workshop 2 : Renewing the Rural: investments, infrastructure and governance
 Co-Chair: **Mr. Henry Marty-Gauquié**, European Investment Bank
 Co-Chair: (To be announced)

Discussants:

M. Gérard Peltre, RED - Mouvement Européen de la Ruralité

M. Mohamed Lahmar, Chargé de projets dans les régions rurales (Tunisie)

Workshop 3: Opportunities for Women

Co-Chair: **Mme Yasmina Taya**, Comité Algérie du Dialogue Sud-Nord Méditerranée

Co-Chair: **M. Ahmed Bassalah**, Promoteur projet de soutien aux femmes rurales

Discussants:

Mme Saliman Marzouki, Secrétaire Général, COFO-WANA :Committee of Farmers' Organizations, West Asia and North Africa

Mme Baya Zitoune, Association Nationale Femme et Développement Rural

M. Placide Muamba Mulumba, Collectif des Femmes de Louvain-la-Neuve

Workshop 4: Opportunities for Youth (employment and education)

Co-Chair: **M. Mamdouh Mabrouk**, Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Co-Chair: **M. Ugo Ferruta**, European Movement International

Discussants:

M. Aymeric Debrun, Programme ENPARD

12:00

Lunch

14:00

Collective Actions to Renew Rural Communities

Workshop 5: Innovation Platforms: improving incomes and livelihoods through agriculture and natural resources management

Co-Chair: **Mark Holderness**, GFAR

Co-Chair: **Mme Baya Zitoun**e, Association Nationale Femme et Développement Rural

Discussants:

M. Fouad Dsouli, Coopérative Thaziri pour le tourisme rural (Maroc)

(To be announced), CGIAR CRP Representative

Mlle Yasmine Satour, Mediterravenir

M. Bessem Jnaoui, Mediterravenir

Workshop 6: Integrated Investment: joining up rural infrastructure and social capital

Co-Chair: **Pr Najib Akesbi**, Université Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II

Co-Chair: **M. Gérard Peltre**, RED - Mouvement Européen de la Ruralité

Workshop 7: Unlocking the potential of Women and Youth through entreprise creation

Co-Chair: **Jennie Dey de Pryck**, GAP-Gender in Agriculture Partnership Catalyst

Co-Chair: **(To be announced)**, YPARD-Young Professionals in Agricultural Development Representative

Discussants:

M. Henry Marty-Gauquié, European Investment Bank

17:00 Meeting of the Writing Committee (Co-Chairs, Rapporteurs and Congress Organising Committee) to draft the Final Statement in the European Union Pavilion

20:00 Reception

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER

CLOSING SESSION

07:00 Breakfast at the hotel and, as required, meeting of the Writing Committee and Congress Organising Committee to review the Final Statement

07:30 Check out of the hotels for participants leaving in the evening and placement of their baggage on the shuttles

08:00 Departure for Expo

09:30 With the participation of **M. Johannes Hahn**, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations:

Under the Presidency of: **Mr Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb** (Fondation) et **Mme Salima Marsouki** (COFO WANA Farmers' Network)

- Plenary meeting in the Expo Center hall, entrance OUEST-TRIULZA

- Presentation of the Final Statement by **Dr Mark Holderness**, GFAR

Reaction of parliamentary and governmental authorities present:

- Representative of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of Ministers (tbc)
- **Mr. Saad Seddik**, Minister of Agriculture – Tunisia (tbc)
- **Mr. Miguel Poiares Maduro**, Minister of Rural Development – Portugal
- Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture – Italy (tbc)

Reaction of international organizations:

- **Dr Mahmoud Solh**, Director General of ICARDA (tbc)
- **Mr. Laurent Thomas**, Assistant Director-General, Department of Technical Cooperation, FAO
- Representative of **Coldiretti** (tbc)
- **Dr Massum Burak**, Director General for Agricultural Research – Turkey, President of CIHEAM and current presidency of the G20 “Chief Agricultural Scientists”

11:00 Closing speech of de **Mr. Johannes Hahn**, Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

11:30 Reactions of the participants, particularly from youth

12:15 Adoption of the Final Statement and Closing Remarks of the two Co-Presidents

12:30 Lunch and first set of shuttle transport for participants

14:00 Free Visit of Expo Milan

17:00 For participants remaining overnight, first departure for Varese

18:00 For participants remaining overnight, last departure for Varese

20:00 Dinner

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER

<p><u>06:00</u> <u>-12:00</u></p>	<p>Check-out and departure for the airports</p>
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OCTOBER – NOVEMBER

Publication of the Acts of the 4th Congress by IEMED (Barcelona) and GERMAC (Louvain-la-Neuve).