

**Charter for an Institutional Partnership between the Securities Regulators
from both Shores of the Mediterranean Sea
("Mediterranean Partnership of Securities Regulators")**

The undersigned securities regulators of the countries participating to the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean,

CONSIDERING that they have gained years of experience in maintaining a bilateral, technical dialogue, based on mutual trust through training of executives and exchanges of competences, that have been fruitful for all parties,

DESIRING to fulfil further expectations that have been rising in the recent past, towards a wider and more ambitious co-operation mechanism, and a strengthened relationship, by establishing a common supervisory framework and harmonised working methodologies, based on their general objective of regulatory convergence and with the final aim of developing mutual recognition agreements between them,

SEIZING the opportunity of the co-operation process between the countries of both shores of the Mediterranean highlighted by the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean of July 13, 2008,

CONVINCED that a common harmonisation programme would:

- (i) enhance the robustness of their respective regulatory and supervisory frameworks and foster regulatory convergence between countries from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea,
- (ii) provide larger and better opportunities of secure investment products for individuals of the concerned countries, especially with regard to financial vehicles adapted to long-term, local savings,
- (iii) enhance the rapid growth of financial flows between both shores of the Mediterranean, as well as inside the South shore region, where ambitious plans of development are presently drawn up,

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

General purpose

1- An institutional Partnership between the financial market regulators from both shores of the Mediterranean (hereafter 'Mediterranean Partnership' or 'Partnership') is established between the signatories. It is aimed at setting out the conditions and the practical terms for an enhanced operational co-operation between them, both in terms of financial markets regulation and supervision.

Membership

2- The Mediterranean Partnership is composed of securities regulators from countries participating to The Barcelona process: Union for Mediterranean, who acknowledge the objectives of the present Charter and commit to support it through an active participation to its various working or training programmes.

International framework

3- The Mediterranean Partnership is aimed at developing complementary actions to other existing international venues like the IOSCO's Africa and Middle-East Regional Committee or the Institut francophone de la régulation financière (IFREFI). It is nurtured by the implementation of the IOSCO's Principles of securities regulation in the region. It is accompanied by the wider dialogue that the signatories will establish with the Committee of European Securities Regulators (CESR) for the purpose of their convergence programme and more general working relationship with the European Union (EU).

Operational objective

4 The objective of the Mediterranean Partnership is to set forth harmonised working methodologies and to adopt common operational processes under the aegis of their converging supervisory frameworks, in order to facilitate cross-border regulatory cooperation and to allow the development of mutual recognition agreements between the signatories.

5- As a precondition, members commit to fulfil the objective set in common to foster convergence towards international standards and the EU regulatory framework.

Means

6- The Mediterranean Partnership defines priorities and establishes the common approach to reach the objective set forth in §4 and §5. In particular it shall review the existing practices through specific mapping exercises and appropriate gap analyses between jurisdictions, in order to define benchmarks in the various areas to be covered.

7- This will create the basis for multilateral or bilateral MOU between members of the Partnership to be signed for the purpose of mutual recognition or fast track procedures.

8- The Partnership shall commit to allocate dedicated means in the specific area of training, and shall take the necessary steps so as to:

- (i) define an annual Training and Exchange Programme through close collaboration between the signatories, on various themes to be set on an periodic basis,
- (ii) set out a common mechanism of training supported by the signatories, dedicated to their respective experts and staff and to the professionals in charge of certain key functions at the local financial firms in their respective jurisdictions.

9- The Training and Exchange Programme and the common mechanism of training shall be based on a learning path made up of technical courses and seminars. If appropriate, it shall be revised on a regular basis.

10- A final professional certification might be granted to the staff having completed the learning path successfully.

11- Certifications might be granted either within the framework of the Partnership, or independently, by a national certification mechanism subject to an official recognition of the competent body in the relevant jurisdiction.

12- An annex to the Charter will define more precisely the organisation and the functioning of the training in due course.

Meeting of the Chairs/Executive Officers

13- The signatories shall renew their mutual commitment to the Partnership over the long term, and shall have at least a plenary meeting annually, at the Chairs' or Executive Officers' level to assess the progress accomplished and establish the annual priorities, as well as the work programme.

Other meetings

14. In parallel, subgroups may be created to perform specific technical work on an ad hoc basis or according to the work programme. Each member designates one or several senior representatives to attend the technical meetings.

Organisation

15- The Mediterranean Partnership is a network of regulators that functions on a voluntary basis without any dedicated budget. The annual plenary meeting and the ad hoc technical meetings will take place at the invitation of one of the members.

Members are in charge of their own expenses when they participate to any meeting or activity organised by the Partnership. The Partnership may however solicit voluntary contribution from its members or from third parties in order to finance its training activities in particular.

16- The authority in charge of the Secretariat and the term of its mandate will be chosen by the chairs.

The Secretariat ensures the preparation of the various meetings organised under the umbrella of the Partnership. Each respective authority hosting a meeting shall however be in charge of the material organisation of the event.

The Secretariat drafts the minutes of the meetings and keeps the relevant records and documentation.

The Secretariat may receive applications from new members in which case it will present them to the next plenary meeting.

In Paris, the 26th March, 2009

For the Commission de surveillance des opérations
de Bourse of Algeria
Mr. Nouredine ISMAIL

For the Commissione Nazionale per le Società e la
Borsa of Italy
Mr. Lamberto CARDIA

For the Capital Market Authority of Egypt
Dr. Khaled SERRY

For the Conseil déontologique des valeurs
mobilières of Morocco
Mr. Hassan BOULAKNADAL

For the Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores
of Spain
Mr. Antonio MAS

For the Comissão do Mercado de Valores
Mobiliários of Portugal
Mr. Carlos ALVES

For the Autorité des marchés financiers of France
Mr. Jean-Pierre JOUYET

For the Conseil du marché financier of Tunisia
Mr. Mohamed Ridha CHALGHOU