

***2007 Euro-Med TDS Assembly Final Communiqué
Paris, 23 November 2007***

The 2007 Assembly of Euro-Med TDS took place in Paris, on 23rd November 2007. The Assembly was organised by the Euro-Med TDS Secretariat, in cooperation with the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Assembly brought together Presidents of members of the Association and/or their delegates, and was honoured by the opening speech of the President of the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Pierre Simon, and the Economic Director for the “Mediterranean Union Project”, France.

The Report of the Executive Board to the Assembly was presented by Mohammed El Masri, the oldest Vice-President by age, who expressed the desire of the southern countries of Euro-Med TDS in improving internal and external trade, distribution and logistics, services, using the experience and know-how of the European Countries.

The report on activities, programs, finance was presented by the Secretary General Luigi Troiani.

Participants at the Assembly discussed the following issues:

- The general frame of the relations between the European Union and the Mediterranean region, keeping in mind the target of the Free-trade area of 2010 and the expected consequences of the enlargement of the EU to 27 members including central and eastern Europe countries;
- The “Mediterranean Union Project” of French President Sarkozy;
- Trade and distribution situation in the member countries and in the region, taking into account the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area expected for 2010;
- Projects for enhancing the level of trade and investments in the area, with the role that Euro-Med TDS could play, taking also into account the projects and programs of the European Union;
- World Chambers Network opportunities for the members;
- The need of setting up appropriate training and education programs for the managers and leaders of the services sector in the Euro-Mediterranean region, acknowledging the report on EuMeSSE, the Euro-Mediterranean School of Services Economics;
- The deployment to the market of the platform emed-B2B.biz resulting from the project emed-tds.com, co-financed by the European Union (Eumedis Programme);
- The way to guarantee, in Euro-Med TDS, stable and continuous funding, in particular through the payment of the fees fixed by the Assembly.

The Assembly resolved to:

- Vote the new membership of Union of San Marino Traders;
- Approve the Closed Budgets 2005 and 2006 and acknowledge the related Independent Audits (see Encl. n. 1, 2, 3, 4); to approve the budget for 2007 and 2008 (see Encl. 5 and 6);
- Approve the revised fee system (see Encl, 7), entering in force from January 1st 2008. Empower the Executive Board to renegotiate outstanding debts of the members for the year 2005, 2006, 2007, on the basis of the approved fees in effect from the year 2008. The outstanding debts of each association and the 2007 fees must be paid by the members before the end of 2007. From 2008 passive and active voting right are operating only if the due fees are paid. The yearly fees have to be paid not later than May 31st of each year.
- Approve the documents presented by the Secretary general as indication for the Activities to be carried on in the coming period (Observatory, Fishery, School of Services Economics, etc.), recommending the Executive Board to handle them without prejudice for the results of the closed budget 2008 and 2009;
- Realize the Decennial Conference, on the basis of the document circulated in the Assembly;
- Cooperate with the Directorate to Fishery of the European Union, for a deeper involvement of the business community in the fisheries programs of the Eu;
- Increase the presence and lobbying at the EU, for funding activities of the association, particularly in investments policies, projects on environment, energy, trade, training and education, etc., relying also upon the offer of the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry Delegation in Brussels.

The Assembly elected as Executive Board members the following persons:

- Mohamed Drissi (Maghreb)
- Mohamed El Masri (Mashriq)
- Cengiz Ersun (North-east)
- Antonio Paoletti (North-west)
- Salvatore Serio (Center).

And re-elected as Secretary General Luigi Troiani.

The Assembly expressed also its gratitude and appreciation to the past president Sergio Billé for creating and then sustaining the association development.

The Assembly expressed its appreciation to the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in the person of President Pierre Simon, his representative Salvatore Serio, and Guy Lavenant, for having the event at Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

(Unanimously approved)