



4th Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Mediterranean EU Member States in Slovenia, 5–6 July 2007

Slovenia would like to inform its OSCE partners and partners for cooperation that on 5 and 6 July 2007 Foreign Minister of Slovenia Dimitrij Rupel hosted the 4th informal meeting of foreign ministers of Mediterranean EU Member States on the Slovenian coast. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister of Portugal Amado, Foreign Minister of Spain Moratinos, Foreign Minister of France Kouchner, Foreign Minister of Cyprus Lillikas, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria Kalfin, Foreign Minister of Romania Cioroianu, Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece Valinakis, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy Crucianelli, and Maltese Ambassador to Slovenia Balzan. Bulgarian and Romanian foreign ministers participated in the meeting for the first time. Their open and comprehensive discussion centred on a number of important issues of high interest to the Mediterranean EU Member States and the entire European Union and the OSCE, such as the Middle East, Kosovo, the European Neighbourhood Policy, migration and the future of Europe.

As regards the Middle East, the foreign ministers agreed that the transitional Palestinian government needed quick and clear political and economic support of the entire international community in overcoming the humanitarian crisis and ensuring stability in the Palestinian territories. The best way to support the moderate Palestinian forces is to provide a political solution and resume peace talks as soon as possible in order to make the two states possible. The foreign ministers called for Israel's full engagement and cooperation, and urged the Quartet to convene as early as this month. Ministers sent an open letter to the Quartet Special Envoy Tony Blair.

The foreign ministers stressed the need to remain engaged in the Western Balkans and materialise its EU perspective. As regards Kosovo, the foreign ministers reiterated that the unity of the EU was crucial. They urged an active approach of all sides involved, emphasising the time element of the issue. The foreign ministers expressed support to the Portuguese presidency.

The foreign ministers supported a balanced approach to the European Neighbourhood Policy and agreed to more actively involve Mediterranean and Eastern European partners in dialogue on issues of mutual concern (energy, transport, migration, economic cooperation, intercultural dialogue, etc.). The ministers also agreed to further develop the Black Sea Synergy initiative within the strengthened ENP, promoting synergy between regional bodies and initiatives.

The foreign ministers also stressed that the EU migration policy must take account of all aspects of migration, with the purpose of strengthening EU internal security and the respect for human rights. The ministers also called for an intensified partnership between the EU and countries of transit and origin of migratory flows. The need for further contributions of the EU member states to Frontex joint operations was underlined. The ministers emphasised the importance of circular migration and the EC proposal on mobility partnership.

With regard to the future of Europe, the foreign ministers welcomed the compromise reached at the June 2007 EC on the treaty reform process, expressing support to the proposal of the Portuguese presidency to convene the IGC later this month and conclude it with an informal EC to be held in October or at least by the end of this year.

The Slovenian side presented the initiative on the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean University with the seat on the Slovenian coast. The ministers warmly welcomed and encouraged the idea as an important step towards the enrichment and strengthening of intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean basin and elsewhere.

The next informal meeting of the foreign minister of the Mediterranean EU Member States will take place in Cyprus in January 2008.