

# The Italian Presidency of the EMPA

---

In the period 2010-2011, Committees and the Bureau should focus on the following issues:

- Dialogue on human rights and promotion of democracy
- Civil defence as shared safety
- Immigration and integration
- Dialogue among cultures and religions
- Paths of peace: an initiative aimed at educating younger generations to acknowledge shared values
- Cooperation in the sector of small- and medium-sized enterprises
- Transformation of FEMIP into a Euromediterranean Bank for Development and Investment
- Environmental protection including health in the Mediterranean, sustainable use of its resources and biodiversity
- Cooperation in the energy sector and development of renewable sources
- Promotion of the role of women
- The fight against illiteracy.

The Italian Presidency attaches great importance to the establishment of a Euromediterranean Bank, with a majority stake to be held by the EIB, in order to support the growth of SMEs in the Mediterranean.

Italy pursues the establishment in our country of a permanent Euromediterranean forum, where governments and regional business communities may agree on actions to support the development of SMEs.

As to institutional development, the Italian delegation has consistently endorsed the establishment of closer ties between the Assembly and the bodies of the Union for the Mediterranean.