

Press Release

GATE University Lumière Lyon 2
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
World Trade Organization

'Can Eastern and Southern Mediterranean countries become centres of rapid economic growth?'

INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM Opening up and Emergence in the Mediterranean Rabat, Morocco, October 17-18, 2008



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO

CAPC



Commission économique pour l'Afrique

Can the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean sub-regions be expected to become open and dynamic regions, attractive to foreign investments in the near future, as it has occurred with certain Latin American and Asian countries?

The importance of this question is to be assessed against the background of the failure of the Barcelona Process, the difficulties encountered by the MEDA Programme, and the implementation of the Union for the Mediterranean projects. The Colloquium, which will take place in Rabat, Morocco, on 17-18 October 2008, aims precisely at analyzing the necessary conditions for this region, birthplace of Western civilization and theatre of continuous violent conflicts, to become such an area of peace and prosperity.*

Jointly coordinated by the United Nations (Economic Commission for Africa), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the GATE Research Unit (CNRS and the Université lumière Lyon 2), this event will gather experts from fifteen countries to discuss approximately sixty papers addressing this issue.

The Colloquium aims at fostering the debate among university researchers from all over the Mediterranean, as well as international organizations and policy officials responsible for these matters.



Rhône-Alpes Région



Several renowned speakers will introduce and conclude the two-day proceedings. Furthermore, a political-level Round Table will bring together decision-making officials and experts from both shores of the Mediterranean with a view to concluding this event and tracing the perspectives of this experience of joint development.

With the support of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, the City of Lyon and the Research Service of the University Lumière Lyon 2.

**The MEDA Programme aims at implementing cooperative measures seeking to assist Mediterranean countries to reform their economic and social structures, and to alleviate the social and environmental impacts of economic development.*

For any additional information: <http://www.gate.cnrs.fr/unecaomc08/>

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