

Message de
Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI
Roi du Maroc

aux participants au
Sommet Euromed des
Conseils Economiques et Sociaux
et Institutions Similaires

Rabat, 15 octobre 2008

Message from
His Majesty King Mohammed VI
King of Morocco

to the
Euro-Mediterranean Summit
of Economic and Social Councils
and Similar Institutions

Rabat 15 October 2008

Mensaje de
Su Majestad Mohammed VI
Rey de Marruecos

a los participantes en la
Cumbre Euromed de
los Consejos Económicos y Sociales
e Institutos Similares

Rabat, 15 de octubre de 2008



Praise be to God

Peace and blessings be upon
the Prophet, His Kith and Kin

Mr Chairman,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to send this message to the opening session of the 2008 Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions. It is a privilege and a pleasure for the Kingdom of Morocco to host this event, and I am pleased to welcome you to Morocco, the land of authenticity, dialogue, interaction and openness.

This meeting is a good opportunity for me to reassert our support for sincere, promising Euro-Mediterranean initiatives, and to reiterate our commitment to supporting institutions, forums and mechanisms which seek to strengthen this cultural zone and enable it to enjoy peace, stability, solidarity and shared prosperity. This is an ambition that Morocco has nurtured since the convening of the Barcelona Summit in 1995, and which was confirmed at the last Summit, held in Paris in July 2008, to address the theme "The Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean".

Our common views are strengthened by our determination to further enhance the wide-ranging partnership between my country and the European Union, within the framework of the advanced status that we have legitimately been seeking and which has naturally been endorsed and supported by EU bodies and our European partners. We have been eager to secure this advanced status, and we are banking on the new momentum it is bound to give to our relations.



Ladies and Gentlemen

It is gratifying to see the remarkable, wide-ranging efforts you are making within this Euro-Mediterranean forum as national institutions whose advice is heeded and who voice the views of the various actors and key economic and social players representing civil society in the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean zone.

The approach adopted in establishing this forum has made it possible, today, to bring together prominent figures representing a wide range of backgrounds and leanings. In addition, it reflects our shared determination to upgrade the economic, social and human dimension as a priority objective in our partnership.

Beyond the excellent political ties uniting us, I firmly believe a strong partnership should be supported by a far-reaching network of exchange and co-operation between actors from our respective civil societies who are involved in economic, social, cultural, environmental and human development activities. Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions should, in my view, be key players in this dynamic process, both in their respective countries and within their assemblies in our region.

Your meeting today is perfectly in line with this vision. It is all the more important as you are gathering to address key issues such as freedom of association, social dialogue, consolidation of participatory institutions in partner countries, role of women in economic and social life, free trade and the social dimension in North-South relations.

Your future work will certainly enable partners in the region to share expertise and strengthen interaction in order to foster better understanding, remove all sources of contention, get a better insight into the realities and particularities of each partner, live harmoniously together and learn from each other.



Having embarked on a comprehensive programme of far-reaching reforms and ambitious projects, Morocco takes a keen interest in all the subjects you are discussing. My country is always eager to learn from other experiences and good practices which are likely to help it consolidate its own experience as a nation which has opted for openness, democracy and economic and social modernization.

Today, we are facing a difficult regional and international situation marked by a serious financial crisis which could have harmful consequences on our economic activity, on employment and on the social conditions of our citizens.

Many decisions, measures and initiatives must continue to be taken by states and public authorities, both at domestic level and in regional institutions. Their efficiency, however, will hinge on the extent of their relevance and appropriateness, both for our societies and our citizens. The role of institutions such as yours is crucial: it consists in reminding markets of the importance of the principles of responsibility, integrity and steadiness.

In crisis situations, just as in normal circumstances, the state can no longer act alone when it comes to making major choices which affect us all. Although the role of public authorities is both essential and impossible to circumvent, state action must be based on a participatory approach as much as on a keener awareness of the importance of social and local democracy.

In the model of governance I seek to apply, I have always tried to promote this commendable approach, which is based on trust, dialogue, partnership and the release of creative energies.

Needless to say, such an approach requires committed actors who are recognized as key players in society, able to serve public interest and work for the sustainable prosperity of their community and their territory.



This is the vision which guides our endeavours for the achievement of harmonious, sustainable development. That same vision prompted the recent establishment of the Economic and Social Council as a constitutional institution destined to serve as a forum for ongoing, responsible social dialogue, for reflection and co-operation, and for making proposals with regard to various economic, social, cultural and environmental issues.

We pin great hopes on the Council to strengthen our institutional set-up, consolidate Moroccan political and social democracy and contribute to the development of our country.

The convening, in Morocco, of this Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions is an opportunity for us to apprise ourselves of the various national experiences in this regard, and to benefit from such expertise in setting up our Council.

I am convinced this meeting will contribute effectively not only to consolidating the Euro-Mediterranean Project, but also to the promotion of the lofty values underlying it and the formulation of projects which will enable us to address major issues now and in the future.

May the Almighty grant us success.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.