



## **UNIMED Business Network**

### **UMCE : A New Mediterranean organisation is launched**

Business shows the way

Istanbul, 1st of March 2002 – The Presidents of the main multisectoral business organisations from the twelve Mediterranean countries which participate in the Barcelona Process<sup>1</sup>, meeting in Constitutive Assembly, decided to create the “Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises” (UMCE). They approved the Statutes of the organisation and elected Mr Hassan Chami, President of CGEM (Morocco), as President and Mr Jacques Sarraf, President of ALI (Lebanon) as Vice-President. They also decided that the registered office of UMCE will be in Tunisia.

President Chami declared “UMCE is proof of the commitment of all the business associations of the Southern Mediterranean region actively to strengthen their cooperation and to coordinate their actions in favour of faster economic and social development throughout the region”.

Mr François Perigot, Honorary President of UNICE and its Special Representative for the Mediterranean, had actively promoted this achievement in the framework of the UNIMED project, managed by UNICE and supported financially by the European Commission. He said: “I am delighted with this outcome. Once again, business people are showing the way, by taking bold and constructive decisions.” He added “I am convinced that this strengthened cooperation will favour the economic integration of the Southern Mediterranean region.”

The decision to create UMCE augurs well for the 5th Euro-Mediterranean Business Summit, organised by TUSIAD in cooperation with UNICE and with support from the European Commission, which begins today.

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<sup>1</sup> Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.