



1st EMUNI Research Souk 2009 (EMUNI ReS 2009)

The Euro-Mediterranean Student Research Multi-conference

Unity and Diversity of Euro-Mediterranean Identities

9 June 2009

Dear Participants, audiences and colleagues Greetings

The participation of An-Najah National University in the first EMUNI Research Multi Conference - Unity and Diversity of Euro-Mediterranean Identities is consistent with the mission of the University and to promote cooperation and dialogue between the university, EMUNI and the other Euro-Mediterranean universities. This is taking place at the time in which Euro-Mediterranean societies are facing political, cultural and economic challenges while trying at the same time to support the bonds of such cooperation. An-Najah National University, led by Prof. Dr. Rami Hamdallah, has had great success and taken important steps through several cooperative agreements with several Euro-Mediterranean universities in order to promote dialogue relating to experience in areas such as science, grants and scholarships. This is considered as an embodiment and 'fruit' of cooperation between universities and an expression of the philosophy of An-Najah National University to cooperate with all institutions in areas of scientific research, cultural exchange, health, environment and information technology to develop strong and sustainable relationships.

Unity and cultural diversity at the level of the Euro-Mediterranean, which we are discussing today can't be separated from social and political realities of the member states universities. However, it is necessary for us to say that the European Union has achieved relative diplomatic success in expanding its membership from 10 to 25 countries. It has also encouraged greater cooperation and agreements between countries of the Mediterranean region, increasing the number of participants and their involvement within this normative process, including Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Israel, Cyprus, Malta, Turkey (In May, Both Malta and Cyprus joined to the European Union).

Nevertheless, despite this evident growth instability and conflict within and between some of these nations still exists. Mediterranean countries therefore face challenges

on all levels (political, cultural, economic and of course peace processes, especially in light of the Israeli Governments current policy to refuse acceptance on the principle of the two independent state solution i.e. a Palestinian state alongside Israel). Turning back the clock we could suggest that the initial recognition of an Israeli state by U.S. President Truman in 1948 set off this current tangent of events, but we are here in this current epoch to encourage efforts from the international community, including the Quartet, to initiate something similar for the people of Palestine and therefore create a peaceful solution to this current predicament.

With this in mind we must ask what are the possibilities of a union between countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region in light of cultural, economic and political differences?

What are the most important obstacles to the cultural openness of these communities?

And

How can universities bridge the gap between the Euro-Mediterranean communities?

Saqer Jabally