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Joint Statement of the Heads and national coordinators of the 35 national networks of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures (network of networks)

The Heads and National Coordinators of the 35 National Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) Networks, meeting in Barcelona on 27 November 2005

Welcome the importance given to the role of the Anna Lindh Foundation in promoting intercultural dialogue and co-operation, exchanges and mobility in the final documents of the First Euro-Mediterranean Summit held in Barcelona on 27 and 28 November 2005 (the concluding Statement by the Chairman, the approved Five Year Work Programme and the Code of Conduct on countering Terrorism) as well as in the special working meeting on the UN Alliance of Civilizations;

Re-affirm their and their networks commitment to work together in a spirit of mutuality and partnership;

Appreciate the initiative taken by the European Parliament in calling upon the European Commission and the Governments of all 35 Member States of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership “to explore ways and mechanisms for supporting the establishment, strengthening and development of the Anna Lindh Foundation’s National Networks in all 35 partner countries” (in the Resolution on the “Barcelona Process Revisited, adopted on 27 October 2005”);

Welcome also the setting-up of a Study Committee of the Euro-Med Committee in its capacity as Board of Governors of the Anna Lindh Foundation on the issue of development and financing of the national networks.

Having exchanged among ourselves about the present situation of the national networks, we would like to bring to the attention of the Study Committee the following:

- **The current financial situation and organizational structures of the majority of the national networks is not sustainable.**
- **This will seriously hinder the achievement of the objectives concerning the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation, agreed upon by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit.**

The Heads of the National Networks, therefore,

(1) Call upon the Study Committee to note

- **the ambitious programme approved by the Board of Governors:**
- **the draft commitments, roles and responsibilities of Heads of National Networks and each of the networks, outlined in the light of the approved Programme and other relevant decisions by intergovernmental bodies of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Annex I);**
- **the role of the Anna Lindh Foundation in the Final Documents of the Euro-Mediterranean Summit.**
- **the Anna Lindh Foundation being financially supported under the MEDA Programme;**
- **the administrative and financial rules of the European Commission concerning “double financing” being, however, applied to the Foundation, in a way which prevents national networks from any matching of funds they receive from the Anna Lindh Foundation/MEDA with those coming from other budget lines of the European Commission.**
- **That this creates unexpected difficulties in complying with the administrative and financial rules approved on 12 April by the Board of Governors, stating that “as a rule, financial support by the Foundation shall be limited to 50 per cent to project costs”.**

(2) Invite, through the Study Group, the Governments of the 35 partner countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

- **To renew the mandate of, or to re-establish, each national network as of 1 April 2006;**
- **To enable the Heads of national networks and the members of the networks to be resourced on a sustainable basis, as appropriate under specific conditions of each country;**
- **To identify funding from the European Commission for capacity-building of national networks in project development and management.**
- **To identify, together with the European Commission, legal possibilities which would allow projects financially supported by the Anna Lindh Foundation/MEDA to be co-financed from resources received under other EC budget lines.**