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## North-South Mediterranean Dialogue

LAST SUNDAY the European Movement International started what has been called the "Malta Process", a North-South Dialogue in the Mediterranean region involving representatives of civil society.

The decision was taken during a joint meeting of the steering committee of the European Movement International's Mediterranean Committee as well as many leading personalities from the Arab world.

The meeting was addressed by Al-Hassan Shabbo, director of the Department of Europe and Arab European Co-operation of the Arab

League. Indeed, Mr Shabbo pledged the League's support for the European Movement's initiative, as did many of the other representatives of other major organisations.

Present for the meeting were representatives from the European Commission in Brussels, the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Council of Europe, the UNDP, the World Bank, the Anna Lindh Foundation in Alexandria, the European Parliament, UNESCO and many more, among them institutions and organisations based in the Arab world, which are too

many to list here.

The Malta initiative, which was piloted by Charles Ferdinand Nothomb (Belgium), chairman of the Mediterranean Commission of the European Movement International, was welcomed and supported by all participants, who also received an invitation from the Anna Lindh Foundation to convene a congress in Alexandria in September, 2005.

The meeting was also addressed by Professor Erwan Lannon of the University of Ghent in Belgium and by Professor Mohieddine Hadhiri of the University of Tunis.