

Barcelona, 14 & 15 November, 2005

## FÒRUM EUROMED SALUT 2005 DECLARATION

### ***“FOR A NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR HEALTH IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN”***

The **Fòrum Euromed Salut 2005** celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration in a meeting that included:

representatives of 26 countries from Europe and the Southern shore of the Mediterranean;

speakers and health professionals from 23 countries;

representatives of institutions of the European Union and multilateral organizations.

#### **The Fòrum**

- welcomed the high interest raised by the wide range of participants, and their desire for dialogue and exchange with the aim of strengthening cooperation in issues relevant to health;
- thanked the organisers and sponsors for their commitment and support;
- considered that health is not only a basic human right but also one of the largest sectors of the economy;
- recognised the need for an open debate on challenges, models, perspectives and reforms of health systems in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- underlined the need to further develop health policies through continuous dialogue and international cooperation mechanisms, including support to health reform and targeted research;
- observed the willingness by participants to continue the dynamics started in this Fòrum, noting that Barcelona is willing to provide political support to the continuation of this initiative;
- took note of participants' desire for further support at European level for this initiative in order to assure that it can be properly sustained in the longer term;
- acknowledged the link to the new 'European Neighbourhood Policy' which offers opportunities of support to health policy development;
- proposed the setting up of a steering committee which supports and consolidates the creation of networks across different actors in the health sector. This committee would bring together the different players in the health arena and liaise with other initiatives in the sector, such as from civil society;
- requested the organisers to provide the feedback of this event to the Summit of the Heads of States meeting in Barcelona at the end of November 2005, and stressed the importance of health in the larger Euro Mediterranean agenda;
- proposed to call for the **2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Fòrum Euromed Salut** to take place in 2007, and in the meantime to organise different sectorial workshops around the Mediterranean.