

23 July

Meeting with Fatène Benhabylès of Cities Unies, Paris; and Narjess Saidane of the Fonds Coopération Décentralisée, Paris/Jerusalem

Topic: Divided Cities and Potentials for Cooperation on Municipal Level/Town Part-nership Schemes

SUMMARY

The discussion centered around the issue of divided cities, such as Jerusalem, Belfast, Beirut, Berlin and Nicosia, and the possibility of holding a conference on this subject, with a focus on Jerusalem in order to put it in the center of world attention and end the state of neglect on the part of the international community.

Ideas advanced during the meeting for sample topics included civil society, institutions, political environment, urban infrastructure, demography/minorities, legislation, socioeconomic divisions, access of all in divided cities, urban planning and education.

Euro-MeSCo and Cities Unies-France were mentioned as possible facilitators or venues for such a conference. *Fatène Benhabylès* noted that a potential difficulty could be that Cities Unies does not have extensive connections to the NGO community. She added that her organization would be interested in organizing such an event but does not have the means to fund it; possibly a budget proposal could be submitted to the EU.