

Lebanon (Beirut) – Workshop for businessmen:

International Business Dispute Resolution

A view from Europe and Its Increasing Relevance for the Business Communities of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and West Bank & Gaza

Beirut Chamber of Commerce (Lebanon) – May 9-10, 2006

Businesses do not welcome disputes---especially disputes which put at risk the company's assets in a foreign country. Yet disputes are an inevitable part of international trade. In many parts of the world, over the past 30 years the business community has been developing improved methods of dealing with international disputes. The methods center on "Alternative Dispute Resolution" (ADR) and particularly on mediation and arbitration. It is now time for this movement to help improve business relationships between the Northern and Southern shores of the Mediterranean.

The May 9-10 workshop - in cooperation with the Arbitration Center of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut & Mount Lebanon - is one aspect of a major European Commission-sponsored project to improve conditions for international trade between EU and MEDA countries. The workshop will explain how business managers can become knowledgeable in, and work efficiently with, ADR. The discussion will be highly interactive. The speakers will compare their experiences in mediation and arbitration. Because mediation, in particular, is extremely useful for preserving and rebuilding business relationships that are thrown into question by a dispute, video training materials will be used to give audiences a clear perception of how professional mediation works to help companies preserve relationships in the international business arena, as well as to save time and money.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

May 9, 2006		May 10, 2006	
09.00 - 10.30	Official Opening: The EU ADR Project Presentation of Participants, Speakers and Methodology	09.00 - 10.30	Good Corporate Policy: Why More And More Businesses "Build In" Mediation
Coffee Break		Coffee Break	
10.45 - 12.15	Commercial Dispute Settlement and Trade: Why Business People Shouldn't Just "Leave it to the Lawyers"	10.45 - 12.15	International Commercial Arbitration in the MEDA Region Today: What Every Business Person Needs to Know
Lunch		Lunch	
13.30 - 14.45	Mediation in Action: Video Simulation of an International Commercial Mediation	13.30 - 15.00	Turning Legal Disputes into Opportunities to "Create Value"
Coffee Break		Coffee Break	
15.00 - 16.00	Debriefing and Group Discussion	15.15 - 16.00	Round Table Discussion and Action Planning Official Closing

Introduction:

Mr. Ghazi Koraitem – President, Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut & Mount Lebanon (Beirut, Lebanon)

Presentation:

Prof. Muhieddine Kaïssi – Secretary General, Arbitration Center, Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut & Mount Lebanon (Beirut, Lebanon)

Prof. Giuseppe De Palo – President, ADR Center; Professor of Law, Hamline University (St Paul, USA) and University of Rome "La Sapienza" (Rome, ITALY)