



Communiqué de presse

Date : 05-11-2008	Laurence Fontaine
Mots clés - Investissement – IDE – Méditerranée – Invest in Med – ANIMA	+33 4 96 11 67 68 - +33 6 82 23 74 51 laurence.fontaine@anima.coop

Euromed Industry Conference, Nice, November 5-6, 2008

Foreign investment: the Mediterranean Southern bank to escape the crisis ?

Marseille, November 5, 2008. According to the MIPO observatory, maintained by ANIMA within the framework of the Invest in Med programme, the countries of the Mediterranean Southern bank maintained their attractiveness in 2008, despite a regional and global environment marked by instability and uncertainty: brutal cycle reversal in real estate, turbulences on the markets of energy and raw materials, difficulties of access to financing.

The provisional data show that the Med countries, from Morocco to Turkey, attracted, during the three first quarters of 2008, approximately 600 investment projects, with an announced gross value close to €26 billion. Extrapolated to the whole year, these figures (800 projects, €35 bn or \$52.5 bn) are rather close to the volumes observed in 2006 and 2007 (according to the UNCTAD, respectively \$59 and \$55 bn).

In spite of this relative consolidation, the resilience of FDI flows into Med countries illustrates a new regional balance: less major privatisations or mega projects, more industrial and service projects, with more attention to risk (JVs, etc.), less capital inputs and more job creations.

The search for new growth mechanisms (activity decline in developed markets), the relocation of production processes in Southern Euromed places, the very profitable mineral hydrocarbons projects, the continuation of public-private infrastructure projects and the attractiveness efforts of Med countries, focused on few industrial and logistics hubs, also explain the successes of this region. Year 2008 was rich in announced projects: automotive cluster projects in Tangier-Med around Renault-Nissan, metallurgical pole of Bellara in Algeria (AFV Beltrame, ArcelorMittal, Al Ezz), Airbus factory in Tunisia, *high tech* projects for Israeli Jordan Valley, Areva project in Jordan (uranium), Lafarge-Osascom and BinLaden projects in Syria (construction materials), Gulf investors' projects in Lebanon...

In terms of destination, the Med economic champions are Egypt -which recorded on the first three 2008 quarters a FDI flow overpassing the 2007 total-, and Turkey – which is expecting US\$15 billion in FDI in 2008 (vs. \$22 bn in 2007)-. However all the Med countries continued to benefit from relatively high FDI inflows.

Invest in Med is a 3-year programme co-financed by the European Commission (2008-2011). It is coordinated by ANIMA Investment Network, leader of a consortium that gathers BUSINESSMED, EUROCHAMBRES, ASCAME, as well as their special partners UNIDO, GTZ and Euroméditerranée. Operating as an economic promotion agency focused on investment and business partnerships, it benefits 9 EU Mediterranean partner countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria and Tunisia. www.invest-in-med.eu

ANIMA Investment Network is a multi-country platform supporting the economic development of the Mediterranean. It gathers around 50 governmental agencies and international networks. The objective of ANIMA is to contribute to a better investment and business climate and to the growth of capital flows into the Mediterranean region. www.anima.coop