



## Invitation:

### COMENIUS CONTACT SEMINAR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE 14-18 NOVEMBER 2007 Melilla. Spain

The Spanish National Agency and the Education Authority of the autonomous city of Melilla are very pleased to invite you to a COMENIUS Contact seminar which will take place in Melilla, Spain, from 14<sup>th</sup> November until 18<sup>th</sup> November 2007. The Contact seminar aims at the creation of new Comenius school partnerships in the thematic area of the Intercultural Dialogue.

The European Commission is proposing 2008 as the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue where priority is given to a strengthened and more structured intercultural dialogue, in order to involve all European citizens and all those living in the European Union, particularly young people. It is important to inspire people living in the Union to actively get in touch with other cultures, be it at home or abroad, and thus to contribute to tolerance and mutual respect which are prerequisites for intercultural dialogue<sup>1</sup>

#### **The objectives of the Contact Seminar:**

To provide background information about funding opportunities for schools within the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013)

To provide an opportunity for partner-finding and the creation of new partnerships under the Comenius sectoral programme

To offer ideas and tools for collaborative projects on the topic of Intercultural Dialogue

To give advise on preparing an application for funding.

To develop strategies for project evaluation and the dissemination of results.

**Target group:** Teachers and headteachers from Primary and Secondary schools willing to work on European collaborative projects.

#### **Deadline for registration**

October, 5<sup>th</sup> 2007 (to be confirmed)

#### **Venue:**

The seminar will take place at Hotel Melilla Puerto, Explanada de San Lorenzo, s/n – 52001- Melilla.

Phone: 0034952695525

Web: [www.hotelmelillapuerto.com](http://www.hotelmelillapuerto.com)

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<sup>1</sup> Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008) {SEC(2005) 1202} /\* COM/2005/0467 final - COD 2005/0203 \*/



Melilla is a small city located in the north part of Africa, and you can reach it by:

- plane (Madrid, Barcelona, Málaga, Granada or Almería)
- boat (Málaga or Almería)

Details on transport services will be provided on request by the organisation

**Costs:**

The Contact seminar will last five days (see tentative programme, travel days included). The Contact seminar fee is 520,00 EUR. It includes:

- o full accommodation (4 nights) in double room (??)
- o subsistence
- o materials
- o social activities

**Funding of participants:**

The LLP National Agencies are informed about this contact seminar. Please contact your LLP National Agency and ask for an application form for a Preparatory Visit. You can apply for a grant covering your travel and subsistence costs.

**Contact:**

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**Some information about Melilla:**

As the meeting point between Europe and Africa, the Autonomous City of Melilla is a rich blend of the exoticism of the East and the modernity of the West. The traces of more than five hundred years of Spanish presence in what was built as a city fortress, and then expanded in the 20th century to include a wide range of attractive modernist buildings, combines with Moorish, Jewish and Hindu traditions to offer a mixture of ambiances which gives it its special character. Its excellent climate, with an average temperature of 18° C, its position as a gateway to the African continent, its gastronomy, the result of the blending of the four cultures which are present in the city, and its special role as a “duty free territory” for shoppers make Melilla a paradise which is waiting to be discovered.

## THE FOUR CULTURES

Christians, Hindus, Jews and Muslims live in perfect harmony in the city of Melilla. This multicultural character is reflected in a rich gastronomy, and in the diversity of environments, customs and religious buildings, the most important of which are situated on the periphery of the “Golden Triangle”.

Of special relevance is the Church of Sagrado Corazón, a tall building in neo-Romanesque style built between 1911 and 1918 from the high plans drawn up by the architect Fernando Guerrero Sttrachan. The Muslims have a true architectural jewel: the Central Mosque of El Poligono, an exotic work by Enrique Nieto which was built in the middle of the 20 th century. He also designed the most important Hebrew temple in the city, the Or Zaruah (Holy Light) Synagogue, which has a wonderful façade and a beautifully preserved interior. The tour through the religious buildings of Melilla’s four cultures could perhaps end up at the Hindu temple, in which visits have to be previously arranged with the community representatives.

## THE JEWEL OF MODERNISM

Melilla is, after Barcelona, the city with the most important modernist heritage in Spain. In contrast with the austerity of the Citadel, in the newer part of the city which was constructed at the beginning of the 20 th century, there is an impressive variety of modernist and art deco buildings, an architectural wealth, the fruit of architects such as Enrique Nieto

Although modernist buildings are everywhere in the city, especially outstanding and beautiful are those found in an area known as the “Golden Triangle” (where the Heroes de España quarter stands today) a bustling and lively zone which is also the commercial centre of the city.

In the hub of Melilla’s city centre is the Plaza de España, a large circular square on which stands the Palacio de la Asamblea, an art deco building designed by Enrique Nieto whose ground plan depicts a ducal crown. The Military Casino, the only building whose façade still depicts a republican coat of arms, the Bank of Spain, and the Monumental Cinema, built in art deco style in 1930 by Lorenzo Ros, are just a few of the many fine examples of Melilla’s modernist heritage. Also of interest is the bullring, a monumental construction in a baroque style.

A stroll through modern Melilla can be complemented with a visit to the Hernandez Park, which is next to the Plaza de España, the Candido Lobera Park, which occupies a hill next to the Fourth Precinct of Melilla la Vieja, or the Central Market, where visitors can discover all the magic and exoticism of a traditional African market.

## THE OLD CITY

Declared a Site of Historic Artistic Interest, Melilla la Vieja (Melilla the Old) also known as “El Pueblo” and the Citadel, is a commanding fortress perched on a crag which sticks out into the Mediterranean and is linked to the mainland by a spit. It comprises four fortified precincts separated by defensive ditches constructed in the old city from the 15 th century onward and contains a valuable monumental heritage. The tour follows an inverse time scale as it starts in the most modern part – the Fourth Precinct – and ends in the oldest part – the First Precinct -