Connecting people and cultures through Tourism in the Mediterranean region

29-30 May 2016, Beirut, Lebanon

Provisional Programme

**Sunday, 29 May** - Maghdouche Basilica Meeting Room

(time to be confirmed) **Departure from Beirut**

10.00 - 13.30 **Registration**

15.45 - 16.00 **Opening session**

- Michel Pharaon, Minister of Tourism of Lebanon
- Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of UNWTO

**16.00 – 18.00 Roundtable on Religious Tourism**

This session will explore the challenges and opportunities for the development of religious tourism routes in the Levant, cross-country pilgrimages and networks of religious tourism destinations, as effective means to foster regional development and integration, cross-cultural exchanges and understanding as well as self-education and learning.

**Moderator:** Alison Hilliard, Director of The Green Pilgrimage Network, United Kingdom

**Speakers:**
- Michel Pharaon, Minister of Tourism of Lebanon
- Nayef Al Fayez, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Jordan
- Rula Ma’ayah, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Palestine
- Feryad Randoozi, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities of Iraq*
- Amr El Ezabi, Advisor to the Minister of Tourism of Egypt
- Francisco Singul, Director of Culture for Saint James way, Galician Tourism Board, Spain
- Rateb Y. Rabie, President and CEO, Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation
- Dina Tadros, Managing Director and Partner, ITALôTEL Tours, Egypt
- Samir Sarkis, Founding Member and General Secretary of On the Footsteps of Jesus, South Lebanon Foundation

**Debate**

18.30 **Launching of Lady of the Mantara - Magdouche as an international religious tourism destination**

21.00 **Dinner in Sidon**

*subject to confirmation
Monday, 30 May - Le Pavillon Royal, BIEL, Beirut

08.00 – 10.00  Registration

10.00 – 12.30  2nd meeting of the Working Group on the Phoenicians’ Route Cultural Tourism Programme

This meeting will consider a proposed roadmap and action plan for the development and promotion of a Cultural Tourism Programme along the Phoenicians’ Route, as well as the type of partnerships required for their implementation.

12.30-13.00  Closing

- Michel Pharaon, Minister of Tourism of Lebanon
- Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of UNWTO

13.00 – 15.00  Lunch in Byblos