



EP 04 - Draft Resolution on the Future of the Euro-Mediterranean Relations

Acknowledging the historical ties that link the Mediterranean region to Europe and their contribution to the to the European identity.

Bearing in mind that the Euro Mediterranean region has experienced periods of intense conflict but also peaceful periods in which co-operation was enhanced.

Concerned that the social, economic and cultural differences that exist between the two shores which have been greatly influenced by the colonialism have contributed to reciprocal mistrust.

Aware of the fact that there exist many political challenges and only through peaceful resolution of these can the Mediterranean become a stable and prosperous region.

JEF- Europe believes that:

Friendly relations need to be built in the Mediterranean region, based on UN principles such as the respect for human rights, minorities, and gender equality.

In times of conflict, international law must be respected.

The Mediterranean is a cradle of cultures and that cultural barriers need to be overcome so that the Mediterranean peoples can live in an area of peace and tolerance.

JEF-Europe welcomes:

a new era of co-operation and an exchanging of experiences among the countries in the Euro Mediterranean region. It is time to make use of our common past to start a renewed process of exchange views with our neighbours, especially regarding our respective experiences in terms of regional integration and conflict resolution through multilateral means.

In this regard, JEF-Europe states that:

It is necessary to give support to the 1995 initiative known as the "Barcelona Process" and its further developments. The agreements led to the reinforcement of regional co-operation between EU and Mediterranean countries with the financial support of the EC's MEDA program. So far, the Barcelona Process is a positive step in the development of a new way of managing relations in the region. Nevertheless, a lot of improvements are still to be made in this framework in order to make the cooperation go beyond the economic field.

The significant challenges are twofold. The EU needs to ensure the implementation of its decisions in order to fix the credibility problem of the Barcelona Process.

»Additionally, the Barcelona Process needs to become more visible among the EU and EURO-MED partners' citizens as this has been lacking significantly in the past.

Public institutions –including EU institutions, EU member states' and other countries' institutions- have a decisive role in the achievement of those goals. However, beyond the institutional sphere, also civil society has to get involved in the struggle, in order to get rid of prejudices and make the cooperation work.

Annex 1:

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

After 20 years of increasingly intensive bilateral trade and development cooperation between the European Union, the 15 Member States and its 12 Mediterranean Partners, the Conference of EU and Mediterranean Foreign Ministers in Barcelona (27-28 November 1995) marked the start into a new "partnership" phase of the relationship including bilateral and multilateral or regional cooperation (hence called Barcelona Process or, in general, Euro-Mediterranean Partnership).

The 12 Mediterranean Partners, situated in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean are Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia (Maghreb); Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Lebanon, Syria (Mashrek); Turkey, Cyprus and Malta; Libya currently has observer status at certain meetings.

Key objectives

The Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Barcelona Conference expresses the 27 partners' intention to:

1. Establish a common Euro-Mediterranean area of peace and stability based on fundamental principles including respect for human rights and democracy (political and security partnership),
2. Create an area of shared prosperity through the progressive establishment of a free-trade area between the EU and its Partners and among the Mediterranean Partners themselves, accompanied by substantial EU financial support for economic transition in the Partners and for the social and economic consequences of this reform process (economic and financial partnership), and
3. Develop human resources, promote understanding between cultures and rapprochement of the peoples in the Euro-Mediterranean region as well as to develop free and flourishing civil societies (social, cultural and human partnership).

Barcelona Declaration : http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/bd.htm

The MEDA Programme

The MEDA programme is the principal financial instrument of the European Union for the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The programme offers technical and financial support measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the Mediterranean partners.

The EU Council, which together with the Parliament comprises the budgetary authority, decides the annual EU budget allocation for MEDA and other regional budget lines for the Mediterranean and Middle East.

- MEDA Figures

For the period 1995-1999 MEDA accounted for €3,435 million of the €4,422 million of budgetary resources allocated for financial cooperation between the EU and its Mediterranean Partners. For 2000-2006 MEDA is endowed with €5,350 million. In 2000 committed MEDA funds amounted to €879 million (in addition, €8.8 million were carried over to 2001).

These grants from the Community budget are accompanied by substantial lending from the [European Investment Bank](#) (EIB). For 1995-99, the EIB loans totalled €4,808 million; for 2000-2007, the EIB's Euromed II lending mandate is €6,400 million. The Bank committed itself to contribute a further €1,000 million from its own resources and at its own risk over the same period for transnational projects.

- *Bilateral Cooperation*

The priorities for MEDA resources at the bilateral level are:

1. support to economic transition: the aim is to prepare for the implementation of free trade through increasing competitiveness with a view to achieving sustainable economic growth, in particular through development of the private sector;
2. strengthening the socio-economic balance: the aim is to alleviate the short-term costs of economic transition through appropriate measures in the field of social policy.