



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Jordan, 12 October 2008

RECOMMENDATION

FROM THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY
TO THE FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS
OF THE BARCELONA PROCESS: UNION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN (Marseille, 3-4 November 2008)

on the role of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly
within the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean

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The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, meeting in Jordan (Dead Sea) on 12-13 October 2008:

- A. mindful that, within the framework of the Barcelona Declaration (Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference of 27-28 November 1995), the European Parliament was invited to approach other parliaments with a view to launching the Euro-Mediterranean parliamentary dialogue, allowing the elected representatives of the various partner countries to exchange views on a wide range of subjects and whereas, in response to this invitation, the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum was set up in 1998,
- B. whereas the Fifth Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Valencia on 22 and 23 April 2002 decided to further develop the parliamentary dimension of the partnership and, to this end, recommended that a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) be set up,
- C. whereas the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Naples (2-3 December 2003) welcomed the creation of the EMPA and agreed to include this new body, in a consultative capacity, in the framework of the Barcelona Process, stressing that the Assembly would ensure complementarity with the existing institutions of the Partnership; and whereas the Recommendation from the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum to the Ministerial Conference (2 December 2003, Naples), stipulating the conversion of the Forum into an Assembly, which was to become the parliamentary institution of the Barcelona Process, was attached to the Ministerial Conclusions of Naples,
- D. whereas the Communication from the European Commission on the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean (20 May 2008), welcomed in the conclusions of the European Council of 19-20 June 2008, stressed that the EMPA had reaffirmed itself as the Parliamentary dimension of the Barcelona Process providing a framework of debate and giving impetus to the Partnership by adopting resolutions and recommendations; and underlined that the role of the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly would be the legitimate parliamentary representation of a Union for the Mediterranean;
- E. mindful that the European Parliament Resolution of 5 June 2008 on the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean stressed that the EMPA should become an integral part of the institutional framework of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean as its parliamentary dimension; and underlined the fact that the enhancement of democratic legitimacy is necessary, as is the strengthening of the role of the EMPA, the only parliamentary Assembly uniting the 27 EU Member States and all the parties involved in the Middle East Peace Process;
- F. mindful that the Declaration adopted by the Bureau of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, on 12 July 2008, and submitted for the attention of the Summit of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean of 13 July 2008, expressed EMPA's support for the reinforced and newly designed

process and underlined the need to enhance democratic legitimacy and, therefore, stated that EMPA should become an integral part of the institutional framework of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean as its legitimate parliamentary dimension; and considered that the Assembly, as a scrutinizing parliamentary body, should make proposals and assessments and, as is the case in every democratic political system, a democratically-elected Assembly should hold the new institutional structure of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean to account,

- G. whereas the Joint Declaration of the Summit of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean (Paris, 13 July 2008) states that the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean is a multilateral partnership which builds on the Barcelona Declaration, as well as on the *acquis* of the Barcelona Process, including the conclusions of all ministerial meetings, which continue to remain in force; and whereas it acknowledges that the EMPA is the legitimate parliamentary expression of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean; and it stresses the strong support of the Heads of State and Government to the strengthening of the role of the EMPA in its relations with Mediterranean partners,
- H. whereas the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean, in November 2008, will decide on the details of the mandate of the new institutional structure; and mindful of the Commission Staff Working Document (SEC (2008) 2499 final, 19.09.2008) on the proposals for the 2009 work programme, submitted to the ministerial meeting in Marseille, which stresses that the position of the EMPA should be further consolidated and its work better articulated with the other institutions of the Partnership,
1. Recommends to the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean meeting of the Foreign Affairs Ministers that, as a follow-up to the Paris Joint Declaration of 13 July, it formally declares the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly to be an integral part of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean, as its parliamentary institution;
 2. Wishes to see a legal basis created and a formal link established between the executive branch and the parliamentary branch of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean; stresses that such a legal basis should include the practical details of this link; calls therefore on the Ministerial meeting in Marseille to consider the above mentioned details for decisions on mutual representation at respective meetings, need to take due account of each institution's work in drafting agendas, etc, which, in any case, should safeguard the independence of the partnership's institutions; as far as financing and the necessary organizational set up are concerned, the future competences of the various institutions are to be respected;
 3. Recalls that the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly is composed of equal numbers of European Union representatives and representatives of the Mediterranean partner states. The members of the Assembly are, on the one hand, members of a parliament of the EU Member States or of the European Parliament and, on the other, members of parliament of the Mediterranean Partner states;

4. Believes that the role of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, as a consultative body, should be to:
 - promote democratic processes and human rights through cultural and political dialogue and consultation;
 - facilitate greater understanding between the peoples of the European Union and those of the Mediterranean partner states; raise public awareness of cooperation necessities;
 - discuss issues pertaining to the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean;
 - hold to account the institutional structure of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean;
 - adopt resolutions and make recommendations to the Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Affairs Ministers with a view of achieving the objectives of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean;
5. Considers that the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly should meet once a year in plenary session, alternately in the European Union and in a Mediterranean Partner state. The Presidency of EMPA should present the result of its proceedings at the bi-annual summits of heads of state and government as well as at the annual meetings of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs;
6. Stresses that the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly would adapt its rules of procedure within one year of the entry into force of this (Agreement);
7. Instructs its President to forward this Recommendation to the Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting in Marseille on 3-4 November 2008.