

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Session document*

16 March 2000

B5-0298/2000

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to Oral Questions B5-0015/00 and B5-0016/00

pursuant to Rule 42(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members: Napolitano, Naïr, Sakellariou, Obiols, Terrón i Cusí and others

on behalf of the PSE Group

on Mediterranean policy

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**B5-0298/2000****Resolution on Mediterranean policy**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the conclusions of the first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference, which was held on 28 November 1995 in Barcelona and adopted a programme of work and a declaration of principle known as the 'Barcelona Declaration',
  - having regard to the outcome of the second Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference, which was held in Valletta,
  - having regard to the outcome of the informal Palermo conference, held in June 1998, which brought together the 27 countries engaged in the Barcelona process and gave a new impetus to Mediterranean policy,
  - having regard to the outcome of the third Euro-Mediterranean Conference, held in Stuttgart in April 1999,
- A. having regard to the strategic importance of the Mediterranean for the European Union and the consequent need for a genuine Mediterranean policy capable of sustaining peaceful stability and economic and social development,
- B. recognising that the Barcelona Conference paved the way to dialogue and understanding among the peoples of the Mediterranean,
- C. whereas the Barcelona process has been slow to bear fruit, the reasons for this delay being both technical (cumbersome administrative procedures and mechanisms for giving effect to the programme) and political (difficulties in the Middle East peace process, the Balkans crisis and crisis in the European institutions). It is also the result, as far as the building of a Euro-Mediterranean area is concerned, of the priority given to an approach based essentially on free trade,
- D. having regard to the difficulties experienced in implementing the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and, above all, the MEDA programme,
- E. whereas the informal ministerial conference in Palermo wished to relaunch the Barcelona process,
- F. whereas the Third Ministerial Conference in Stuttgart consolidated what had been achieved in Palermo and defined a practical programme of working methods, emphasising among other things the need for a draft Stability Charter, currently in preparation,

- G. having regard to the establishment of a network of association agreements between the European Union and each of the Mediterranean countries; deploring, nevertheless, the fact that negotiations are not yet completed with all the Mediterranean non-Community countries (MNCs) and regretting that the implementation of the agreements already signed has been delayed by the lengthiness of the parliamentary ratification procedures in the EU Member States,
- H. whereas the bilateral approach based on association agreements may mean that the economies of the MNCs are increasingly shaped by their trade with the European Union, while failing to develop south-south trade, particularly at the sub-regional level,
- I. whereas the association agreements recommend the initiation of a political dialogue based on mutual understanding and respect and aimed at encouraging democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law and good governance,
- J. having regard to the importance of Euro-Mediterranean civil society in achieving the objectives set out in the Barcelona Declaration,
- K. having regard to the need for Euro-Mediterranean policy to include all the States that border the Mediterranean and adhere to the principles of the Barcelona Declaration,
- L. whereas, furthermore, the political changes that have taken place in the Maghreb countries and the lifting of the embargo imposed on Libya offer conditions which are favourable to the Barcelona process,
- M. having regard to the role played by the European Union in the Middle East peace process and the economic programme running in parallel with it, and stressing the political duty to give the greatest possible visibility to the European contribution to peace and stability in this neighbouring region,
- N. having regard to the need for the European Union to pay attention to the conflicts in the region and to state its willingness to support any efforts at mediation,
- O. having regard to the role of immigration in the creation of wealth and a zone of prosperity in Europe and to respect for the human, economic and social rights of immigrants to Europe,
- P. having regard to the low level of investment, particularly private investment, in the Mediterranean despite the fact that it is generally agreed that the region has great potential,
- Q. having regard to the need for substantial Community support to accompany the efforts being made by each of the MNCs to achieve economic transition and lessen the social impact of the opening of the markets and to foster regional and sub-regional integration in the Mediterranean,

- R. whereas, in the context of making use of the foreign debt, it should be reinvested primarily in codevelopment policies with the MNCs,
- S. whereas in the Euro-Mediterranean region the development of the social and economic area must be accompanied by a planning policy aimed at balanced, sustainable, integrated spatial development of the Euro-Mediterranean territory,
1. Calls on the Council and the Commission to regard the Mediterranean as a priority area of European Union foreign policy, on the same footing as Central and Eastern Europe;
  2. Calls on the Council and Commission to provide appropriations for the European Union's Mediterranean policy such as will restore the correct balance between funding for the Central and Eastern European countries and that for the MNCs, as decided by the Cannes European Council (ration of 5 to 3.5);
  3. Calls on the Commission to present as soon as possible a proposal for a Euro-Mediterranean regional agreement with a view to creating the conditions for the construction of a 'Euro-Mediterranean' area designed to be a strategic regional zone in the process of globalisation;
  4. Calls on the Council and Commission to step up political, economic and financial support for the integration of the sub-regional zones (south-south), starting with the Maghreb and the Middle East, by establishing sub-regional association agreements;
  5. Calls on the Council and Commission to orient European financial support towards substantial support for economic transition and the promotion of regional cooperation projects by increasing the funding for regional programmes implemented in the framework of Euro-Mediterranean partnership by at least 25% of the overall budget for the MEDA programme;
  6. Calls on the Council and Commission to set up, in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, a programme of interregional and transnational cooperation aimed at achieving complementarity and economic and social integration and carried out via effective financial synergies and coordination between the INTERREG and MEDA programmes;
  7. Calls on the Council and Commission to aim European financial aid mainly towards the creation of a genuine common economic area not restricted simply to a free trade zone;
  8. Reiterates its call to the Council, the Member States and the Commission to act promptly within the relevant international organisations to establish effective measures to reduce/convert the MNCs' foreign debt;

9. Calls on the Council and the Commission to return to the all-embracing approach defined in Barcelona, taking account of certain hitherto neglected priorities, with a view to economic transition and structural adjustment:
  - support for investment
  - support for decentralised cooperation
  - support for a policy of joint migration management
  - support for employment;
10. Calls on the Council and Commission to create an attractive environment for investors by providing technical assistance with harmonising Mediterranean investment law similar to that offered to the Central and Eastern European countries;
11. Calls on the Council and Commission to ensure that decentralised cooperation is established, enabling the players in civil society on the two banks of the Mediterranean to meet and design projects together, by supporting the new programmes, particularly those within MEDA;
12. Calls on the Council and the Commission to support initiatives which enable immigrants to participate in codevelopment, i.e. support for micro-projects, training and investment in the country of origin;
13. Calls on the Council and Commission to put in place all the institutional, political and legal provisions and provide the means which will guarantee Mediterranean migrants respect for their political, economic, social and cultural rights;
14. Calls on the Council to look at the possibility of making visa policy more flexible so that this factor will not be a stumbling block to human exchanges between European and Mediterranean civil societies;
15. Calls on the Commission to ensure that priority is given in the current year to projects involving women's rights and equal opportunities in establishing the MEDA-democracy programme;
16. Calls on the Council to support the establishment of a forum bringing together not only representatives of States and local and municipal governments, but also members of civil society (businessmen, academics, NGOs, community organisations). The fourth Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference, which is scheduled to take place in Marseille in November, can be used as an opportunity to send out a strong signal to European and Mediterranean operators;
17. Calls on the Council and Commission, in view of past experience, to lay down criteria for eligibility, selection and funding, as well as project management monitoring, in order to give direct encouragement to civil society while at the same time discouraging 'subsidy hunters';
18. Calls on the Council and Commission to ensure that the MEDA Programme is efficiently implemented with transparency as a priority and to allocate it a substantial

budget in line with the ambitions and objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership;

19. Calls on the Council and Commission to open negotiations on the review of the agricultural trade rules and to initiate in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership a joint process of reflection aimed at a coordination of Mediterranean agricultural policies capable of effecting a shift from competition to complementarity and integration, and to bear in mind the multifunctional dimension of the agricultural industry;
20. Calls on the Commission and Council to promote increased cooperation in the areas of the environment and tourism, *inter alia* by an optimisation of the cultural heritage (abstract and concrete), local development and dialogue between cultures and creeds;
21. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States and of the MNCs which are signatories of the Barcelona Declaration.