

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

28.5.2008

B6-0281/2008

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the European Council and Commission
pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Cristiana Muscardini, Salvatore Tatarella, Jan Tadeusz Masiel, Ryszard
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on behalf of the UEN Group

on the Union for the Mediterranean

European Parliament resolution on the Union for the Mediterranean

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the EU-Mediterranean partnership, launched in 1995, by the Barcelona Declaration,
 - having regard to the recommendation adopted at the fifth session of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA),
 - having regard to the conclusions of the European Council of 14 and 15 March 2008 on the Union for the Mediterranean,
 - having regard to its earlier resolutions on Mediterranean policy,
 - having regard to the communication from the Commission on the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the partnership between the EU and the Mediterranean region is a strategic pillar of a policy based on dialogue, solidarity, economic cooperation and exchanges with a view to overcoming challenges and achieving the aim of creating an area of political stability and enhanced prosperity,
- B. whereas the relations of the EU with its southern partners in the Mediterranean are fundamentally conditioned by the prosperity gap between the two shores which has not been bridged by enhanced cooperation under the Barcelona Process,
- C. whereas growth in the countries of North Africa has been disappointingly low, compared to other emerging countries, and foreign direct investment from the EU to the states of North Africa accounts for just 2% of the EU's total foreign direct investment,
- D. whereas the planned construction of a Euro-Med free-trade area by 2010 seems to have been definitively abandoned and whereas the South-South integration process, which should be one of the objectives of the Barcelona Process, is by no means successful and trade relations between southern Mediterranean countries have not significantly increased,
- E. whereas the Barcelona Process was devised in 1995, when the situation in the Middle East seemed to be close to a peaceful and lasting solution, and whereas the progressive deterioration of the Middle East peace process has conditioned and undermined the development of the Barcelona Process,

- F. whereas the Barcelona Process has suffered mostly as a result of the major enlargement of the Union and the development of a broader neighbourhood policy, which has become the main priority of the European Union over the last decade and on which it has concentrated its main political efforts and economic resources,
- G. whereas the overall assessment of the Barcelona Process is that despite its insufficient achievements, compared to the initial objectives, it has potential which should be optimised,
- H. whereas the recent initiative of the French President for a 'Union for the Mediterranean', unanimously endorsed by the European Council, can give fresh impetus to, and enhance, the process of cooperation between the European Union and the North African states,
- I. whereas such an initiative must not undermine the institutional structures of the Barcelona Process and in particular the EMPA, which has to continue to play a key role as the legitimate forum representing the peoples of the European Union and the other Mediterranean countries,
1. Considers that fresh impetus should be given to the Barcelona Process in order to raise its profile and highlight its tangible benefits for citizens and, in particular, for citizens on the southern shore of the Mediterranean;
 2. Welcomes the recent communication from the Commission on the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean and shares the aim of the initiative to give fresh political and concrete impetus to the multilateral relations of the EU with its Mediterranean partners by upgrading the political level of relations and through greater co-ownership and enhanced sharing of responsibilities;
 3. Agrees that a Barcelona Process Union for the Mediterranean focused on a number of specific projects directly involving the states in the region can be a complementary EU bilateral link with those countries under an existing policy framework, namely the neighbourhood policy;
 4. Considers that the new initiative, which is fundamentally project based, can upgrade the political level of the EU's relationship with the Mediterranean partners and make relations more tangible and visible through implementation of regional projects of relevance to citizens;
 5. Takes note of Annex 1 to the proposal, which identifies four main fields for possible initiatives for relevant projects which could relaunch the partnership and cooperation in the area; in this respect calls on the Commission to inform Parliament and the EMPA on a regular basis how these regional projects are developing and to consider the proposals and evaluations submitted at parliamentary level;
 6. Appreciates the effort made by the Commission in its proposal to combine preserving the existing institutional structures, and in particular the important role of the EMPA,

with the institutional governance of the new framework; in this respect takes note of the proposal to establish a co-presidency and set up a joint secretariat and hopes that the creation of this new institutional dimension can be usefully linked to the present architecture;

7. Underlines the need for a greater involvement in regional programmes and better use of the ENPI; in this respect welcomes the fresh impetus proposed by the Commission in the communication on the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean for further developing regional programmes with the Mediterranean partners, and agrees that it is important to closely pursue the objectives of increasing regional cohesion, economic integration, in particular South-South integration, and developing infrastructure;
8. Stresses how important it is that projects under the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean should be open to all EU states and Mediterranean partners interested in taking part, especially if they are stakeholders in specific projects or fields;
9. Reiterates that, in order to be effective, Euro-Mediterranean policy must be allocated a budget matching its ambitions; states that, the EMPA in particular, as the democratic framework for parliamentary action, should have the necessary resources at its disposal and the necessary administrative arrangements in place for efficient working;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, and the parliaments and governments of the Barcelona Process states.