

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Vural Öger, Kader Arif, Marco Cappato and Jelko Kacin

on the proposal to create a Mediterranean Union

Lapse date: 19.6.2008

Written declaration on the proposal to create a Mediterranean Union

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal to create a 'Mediterranean Union' that would include states bordering the Mediterranean Sea,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Mediterranean is a heterogeneous region, including EU Member States, countries negotiating EU-membership and countries taking part in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the European Neighbourhood Policy,
- B. whereas in 1995 the EU launched the Barcelona Process, a framework for regular meetings that includes political, economic and social relations between the EU and partners of the southern Mediterranean,
1. Believes that the 'Mediterranean Union' risks splitting the EU, if membership of the EU Member States is defined only by geographical criteria; considers it of the utmost importance that such a Union is open to all EU Member States; believes that the project as initially proposed by French President Sarkozy would represent a further bureaucratic structure in addition to already existing ones; underlines the fact that the EU Member States are divided on this project;
 2. Welcomes an ongoing debate on EU-Mediterranean relations; believes that deep reflection on these relations is necessary; urges that all EU Member States should be involved in any initiative related to it;
 3. Points out that the existing Barcelona Process already represents a framework for cooperation on matters of common interest but has failed to build a democratic Euro-Mediterranean community; welcomes the efforts to consolidate, re-launch and revitalise the Barcelona Process in the context of a Mediterranean Union;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the Commission and the Council.