

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3548/00

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to the Commission

Subject: Mediterranean Basic

Does the Commission not consider that, as a matter of particular importance and urgency, the current department within the Directorate-General for Research which is responsible for developing programmes relating to the Mediterranean Basic should be upgraded? The purpose of such an upgrading should not only be to increase the effectiveness of Community action throughout the Mediterranean (pursuant to the process launched at the Barcelona Conference); it would also reflect the political determination to increase and stimulate Mediterranean cooperation.

It should be emphasised that, in the field of scientific and technological cooperation, the European Community is in a position to cooperate with the countries of the Mediterranean in a way which is of particular importance to the entire economic development of the region.