

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5708/07
by Lydie Polfer (ALDE)
to the Council

Subject: Proposal by Mr Sarkozy to establish a Mediterranean Union along the lines of the European Union

In the course of his recent state visit to Morocco, the President of the French Republic made a speech in Tangiers outlining his proposal for a Mediterranean Union. This proposal envisages an area of solidarity and cooperation geared towards combating organised crime and terrorism, promoting sustainable development and addressing the questions of energy and immigration. This Mediterranean Union would be modelled on the EU and, according to Mr Sarkozy, would build a bridge between Europe and Africa. Mr Sarkozy cited the failure of the Barcelona Process launched in 1995 to establish closer links between the countries ringing the Mediterranean. In view of the foregoing:

1. What are the Council's views on the idea of establishing a Mediterranean Union along the lines of the EU Union?
2. How should a Mediterranean Union of this kind be organised?
3. Does the Council agree with Mr Sarkozy that the Barcelona Process has failed?
4. What new contribution would the proposed Union make compared to the Euro-Med Process?
5. Is there not a risk that the rapid development of deeper bilateral links between the EU and Morocco might be slowed down by an initiative of this kind?
6. Is the 2010 deadline for the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area set by the two sides' trade ministers a realistic one?