

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1581/08

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to the Council

Subject: Outlook for the Euromed Audiovisual programme

Excellent results have been achieved by the regional programme Euromed Audiovisual I and the current Euromed Audiovisual II, under which, with funding of EUR 15 million for the period 2006 to 31 December 2008, over 500 professionals have been trained in the audiovisual sector in 10 MEDA countries (Algeria, the Palestinian territories, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Syria) through programmes on training, development, promotion and support for distribution, etc. Over 115 European and MEDA-country films have been produced, and already over 870 000 viewers have been able to enjoy Arabic and European films on both sides of the Mediterranean.

At the same time, the forthcoming Euromed Council of Ministers for Culture is due to take place from 29-30 May 2008 in Athens, and the fostering of dialogue between different cultures in the context of the European year of intercultural dialogue is among the priorities of the current Slovene Presidency. What action will the Council take to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the Euromed Audiovisual programme?

Does it intend to propose that cultural cooperation in the audiovisual field be realised via a new specific programme like Euromed Audiovisual I and II?