

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1582/08

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to the Commission

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 European Commission is awarding importance to intercultural dialogue and cooperation between the two sides of the Mediterranean via the new partnership instrument ENPI, and attention is being focused on developing long-term projects in the audiovisual sector, as confirmed by the possibility, as from 2008, of financing preparatory actions in the context of MEDIA 2007 with non-EU countries.

Can the Commission therefore indicate whether it will ensure there is adequate coverage, within the framework of the already-existing instruments for the period 2007-2013, for the Euromed Audiovisual programme to continue?

Does it intend to realise cultural cooperation in the audiovisual field via a new specific programme like Euromed Audiovisual?