

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1665/08
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to the Commission

Subject: Barcelona Process

It is often argued that the Barcelona Process, launched in 1995, is a failure. The EU's Multiannual Financial Framework for the 2007-2013 period provides for EUR 16 billion for the Barcelona Process. According to press reports, between 1995 and 2007 only 60-70% of the available funding was used.

How does the Commission explain the fact that full use has not been made of the funding available for the Barcelona Process?

What is the Commission's assessment of the Barcelona Process as a whole to date? Can it indeed be considered to a failure?

In addition to the goal of strengthening political and security policy relations, great emphasis has been placed on economic relations. One of the goals of the Barcelona Process is the establishment of a free-trade area between the EU and the southern Mediterranean states by 2010. What progress has been made in this area? Does the Commission still view this goal as realistic?

In the context of the Barcelona Process, reform is repeatedly mentioned. In what way, and in what areas, would a reform be most effective?