

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5009/08
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to the Commission

Subject: Western Balkans/Euromed

One of the goals of the Barcelona Process launched in 1995 is the establishment of a free-trade area between the EU and the southern Mediterranean states by 2010 (Euromed). Although the Western Balkan countries Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania were not members of the Barcelona Process launched in 1995, they are members of the newly-established 'Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean', which came into being on 13 July 2008.

Does this mean that Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania will also form part of the future Euromed free-trade area? What would be the consequences of membership of the Euromed free-trade area for the countries of the Western Balkans? What would be the added value of Euromed membership for Western Balkan states in comparison with CEFTA membership? How would the two free-trade areas affect each another? Given that the geographical area of CEFTA and of Euromed (not all CEFTA members are members of the Union for the Mediterranean) partially overlap, how can it be ensured that there is no duplication of the same structures in the same geographical area?