

**Question for written answer E-006555/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU relations with the southern neighbourhood on the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process

It is 25 years since the so-called Barcelona Process was launched at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in 1995. The aim of this process was to increase cooperation between the countries of the Mediterranean region, and to this end common lines were agreed on to work towards in political, economic and social matters. At present, relations with the southern neighbourhood are not at their best since, on the one hand, they have been limited by the control and militarisation of borders and, on the other, the political situation is unstable, with the Al-Sisi dictatorship in Egypt, tensions with Turkey and Morocco's breaking of its ceasefire with Western Sahara providing just a few examples.

With this in mind:

1. How does the EC plan to strengthen cooperation with its southern Mediterranean neighbours with regard to democracy, human rights and fight against climate change on both sides of the Mediterranean?
2. Does the Commission consider that the economic partnership agreements with its southern neighbours have improved the socio-economic and climate conditions in the countries of the Mediterranean basin?
3. Does the Commission intend to ensure legal and safe channels for migrants, with a view to preventing deaths in the Mediterranean Sea?