

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Committee on International Trade*

**2005/2058(INI)**

13.9.2005

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the Barcelona Process revisited  
(2005/2058(INI))

Draftsman: Kader Arif

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the decision to hold a high-level conference in November to mark the tenth anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, since it is clear that a fresh impetus must be given to the Partnership;
2. Takes the view that the conference must produce tangible results, particularly in terms of infrastructure financing, a micro-finance facility and measures designed to support economic transition;
3. Notes that, despite the hopes which existed when the Partnership began, the Mediterranean partner countries have not benefited from the commercial openings in terms of economic well-being and they remain in a parlous economic situation, with the unemployment rate high and the investment rate low, and that, because the average age of the population of those countries is very low, that situation is having a distinct influence on migratory flows;
4. Takes the view that the economic aspect of the Partnership must be redirected towards social cohesion and sustainable economic development, given that trade liberalisation cannot be the sole objective thereof and must have an appropriate legal framework;
5. Insists that the European Union must not pursue as an objective the privatisation of public services relating to people's basic needs, to education, to health, to culture, to access to water and to energy;
6. Demands that the Commission and the Member States ensure that the next financial perspective includes sufficient funds to support the economic transition of the Mediterranean partner countries and that the financial-reference amount allocated to the new neighbourhood and partnership financial instrument enables a degree of stability and continuity to be injected into EU assistance within the Mediterranean area (cf the former MEDA programme);
7. Stresses the need for continuing and increased funds for the purpose of monitoring the serious environmental degradation of the Mediterranean basin and the provision of technical assistance to Mediterranean partner countries in order to guarantee the rigorous implementation of the Barcelona Conventions on maritime and land-based maritime pollution, as well as other international agreements on the preservation of the Mediterranean environment;
8. Welcomes the fact that at the fifth ministerial-level meeting of the EIB's Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (the FEMIP) which was held on 20 June 2005, it was decided that the FEMIP should be used to help create jobs, optimise human capital and contribute to the peace process;
9. Emphasises the importance of responding to the problems encountered by the key sector -

agriculture - and wishes to see the development of a proper integrated agricultural policy between the Mediterranean countries and the European Union which will enable fair trading conditions to be established, including coordinated management of agriculture, fisheries and water;

10. Is concerned at developments in the textiles market (the lifting of quotas and competition from China) and calls upon the Commission to develop an effective policy which will help European industry and the Mediterranean partner countries to make a successful transition; in this economic context, looks to the Commission for prompt action and an immediate commitment to the establishment of a consolidated market within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean association agreements, and for the swift conclusion and effective implementation of bilateral agreements between the Mediterranean countries with a view to facilitating the free movement of goods in the pan-Euro-Mediterranean area; advocates the establishment of a common customs framework for that area;
11. Stresses the importance of responding to the problems encountered by the textile sector by supporting the Euro-Mediterranean partnership - a partnership which encourages cooperation by the sector and helps to make it more competitive by means of a pro-active policy in support of training, R&D, technological innovation, the spread of sound practice and the exchange of information concerning markets; recommends that a Euro-Mediterranean networks of schools, training institutes and technical centres specialising in textiles and clothing be set up in for the purpose of promoting technical partnership, training and joint research programmes;
12. Emphasises the importance of bringing a free-trade area into being by 2010 and hopes that the principle of cumulation of origin will be swiftly applied; a system which will grant free access to the Community market for products manufactured from components originating in more than one Mediterranean country, since that would promote greater South-South integration;
13. Considers that, in view of the Mediterranean partner countries' economic situation, significant support is required for infrastructure projects, particularly in the fields of transport, housing and the supply of drinking water;
14. Hopes that the strengthening of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership will result in the conditions required for compliance with the fundamental values of human rights and for democracy, transparency, gender equality and intercultural dialogue being put in place.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	The Barcelona Process revisited		
<b>Procedure number</b>	2005/2058(INI)		
<b>Committee responsible</b>	AFET		
<b>Committee asked for its opinion</b> Date announced in plenary	INTA 12.5.2005		
<b>Enhanced cooperation</b>	No		
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Kader Arif 13.6.2005		
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	12.7.2005	29.8.2005	13.9.2005
<b>Date suggestions adopted</b>	13.9.2005		
<b>Result of final vote</b>	for:	17	
	against:	0	
	abstentions:	2	
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Kader Arif, Jean-Pierre Audy, Christofer Fjellner, Béla Glattfelder, Caroline Lucas, Erika Mann, Helmuth Markov, Georgios Papastamkos, Bogusław Rogalski, Tokia Saïfi, Peter Šťastný, Robert Sturdy, Johan Van Hecke, Zbigniew Zaleski		
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Panagiotis Beglitis, Danutė Budreikaitė, Albert Deß, Elisa Ferreira, Paul Rübig		
<b>Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>			