

ORAL QUESTION O-0040/00

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Luís Queiró and Cristiana Muscardini, on behalf of the UEN Group
to the Council

Subject: Mediterranean policy

The Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in Barcelona in November 1995 had at least the merit of bringing together around the negotiating table the '1000 Mediterraneans of Fernand Braudel', the peoples on the shores of the Mediterranean who had looked across at one another without ever meeting. Unfortunately the Final Act of the Conference was no more than a communiqué and a declaration of intent.

Now that the political context seems to be developing, the Middle East peace process has been relaunched, attempts are being made to restore peace in the Balkans, the situation in Morocco and Algeria seems to have improved and, above all, with a view to the future enlargement of the Union to include the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, it is important to relaunch the Barcelona process and hence the European Union's Mediterranean policy, can the Council say:

- what steps the European Union intends to take to relaunch its Mediterranean policy;
- what contribution the European Union intends to make to tackling the challenge inherent in the implementation of the economic partnership with the countries to the south and east of the Mediterranean;
- what steps the European Union intends to take to tackle the problem of a massive influx of refugees from the Mediterranean basin;
- what steps the European Union intends to take to create real development and employment opportunities 'on the spot';
- what steps it intends to take in the spheres of education, training and the development of civil society;
- how the European Union intends to act to remedy the many problems left unsolved in the agricultural sector?

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Forwarded: 15.03.2000

Deadline for reply: 05.04.2000