

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Session document*

23 March 2000

B5-0297/2000 }  
B5-0298/2000 }  
B5-0300/2000 }  
B5-0303/2000 }  
B5-0304/2000 }

}RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Fiori, Galeote , Cocilovo, Giannakou-Koutsikou, Tajani and Sarnez, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

Napoletano, Sakellariou, Naïr and Obiols i Germa, on behalf of the PSE Group

Rutelli, Gasòliba, Costa and Ducarme, on behalf of the ELDR Group

Cohn-Bendit and Bautista, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Muscardini, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0297/2000)
- PSE (B5-0298/2000)
- UEN (B5-0300/2000)
- Verts/ALE (B5-0303/2000)
- PPE-DE (B5-0304/2000)

on Mediterranean policy

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PE 289.407/  
PE 289.408/  
PE 289.410/  
PE 289.413/  
PE 289.414/ RC1  
Or. pa

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 17, 18, 21 and 22 of the EU Treaty,
  - having regard to its resolution of 11 October 1995 on the Mediterranean policy of the European Union with a view to the Barcelona Conference<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 14 December 1995 on the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Barcelona<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 13 March 1997 on the joint report by the Presidency of the Council and the Commission on Mediterranean policy<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 11 March 1999 on the Commission Communication entitled 'the role of the European Union in the peace process and future assistance to the Middle East'<sup>4</sup> and its recommendation to the Council on the Union's Mediterranean policy<sup>5</sup>,
  - having regard to the Barcelona Declaration and work programme of 28 November 1995 adopted at the Barcelona Conference,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the Malta Conference of 15 and 16 April 1997,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the Palermo Conference of 3 and 4 June 1998,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the Stuttgart Conference of 15 and 16 April 1999,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the civic forums held in Malta, Naples and Stuttgart,
- A. having regard to the strategic importance of the Mediterranean for the European Union and the consequent need for a genuine Mediterranean policy capable of sustaining peaceful stability and economic and social development,
- B. whereas the Barcelona process has been slow to bear fruit, the reasons for this delay being both technical (cumbersome administrative procedures and mechanisms for giving effect to the programme) and political (difficulties in the Middle East peace process, the Balkans crisis and crisis in the European institutions); and whereas the building of a Euro-Mediterranean area cannot be based exclusively on the creation of a free-trade area,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 287, 30.10.1995, p. 121

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 17, 22.1.1996, p. 178

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 115, 14.4.1997, p. 159

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 175, 21.6.1999, p. 282

<sup>5</sup> OJ C 175, 21. 6. 1999, p. 286

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- C. whereas the Third Ministerial Conference in Stuttgart consolidated what had been achieved in Palermo and defined a practical programme of working methods, emphasising among other things the need for a draft Stability Charter, currently in preparation,
- D. noting the successes achieved previously with the signing of five association agreements, but concerned at the long delays in ratifying these agreements on the part of the Member States, which delay their entry into force, the difficulties which have arisen in the negotiations concerning the other agreements and the lack of flexibility in the negotiating mandate given to the Commission by the Council,
- E. whereas the bilateral approach based on association agreements may mean that the economies of the MNCs are increasingly shaped by their trade with the European Union, while failing to develop south-south trade, particularly at the sub-regional level,
- F. expressing its surprise that the Commission has so far failed to put forward for discussion any model multilateral agreement,
- G. whereas the association agreements recommend the initiation of a political dialogue based on mutual understanding and respect and aimed at encouraging democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law and good governance,
- H. having regard to the importance of Euro-Mediterranean civil society in achieving the objectives set out in the Barcelona Declaration; welcoming also the constructive stance adopted by the NGOs forum which regularly meets on the fringes of the official interministerial meetings,
- I. having regard to the role played by the European Union in the Middle East peace process and the economic programme running in parallel with it, and stressing the political duty to give the greatest possible visibility to the European contribution to peace and stability in this neighbouring region,
- J. recognising the right of all Mediterranean third countries to take part in the Barcelona process, provided they undertake to respect the principles on which it is based, the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other obligations deriving from international law, and in particular from the regional and international instruments to which they are parties,
- K. pointing out that the human rights aspects of the Barcelona process are still woefully deficient and that the situation in many countries shows no sign of improvement,

- L. whereas, furthermore, the political changes that have taken place in the Maghreb countries offer conditions which are favourable to the Barcelona process,
  - M. having regard to the need for the European Union to pay attention to the conflicts in the region and to state its willingness to support any efforts at mediation,
  - N. having regard to the low level of investment, particularly private investment, in the Mediterranean despite the fact that it is generally agreed that the region has great potential,
  - O. having regard to the need for substantial Community support to accompany the efforts being made by each of the MNCs to achieve economic transition and lessen the social impact of the opening of the markets and to foster regional and sub-regional integration in the Mediterranean,
  - P. whereas, against this background, revenue from the conversion of the foreign debt should be reinvested primarily in codevelopment policies with the MNCs,
  - Q. whereas in the Euro-Mediterranean region the development of the social and economic area must be accompanied by a planning policy aimed at balanced, sustainable, integrated spatial development of the Euro-Mediterranean territory,
  - R. firmly convinced that the second Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum should be held in the next few months in order to relaunch and develop the Euro-Mediterranean partnership,
1. Calls on the Council and the Commission to relaunch the Euro-Mediterranean partnership agreed in Barcelona in November 1995 and considers that the lack of progress made is a potential crisis factor in the region and undermines the EU's political role in leading the efforts aimed at achieving stability in the area;
  2. Calls on the parties to speed up the process of negotiation of the Charter for Stability and Security and believes that cooperation on security matters cannot be separated from economic and trade developments; urges all parties, in this respect, to pay special attention to conflict prevention policies and non-military means of crisis management;
  3. Calls on the Council and Commission to provide appropriations for the European Union's Mediterranean policy such as will restore the correct balance between funding for the Central and Eastern European countries and that for the MNCs, as decided by the Cannes European Council (ratio of 5 to 3.5);

4. Calls on the Council and the Commission to return to the all-embracing approach defined in Barcelona, taking account of certain hitherto neglected priorities, with a view to economic transition and structural adjustment:
  - support for investment
  - support for decentralised cooperation
  - support for a policy of joint migration management
  - support for employment;
5. Calls on the Council and Commission to step up political, economic and financial support for the integration of the sub-regional zones, starting with the Maghreb and the Middle East, by establishing sub-regional association agreements, providing funding the regional programmes implemented in the framework of Euro-Mediterranean partnership at a more significant level than that currently assigned under the MEDA programme;
6. Calls on the Council and Commission to set up, in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, a programme of interregional and transnational cooperation aimed at achieving complementarity and economic and social integration and carried out via effective financial synergies and coordination between the INTERREG and MEDA programmes;
7. Reiterates its call to the Council, the Member States and the Commission to act promptly within the relevant international organisations to establish effective measures to reduce/convert the MNCs' foreign debt;
8. Calls on the Council and Commission to create an attractive environment for investors by providing technical assistance with harmonising Mediterranean investment law similar to that offered to the Central and Eastern European countries;
9. Calls on the Council and Commission to ensure that decentralised cooperation is established, enabling the players in civil society on the two banks of the Mediterranean to meet and design projects together, by supporting the new programmes, particularly those within MEDA, and strengthening the MEDA Democracy, Euromed Heritage and Euromed Audiovisual programmes, together with the sub-regional training programmes for journalists;
10. Calls on the Commission to ensure that priority is given in the current year to projects involving women's rights and equal opportunities in establishing the MEDA-democracy programme;
11. Calls on the Council and the Commission to support initiatives which enable immigrants to participate in codevelopment, i.e. support for micro-projects, training and investment in the country of origin;
12. Deplores the lack of respect of the human rights clause in the Euro-Mediterranean agreements and calls on the Commission to assume its responsibility as regards invoking

respect of the clause and raising the issue of respect for human rights in both multilateral and bilateral talks;

13. Calls on the Council and the Commission to issue an annual report on human rights in the countries participating in the Barcelona process as a basis for the further development of bilateral relations;
14. Calls on the Commission to support the holding of civil forums which bring together non-governmental organisations and the socio-economic partners with a view to promoting active participation in the Barcelona process by civil society in the countries concerned;
15. Calls on the Council and the Commission to relaunch the Euro-Mediterranean partnership also by the definition of a new generation of programmes with a view to avoiding the current fragmentation and dispersal, and to ensure better political coordination and more effective use of resources;
16. Calls on the Council and Commission to initiate in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership a joint process of reflection aimed at a coordination of Mediterranean agricultural policies bearing in mind the reform of the CAP and the multifunctional dimension of the agricultural industry;
17. Calls on the Commission and Council to promote an regional programme on the Euro-Mediterranean 'social area' and to foster increased cooperation in the areas of the environment, tourism and sport, *inter alia* by an optimisation of the cultural heritage (abstract and concrete), local development and dialogue between cultures and creeds;
18. Welcomes the decision to hold the second meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum in Lisbon;
19. Welcomes the decision by the French Presidency to hold a new Euro-Mediterranean Conference on 14 November 2000;
20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States and of the MNCs which are signatories to the Barcelona Declaration.