


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1998/2072(INI)	Procedure completed
The Union's Mediterranean policy		
Subject 6.40.05 Relations with the Mediterranean and southern European countries		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	PSE SAKELLARIOU Jannis	22/04/1998

Key events			
19/03/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	B4-0282/1998	
02/04/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/02/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
23/02/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0095/1999	
10/03/1999	Debate in Parliament		
11/03/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0192/1999	Summary
11/03/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2072(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 134o-p3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/09976

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		B4-0282/1998	19/03/1998	EP	

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0095/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0005	23/02/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0192/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0192-0286	11/03/1999	EP	Summary

The Union's Mediterranean policy

The signing of five association agreements under the Barcelona process has been welcomed by the Committee, although it deplores the delay in ratifying the agreements, which is holding up their entry into force. The committee, voiced these views when it unanimously adopted an own-initiative report by Jannis SAKELLARIOU (PES, D). The report's proposal for a recommendation regrets that, nearly three years after the Barcelona Conference, not all Mediterranean states have yet been invited to participate in the Barcelona process. It stresses that if the current deadlock in the Middle East peace process is not overcome the Barcelona process will not be able to move forward. It also calls on the Union to play a more prominent role in the process. The committee emphasises the need to ensure compliance with the human rights provisions in the Barcelona Declaration and asks the Council to instruct the Commission to compile an annual report on the human rights situation in countries which have signed the declaration. It also says that support should be given to active participation in the Barcelona process by "civil society" in the countries concerned. Libya, it says, should be invited to attend the next conference in Stuttgart, provided it fulfils the commitments it made concerning the relevant UN resolutions and recognises the principles of the Barcelona Conference regarding the right of all partners in the dialogue to exist. In addition, the Mediterranean third countries not currently involved in the Barcelona process should be granted observer status and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia should be given a status similar to that of Mauritania. Lastly, the report wants the Commission's negotiating mandate for the Euro-Mediterranean agreements to be placed on a fundamentally more flexible footing (apart from the democracy and human rights clauses) so that the specific needs of each of the partners can better be taken into account, and for debt cancellation to be made part of a strategy whereby the indebted state undertakes to reinvest the money owed in projects for economic recovery and reform measures. ?

The Union's Mediterranean policy

The Parliament adopted its report, drafted by Mr. Jannis Sakellariou (PES, Germany), on the Community's Mediterranean policy. The Parliament calls for the ratification of the association agreements signed between the EU and five other countries under the Barcelona process, which aims to promote links between the EU and other countries bordering the Mediterranean. It urges an end to the current deadlock in the Middle East peace process and calls on the Eu to play a more prominent role in the process. The Resolution goes on to call for Libya to be invited to the next conference of the Barcelona process that will be held in Stuttgart, and for other countries not currently involved to be granted observer status. ?