

Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2000/2294(COS)	Procedure completed
Relations EU/Mediterranean countries: reinvigorating the Barcelona process		
Subject 6.40.05 Relations with the Mediterranean and southern European countries		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	PSE NAÏR Sami	07/11/2000
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		07/11/2000
		PPE-DE FIORI Francesco	
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		05/12/2000
		PPE-DE GUTIÉRREZ-CORTINES Cristina	
European Commission	Commission DG External Relations	Commissioner	

Key events			
06/09/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0497	Summary
29/11/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/01/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
16/01/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0009/2001	
31/01/2001	Debate in Parliament		

01/02/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0054/2001	Summary
01/02/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/09/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/2294(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/14007

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0497	06/09/2000	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A5-0009/2001	16/01/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0054/2001 OJ C 267 21.09.2001, p. 0021-0068	01/02/2001	EP	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1332/2001	18/10/2001	ESC	

Relations EU/Mediterranean countries: reinvigorating the Barcelona process

PURPOSE: Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament to prepare the fourth meeting of Euro-Mediterranean foreign ministers "Reinvigorating the Barcelona Process". **CONTENT:** This Communication seeks to prepare the EU's position in the run-up to the Euro-Mediterranean meeting of Foreign Ministers of November 2000. The Barcelona process, established in 1995, is a regional framework which brings partners together at both political and technical level to promote their common interests. It builds on the various Mediterranean policies developed by the EU since the 1960s but marked a new departure in that, for the first time, it created a framework for strategic relations going beyond the traditional areas of trade and assistance cooperation. This multilateral process is underpinned by a network of bilateral relations between each partner country and the EU, embodied in Association Agreements. The three main goals of the EU Mediterranean policy are set out in the Barcelona Declaration and in the common strategy adopted by the European Council in Feira in June 2000. They are as follows: - the creation of an area of peace and stability based on fundamental principles, including respect for human rights and democracy; - the creation of an area of shared prosperity through the progressive establishment of free trade between the EU and its partners and among the partners themselves in view of the creation of the wider Euro-Mediterranean free trade area by 2010. This process is accompanied by substantial financial support from the EU for economic transition and to help partners deal with social and economic challenges which come from transition. - the improvement of mutual understanding among the peoples of the region and the development of an active civil society. While there have been many successes, several difficulties have also been encountered. For example, difficulties in the Middle East have slowed process and limited the extent to which full regional co-operation could develop. The process of negotiation and ratification of the Association Agreements has also been slower than expected and the spirit of partnership has not led to a sufficiently frank and serious dialogue on issues such as human rights, prevention of terrorism or migration. In addition, trade between Mediterranean partners (South-South trade) has not increased and implementation of the MEDA programme has been hampered by complicated procedures both in the EC and in partner countries. Against this background, the Commission seeks to reinvigorate the process in several important respects: - as regards the Association Agreements, there is a need to accelerate negotiation, signature and ratification; - as regards trade, for each country for which an Association Agreement is in force, the Commission will carry out a detailed examination of the further steps needed in order to reach, by the end of the transition period, a GATT compatible Free Trade Agreement, covering all sectors including greater liberalisation of reciprocal trade in agriculture; - enhanced regional and sub-regional trade and economic cooperation. As regards the MEDA programme which provides financial assistance to support the objectives of the Association Agreements, future programming will be more focussed and concentrated on a smaller number of priorities, directly linked to the Agreements. The Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Peace and Stability should be agreed in November 2000 and finally, a new programme designed to raise awareness both in EU Member States and in partner countries will be launched. ?

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The committee adopted the report by Sami NAIR (PES, F) on the Commission communication. Among the key issues raised in the report were

the need to forestall the adverse economic and social repercussions of the association agreements, the need to respect human rights and democratic principles, the prevention of terrorism and immigration. The committee recommended that the qualitative importance to be attached to social aspects and to cultural and immigration issues should be equivalent to that accorded to economic, trade and security considerations. On the economic front, the report called for the various options for debt conversion to be studied and supported. Decentralised cooperation should be effectively relaunched on a long-term basis, and the Barcelona process should operate within a cohesion policy covering the Euro-Mediterranean area as a whole. Economic liberalisation should be encouraged with a view to mutual benefit and with due respect for social rights. This could be achieved, for example, by a policy to encourage micro-projects and a much more active role for civil society. A broad debate should be opened with the aim of enabling migration to be managed jointly, laying down policies on temporary migration, introducing a special travel visa for those involved in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, harnessing immigration to assist development in countries of origin and bringing about an explicit integration policy in host countries for legal established immigrants. The report suggested setting up a migration monitoring centre and called on the Euro-Mediterranean Forum to set up a migration committee. Lastly, the committee called on the Council and the Commission to ensure that the EU assumed a more ambitious political role in the Mediterranean region. It maintained that a solution to the Middle East conflict was an essential condition for achieving peace and stability in the Mediterranean region, which meant the right to security for Israel and for all the other countries in the region, as well as recognition of the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to have a viable state.?

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The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Sami NA-R (PES, F). (Please refer to the previous text). However, the House would like to see eventually an Association of Euro-Mediterranean States that would be capable of developing a more integrated partnership. It wants the revived Barcelona Process to stress such issues as health, education, the rights of women and children, a sustainable environment, and culture. It reiterates many points made in previous resolutions, including a call for the association agreements to be replaced eventually by a single multilateral agreement. It wants to see a free trade area encompassing all sectors and that the experience in completing the single market to be used to lay down a body of rules to govern the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area with a timetable for certain priority sectors by 2002. In addition, the Parliament wants to open up a broad debate that would come forward with ways of introducing harmonised laws to regulate immigration. It also calls on the Commission to set up a migration monitoring centre to keep all matters relating to migration under constant review and the Euro-Mediterranean forum should establish a migration committee. Lastly, one amendment adopted calls on Member States to ensure that migrants resident in the EU enjoy equal treatment in respect of economic and social rights and recognition of civic, cultural and political rights. A further amendment calls on the EU to prohibit exports by European countries to Mediterranean partner countries of foodstuffs produced using substances banned in the EU and to introduce controls to this effect. ?