


# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">2001/2027(INI)</a>	Procedure completed
Relations between European Union and the Union of Arabic Maghreb: coming into force of a privileged partnership		
Subject 6.40.05.02 Relations with the countries of the Great Maghreb and Maghreb		
Geographical area Maghreb		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>AFET</b> Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense		20/03/2001
		PPE-DE <a href="#">MORILLON Philippe</a>	20/03/2001
		V/ALE <a href="#">COHN-BENDIT Daniel</a>	

Key events			
15/03/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/05/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
22/05/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A5-0175/2002</a>	
11/06/2002	Debate in Parliament		
11/06/2002	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0296/2002</a>	Summary
11/06/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/10/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2027(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

## Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure		<a href="#">B5-0418/2001</a>	14/11/2001	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A5-0175/2002</a>	22/05/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T5-0296/2002</a> <a href="#">OJ C 261 30.10.2003, p. 0031-0142 E</a>	11/06/2002	EP	Summary

## Relations between European Union and the Union of Arabic Maghreb: coming into force of a privileged partnership

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Philippe MORILLON (EPP-ED, F) and Daniel COHN-BENDIT (Greens/EFA, F) on a privileged partnership between the European Union and the Arab Maghreb Union. The report underlined Parliament's firm commitment to an active, open and constructive Euro-Mediterranean policy based on closer dialogue between cultures. It also called for new forms of political and economic cooperation between stable, unified partners, which it said could take the form of a pact for stability, democracy and development. MEPs stressed that closer ties and efforts to promote regional cooperation between the Maghreb countries were crucial to the development of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. They added that the EU had a duty, in cooperation with the UN, to assist in resolving disputes and in creating a climate of peace in the region, in the interests of all concerned. As regards the existing Euro-Mediterranean agreements, MEPs believed these should be regularly evaluated, once a year, by the association council with the full involvement of the European Parliament and the parliaments of the Maghreb countries. In addition, the Commission was asked to draw up an assessment of the economic and social impact of the association agreements. The report backed the fight against terrorism but reiterated the importance of the clause on human rights, democracy and the rule of law contained in the association agreements, as well as the need for political pluralism and safeguards for freedom of association in the Maghreb states. In addition the Commission was urged to act independently when administering the EU democracy and human rights programmes. On the economic front, the committee said that it was not enough to open up borders if this did not go hand-in-hand with investment geared towards the complementary development and integration of the economies of the region. The EU should also reconsider its immigration policy with a view to sharing responsibility with the Maghreb States for the management of migration flows. The aim must be to harness immigration so as to assist development in the country of origin and implement an integration policy in host countries while still combating illegal trafficking in human beings. ?

## Relations between European Union and the Union of Arabic Maghreb: coming into force of a privileged partnership

The European Parliament adopted its own-initiative resolution drafted by Daniel COHN-BENDIT (Greens/EFA, Germany) and Phillipe MORILLON (EPP-ED, France) on the EU and the Arab Maghreb Union. (Please refer to the document dated 22/05/02.) Parliament stressed that the development of civil society must be a cornerstone of the EU/Maghreb partnership, and emphasised the need for direct support to independent citizen associations and local NGOs. Particular attention was given to the conflict in Western Sahara. Parliament expressed the hope that further cooperation between the countries of the AMU can help bring a climate of peace to the region, and above all the Sahrawi people, who have experienced great suffering over the last 25 years. Turning to economic cooperation, Parliament asked that the EU significantly improve conditions for exports from the Maghreb countries, and cooperate with them to promote increased private investment, the establishment of joint ventures and trade liberalisation. It regretted the failure of the EU-Morocco fisheries agreement. Parliament remained convinced that the quest for food sovereignty is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Essential opening-up of markets should be carried out fairly amongst the partners and be balanced by measures to ensure the long-term future of agriculture and regional fisheries. Cooperation should be developed in the fields of public services, such as transport, energy, telecoms and health. Parliament went on to state that it did not consider the proposals at the Barcelona Council of March 2002 run counter to the prospect of establishing a Euro-Mediterranean development bank at a later stage. An EIB office in the region is a positive step. Special efforts should be made to guide investments towards supporting regional and transnational projects in the Maghreb. The Commission is asked to boost the multinational dimension of the MEDA programmes and render them more effective, with the aim of further promoting regional cooperation. ?