
THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP SINCE THE BARCELONA CONFERENCE 27-28 NOVEMBER 1995

DN: MEMO/97/17 Date: 1997-02-19

TXT: FR EN

PDF: FR EN

Word Processed: FR EN

MEMO/97/17

Brussels, 19 February 1997

THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP SINCE THE BARCELONA CONFERENCE

□ 27-28 NOVEMBER 1995

1. . Background

The Barcelona Declaration and the Work Programme appended to it concern twelve partners from the Mediterranean region: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and the Palestinian Authority.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) has three dimensions: a political and security partnership, an economic and financial partnership, and partnership in social, cultural and human affairs. Each is implemented in two separate but complementary ways: via bilateral agreements, and regionally. The Partnership embraces governments, economic agents and civil society.

The Cannes European Council in June 1995 allocated the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership a budget for 1995-99 comprising ECU 4 685 million of grants from the Community budget, essentially from the MEDA Programme, plus loans from the European Investment Bank.

□ 2. Bilateral achievements

Three Euro-Mediterranean association agreements have so far been signed, with Tunisia, Israel and Morocco. Three more similar agreements are currently being negotiated with Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. An Interim Agreement has been negotiated with the PLO for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority. Negotiations with Algeria should start very shortly, and exploratory talks are under way with Syria.

The three other Mediterranean partners already have special ties with the EU: Cyprus and Malta in the form of Association Agreements, and Turkey in the form of the Customs Union.

The MEDA Programme, 90% of it implemented at the bilateral level, provides backing for economic

transition in eligible countries. Considerable work has been done in mobilizing funds, getting the programming process up and running and reforming implementation procedures. All available resources in 1996 were committed.

□ **3. Multilateral achievements**

At the multilateral level, giving effect to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership essentially involves promoting dialogue between the parties and making joint progress towards the common goals defined at Barcelona in each of the three chapters.

3.1. Political and security issues

EMP regional activities have made most satisfying progress in this area on four issues in particular:

- confidence-building measures have been approved, including the creation of a network of political and security correspondents, the compilation of human rights and weapons inventories, the planned launch of a Euro-Mediterranean network of defence institutes, and of machinery for exchanges of senior political and military officials, and ongoing work on the organization of civil and military cooperation machinery for use in the event of disasters in the region;
 - discussions are under way on a plan of action covering six areas: strengthening of democracy, preventive diplomacy, security and confidence-building measures (see above), disarmament, terrorism and organized crime;
 - work has started on a Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Peace and Stability, an institutional dialogue and crisis-prevention mechanism seen as the cornerstone of the EMP's political and security dimension;
 - September saw the inauguration of joint information and training measures aimed at diplomats from the twenty-seven Partnership countries - these will continue in 1997, when an electronic information network linking their foreign ministries will be put in place.
- **3.2. Economic and financial issues**

This dimension of the EMP brings in economic agents as well as governments. It is intended to complement rather than replace measures being sponsored by the EU at the bilateral level.

On the governmental side the Barcelona Conference was followed by six sectoral ministerial meetings, on industry, the information society, energy, tourism, fisheries and water management respectively. Each resulted in a form of agreement being reached on common sectoral policy principles as a basis for the alignment of policies in the sectors concerned. In most cases agreement was also reached on the creation of a permanent forum for communication and dialogue and on various joint common-interest projects.

Governmental experts have also met to discuss small and medium-sized enterprises and maritime transport. A meeting on the economic transition process is scheduled for March.

At the level of economic agents meetings are taking place between entities occupying a comparable place in all EMP countries, including industry federations, banks, economic research institutes, chambers of commerce, trade fairs and export promotion bodies. The aim in every case is to promote greater familiarity, dialogue and the transfer of know-how. The creation of electronic communications networks and training or technical support projects are systematically encouraged.

3.3. Social, cultural and human affairs

Substantial progress has been achieved in a number of areas.

Applying common principles agreed at a meeting of culture ministers in April, experts have produced a list of seventeen joint common-interest projects involving the architectural and intellectual heritage.

Two meetings of economic and social councils, or comparable bodies, took place in December 1995 and November 1996. A dialogue on religions has been initiated on the basis of a series of meetings.

Senior officials met for the first time in July to discuss drugs and organized crime. More generally, in the field of justice and home affairs a dialogue has begun between the EU and its Mediterranean partners.

A number of topics under the heading of human affairs, such as youth, will soon be treated.

□ **3.4. Institutional aspects of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership**

The body entrusted with monitoring the implementation of the EMP is the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which has met four times in 1996. In accordance with the Declaration, the preparatory and follow-up work for activities resulting from the Barcelona process is undertaken by the Commission.

3.5. Information and communications

A number of projects are under way to provide information and communications services for the Mediterranean partners: provision of weekly satellite TV news footage, the upcoming Arab "Euronews" channel, and visits by journalists.

At a more general level an Internet information service will be introduced during 1997 and a monthly newsletter is planned.

MEETINGS UNDER THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP

- *MEETING OF THE*
- *EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE BARCELONA PROCESS*

The Committee is composed of Directors of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the 27 Partners and of the European Commission. It coordinates and prepares all the activities of the Barcelona process.

On 16-17 April 1996, in Brussels

On 3-4 June 1996, in Rome

On 9 October 1996, in Brussels

On 20 November 1996, in Brussels

On 29 January 1997, in Brussels

- *POLITICAL AND SECURITY ASPECTS*

The aim of these meetings was to develop the political and security Chapter of the Barcelona Declaration,

the objective of which is to define a common area of peace and stability.

Meeting of Senior Officials on Political and Security questions:

On 26-27 March 1996, in Brussels

On 20-21 May 1996, in Brussels

On 23-24 July 1996, in Brussels

On 8 October 1996, in Brussels

On 19 November 1996, in Brussels

· **On 28 January 1997, in Brussels**

Meetings of the network of Foreign Policy Institutes:

On 7-8 June 1996, in Lisbon

· **On 28-30 November 1996, in Rabat** : working groups on (i) political and security cooperation and (ii) confidence-building measures, conflict prevention and disarmament

□ ***ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS***

These meetings concerning the Economic and Financial Chapter of the Barcelona Declaration have the objective of creating an area of shared prosperity and preparation for Free-Trade.

Statistics Cooperation:

- Seminar of Directors General of Statistics and Regional Programme for Cooperation in Statistics, on 11-13 December 1995, in Valence

- Seminar of Directors General of Statistics and Regional Programme for Cooperation in Statistics, on 18-20 June 1996, in Naples

Customs cooperation:

- Meeting of Officials on rules of origin, on 28-29 March 1996, in Brussels

- Meeting of Officials on rules of origin, on 28-29 May 1996, in Brussels

- Meeting of Officials on rules of origin, on 7-8 October 1996, in Cairo

Information Society:

- Workshop on Research (preparatory workshop to the Ministerial Conference on Information Society), on 1-2 April 1996 in Sofia Antipolis

- Workshop on Education and Training (preparatory workshop to the Ministerial Conference on

Information Society), on 2-3 May 1996 in Brussels

- Workshop on the Regulatory Framework (preparatory workshop to the Ministerial Conference on Information Society), on 6-7 May 1996 in Palermo
- Ministerial Conference on Information Society, on 30-31 May 1996 in Rome
- Conference on MARIS (Maritime Information Society), on 7 June 1996, in Malta

Tourism:

- Ministerial Conference on Tourism, on 10-11 May 1996 in Naples

Private Investment and Industry:

- Industrial Federations Conference, on 13-14 May 1996 in Malta
- Meeting of Industry Ministers, on 20-21 May 1996 in Brussels
- Workshop on SMEs, on 4-5 June 1996 in Milan
- Working Group on Service centres and industrial zones, on 24-25 June 1996 in Rome
- Euro-Mediterranean Summit of industrial federations, on 5-6 December 1996 in Marrakesh

Energy:

- Meeting in margins of the Solar Summit, on 22 May 1996 in Malta (preparatory meeting to the Conference of Energy Ministers).
- Conference of Energy Ministers, on 7-9 June 1996 in Trieste
- Meeting on the European Energy Charter, on 21-22 November 1996 in Brussels

Environment:

- Experts Meeting on the protection of wetlands in the Mediterranean area, on 5-6 June 1996 in Venice

Transport:

- Meeting of Experts on the implementation of the multi-annual Programme on maritime transport in the Mediterranean, on 14-15 October 1996 in Cyprus

Water:

- Conference on the water local management, on 25-26 November 1996 in Marseilles

Fishing:

- Experts preparatory Meeting on fish stocks management in the Mediterranean, on 4-5 July 1996 in

Brussels

- 2nd Diplomatic Conference on fish stocks management in the Mediterranean, from 27 to 29 November 1996 in Venice

Science and Technology:

- meeting of the Monitoring Committee on Science and Technology, on 2-3 May 1996 in Capri
- meeting of the Monitoring Committee on Science and Technology, on 12-13 December 1996 in Cyprus

□ *SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND HUMAN AFFAIRS*

The meetings which took place within the framework of the Social, Cultural and Human Chapter of the Barcelona Declaration aim to develop the human resources, to encourage understanding between peoples and exchanges between civil societies.

Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations:

- Workshop on the conservation of cultural heritage (preparatory workshop to the Bologna Conference on cultural heritage), on 9-10 February 1996 in Arles
- Workshop on the access to cultural heritage (preparatory workshop to the Bologna Conference on cultural heritage), on 23-24 February 1996 in Berlin
- Workshop on the heritage as a factor in sustainable development (preparatory workshop to the Bologna Conference on the cultural heritage), on 22-23 March 1996 in Amman
- Ministerial Conference on cultural heritage, on 22-23 April 1996 in Bologna
- Conference on relations between the Islamic world and Europe, on 10-13 June 1996 in Amman
- Conference on contemporary Islam, on 17-18 June 1996 in Copenhagen

Social development:

- Tripartite Conference on the euro-mediterranean social area: work, enterprise, training, on 24-25 May 1996 in Catania

Fight against Drug and organized crime:

- Officials Meeting on drug trafficking and organized crime, on 11-12 June 1996 in Taormina

□ *INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS*

Institutional contacts were envisaged in the work programme defined in Barcelona to contribute to a better understanding of the issues relevant in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

Parliamentary Dialogue:

- **on 6-7 December 1996, in Catania** : 1st Parliamentary meeting on euro-mediterranean cooperation on energy, particularly renewable energy

Summits of Economic and Social Committees:

December 1995, in Madrid

21-22 November 1996, in Paris

□ ***OTHER EVENTS***

These meetings took place within the Euro-Mediterranean framework on the initiative of non-governmental bodies and institutions.

- Information session for mid-career Diplomats, from 28 September to 6 October 1996, in Malta
- Workshop on the potential of contracting services in the Mediterranean, on 17-18 October 1996 in Istanbul
- EIB forum '96 "The Mediterranean: an area for the Partnership ", 24-25 October 1996 in Madrid
- Euro-Mediterranean banking forum, on 12-13 December 1996 in Tunis