



# EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



## RESOLUTION

of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly

on **the future of the Barcelona Process**

adopted on 21 November 2005 in Rabat (Morocco)

on the basis of the draft resolution tabled on behalf of the Committee on Political affairs, Security and Human Rights, by Mrs Tokia Saïfi, chairwoman

### **The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly:**

- having regard to the Barcelona Declaration of 28 November 1995 and its programme of work,
  - having regard to its resolution on the evaluation of the Barcelona Process on the eve of its tenth anniversary, adopted in Cairo on 15 March 2005,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the Seventh Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Luxembourg on 30 and 31 May 2005, notably points 5 and 21,
  - having regard to the Commission communication entitled 'Tenth Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: a Work Programme to Meet the Challenges of the Next Five Years',
  - having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 27 October 2005 on 'the Barcelona Process revisited',
  - having regard to the debates at the sittings of 15 June 2005 and 20 September 2005,
  - having regard to the considerations raised by Mr Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, at the sitting of 15 June 2005,
  - having regard to Rule 3(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
1. Welcomes the tangible results of the Barcelona Process, as a unique and far-sighted initiative for peace and prosperity on the shores of the Mediterranean, in both the economic and the political fields; notes that, in the current context, the cooperation philosophy and objectives set out in the Barcelona Declaration in 1995 are even more relevant today for the Euro-Mediterranean partnership;
  2. Underlines that, for the last ten years, the Barcelona Process has been the only project in the Euro-Mediterranean region which aims to create an area of stability and prosperity based on shared values giving priority to increasingly close, stable and symmetrical cooperation between all Euro-Mediterranean States and peoples;
  3. Underlines that, in order to be effective, Euro-Mediterranean policies must be endowed with sufficient funding to achieve their ambitions; reaffirms the need to ensure that the level of appropriations allocated from 2007 through the new Neighbourhood Policy's financial instrument will allow the goals established in the Action Plan for the next five years to be effectively attained;
  4. Considers, in this connection, that much has been done since then to achieve those objectives, but that there is still a long way to go, and recalls that the partnership has been more successful in some areas than in others;
  5. Believes that the European Neighbourhood Policy and the strategic partnership for the Mediterranean basin should be integrated into the Barcelona Process so as to prevent the dispersal of resources; calls, in this context, on the EU Council and Commission to clarify the institutional and operational relationship between these instruments and the Barcelona Process;

6. Wishes to see practical arrangements introduced to enable the Mediterranean partner countries to play a greater part in the official political dialogue, with a view to developing the co-responsibility, proactive attitudes and spirit of mutual learning which should characterise the partnership; believes, in this connection, that the principles of co-presidency and alternation of venue should be implemented as soon as possible;
7. Calls for the establishment of a permanent General Secretariat to monitor and coordinate the Barcelona Process and ensure that it develops beyond the political direction and priorities established by each six-monthly Presidency;
8. Welcomes the conclusion of Euro-Mediterranean association agreements with the nine partner countries and the initialling of the agreement with Syria; believes that these agreements need to become fully operational as soon as possible, and should be complemented by South-South agreements on the Agadir model, thus making it possible to develop genuine interregional cooperation;
9. Welcomes the Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip and considers that, though unilateral, it represents an important step which should be deemed an integral part of the Road Map for peace towards a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict; considers it essential to create the institutional and material conditions to ensure the establishment of an economically viable Palestinian State; welcomes, in this context, the European Union's financial efforts for Gaza's economic development and calls on the international community to further invest in the area and to respect its financial commitments;
10. Strongly supports the ongoing process of consolidating democratic institutions pursued by President Abbas and the forthcoming general elections in Palestine; welcomes the European Union's contribution to the organisation of these elections;
11. Urges the Israeli and Palestinian authorities to resume high level contacts in order to restart the dialogue and to reaffirm their will to reach a fair, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the conflict with the support of the international community; is aware of the fragility of this process and of the risk of a fresh upsurge of violence and calls on all parties to find an answer to issues still unresolved by means of direct political negotiations in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Road Map for peace;
12. Calls on the international community to support this process, which should be based on the two-State solution already proposed, on the relevant UN resolutions, and on the fundamental right of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples to live in peace and security within internationally recognised borders; calls on both sides to abstain from all action that might undermine the moves towards a lasting peace;
13. Is fully aware, in this connection, of the concerns of the Palestinian delegation regarding such major issues as security, the decision of the International Court of Justice on the Israeli separation wall (or 'security enclosure'), the refugees, the settlements and the subjects relating to the Final Status Negotiations; is equally well aware of the Israeli delegation's concerns over such major issues as security;
14. Welcomes the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon and the holding of democratic parliamentary elections in Lebanon, as positive elements of political stabilisation; calls

on the Lebanese authorities to continue their cooperation with the UN's mission of inquiry into the assassination of the former Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri;

15. Welcomes the establishment of an 'alliance of civilisations', especially through developing education and supporting the creation of a diversified civil society; stresses also the need to address the causes of terrorism, by tackling inequalities and promoting economic and human development;
16. Calls on all the Euro-Mediterranean partners to act jointly against racism, xenophobia and intolerance - including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, rejecting extremist views which attempt to divide us and to foment violence, and joining together to promote common understanding;
17. Recalls that the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly strongly condemns all forms of terrorism and incitement to hatred, whatever their origin;
18. Calls on the Ministerial Conference to give a fresh impetus to the fight against terrorism by means of a structured common strategy of the Euro-Mediterranean countries; regrets that no consensus has been reached at international level on a legal definition of terrorism and supports the efforts being made at subregional level by Morocco, Spain and France to create a Euro-Mediterranean police and judicial cooperation network;
19. Is concerned at the fact that a number of countries have invoked the fight against terrorism in adopting or announcing laws permitting exemptions from their international obligations in the areas of human rights, international humanitarian law, refugee law and the principles of the rule of law; recalls that those obligations include the prohibition of torture and of all forms of degrading treatment;
20. Stresses that the Euro-Mediterranean parliaments have a key role to play in the fight against terrorism, and believes that they must transpose the various international legal instruments into their national law;
21. Calls, in this connection, for technical assistance to be provided within the framework of the partnership, with a view to facilitating the swift and effective transposition and implementation of those legal instruments;
22. Stresses that it is vital to ease the external debt burden of those Mediterranean partner countries which have undertaken to facilitate the partnership's goals; calls, in this connection, on the EU Member States to make more use of innovative debt conversion formulas, involving human resource training or social and environmental projects;
23. Expresses its concern at the potential threat of avian influenza and a possible outbreak of a flu pandemic in the region; urges closer cooperation in networking, monitoring and surveillance of communicable diseases and public health issues;
24. Points out that security is a global and collective concept which cannot be viewed in terms of the specific interests and requirements of a single country and must be addressed within a multilateral framework; believes that the Euro-Mediterranean partnership is the appropriate framework for dealing with security-related matters;
25. Calls on the member states of the Barcelona Process to resume contacts with a view to the adoption of the Euro-Mediterranean Charter for peace and stability, which represents the general reference framework for regional security;

26. Calls for the implementation of the clauses on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) included in the agreements and action plans, by all the partners without exception, with a view to making the Mediterranean a WMD-free zone; calls on all the Euro-Mediterranean countries to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT);
27. Recommends the closer involvement of the partner countries in the European Security and Defence Policy;
28. Calls for the creation of human rights subcommittees in the context of the association agreements, with a view to developing a structured dialogue on human rights and democracy;
29. Appeals as a matter of urgency to those Euro-Mediterranean countries which have not already done so to accede as swiftly as possible to the following UN conventions and protocols:
  - the two optional protocols to the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights,
  - the Pact on Civil and Political Rights, in particular Article 41 thereof, by making a declaration accepting the competence of the Committee on Human Rights in disputes between countries,
  - the optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, while withdrawing as many reservations as possible vis-à-vis the commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women's Rights,
  - the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families;
30. Urges all the Euro-Mediterranean countries to work closely with UN mechanisms;
31. Calls on the partner countries to examine the possibility of accession to the International Criminal Court and of a moratorium on the death penalty;
32. Considers that the EMPA should be fully involved in preparing the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on human rights and democracy to be organised by the Commission in 2006; calls on the EMPA to set up a working party on this matter;
33. Notes that stability and political modernisation are linked to the formation of an organised and diversified civil society; welcomes, in this regard, the creation of the Euromed Non-Governmental Platform;
34. Notes that the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly has raised hopes in civil society, since it is an instrument with the potential for generating a new dynamic enabling concrete progress to be made in the area of human rights and democratisation; stresses that the combined efforts of the parliamentary bodies and of civil society should heighten the public visibility of the Barcelona Process;
35. Considers that decentralized cooperation between local and regional authorities can contribute to local institution and capacity building, as well as greater visibility and involvement in the Partnership; points out that concrete small-scale cooperation projects between cities on a range of issues related to sustainable urban development (e.g. waste and water management and clean water supplies) can produce tangible results for citizens and immediate improvements in their quality of life;

36. Undertakes, within this framework, to propose to civil society organisations and governments opportunities for meeting with a view to promoting dialogue in order to make progress in respecting civil, political and social rights and introducing the reforms necessary for the democratization of institutions and of Euro-Mediterranean society;
37. Proposes the designation of a Euro-Mediterranean day to mark the anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, which will constitute an annual opportunity to raise awareness of the partnership and promote its values among young people, in conjunction with the creation of network for peace between European cities;
38. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the forthcoming Extraordinary Summit of Euro-Mediterranean Heads of State and Government, to the EU Council and Commission, to the Parliaments and Governments of the participant countries of the Barcelona Process and to the European Parliament.