EC/Morocco Euro-Mediterranean association agreement

1995/0363(AVC) - 05/01/1995

PREVIOUS COMMUNITY LEGISLATION: Cooperation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco . The Agreement was signed on 27 April 1976. It entered into force on 1 November 1978 for an unlimited period and took effect on 1 January 1979. PREVIOUS POSITION OF EP: In its resolution of 26 May 1993 on relations between the European Community and the Maghreb, the European Parliament stated clearly that it was in favour of strengthening cooperation between the Community and the Maghreb , and approved the new partnership concept proposed by the Commission as part of a review of its cooperation policy. The EP felt that within the framework of this review of development policy the Community should give priority to relations with the Mediterranean countries, and in particular the Maghreb countries, although this should not adversely affect the countries south of that region. The EP believed that it was essential to develop cultural exchanges on both sides of the Mediterranean . The Maghreb countries should also undertake a genuine process of democratisation based on participation by the people and consideration for their concerns and aspirations, as well as respect for fundamental human rights, gender equality, the immediate abolition of torture, and respect for minority languages and cultures. The EP welcomed the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and reiterated the importance of the regional integration of the Maghreb . As regards political dialogue, Parliament called for a meeting of the heads of state of the Twelve and the Maghreb countries and for the creation of an institutional framework that went beyond the purely governmental sphere in order to bring together the various representatives of society. Finally, the EP supported the establishment of a free trade area between the European Community and the Maghreb, although it stated that this area would not on its own be sufficient to give adequate impetus and credibility to the process to bind the Maghreb closely to Europe . SITUATION IN THE MEMBER STATES: The important concessions made with regard to agricultural products in Morocco would primarily affect the EU Member States with a Mediterranean-style agricultural sector, notably Spain . DOCUMENTATION: Council Regulation 78/2211/EC of 26 September 1978 on the conclusion of the Cooperation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco, OJ L 265, 27.9.1978, p. 1b. Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: The future of relations between the Community and the Maghreb, Brussels , 30 April 1992, SEC(92)401 final.