EC/Tunisia Euro-Mediterranean association agreement

1995/0132(AVC) - 21/11/1995

The Committee adopted the report by Mr M Luigi CALIGARIS (UPE, I) on the partnership agreement with Tunisia, in which it recommended that Parliament give its assent (by a majority of votes cast). The Euro-Mediterranean Agreement, which is to replace the cooperation agreement of 1976 establishing an association between Tunisia and the European Communities, is the first in a long series of such agreements (Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel). It seeks to establish lasting relations, founded on the principles of reciprocity and partnership, between the European Communities and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part (mixed agreement). The aim of the agreement is to establish a free-trade zone within a period of 12 years. The main elements of the agreement are as follows: * The agreement makes specific reference to the respect of human rights and political and economic freedoms. The breach of democratic principles is not expressly quoted as one of the extreme cases giving rise to protective measures. However, specific measures may be taken in the event of failure to implement the agreement. * The association agreement sets up a regular political dialogue which is aimed at improving mutual understanding and developing joint initiatives. It will help to establish lasting links and will contribute to the prosperity and stability of the region. * Finally, the programme of cooperation will include various areas of activity, namely the economic and social sectors, culture and finance.