Resolution on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership

2005/2506(RSP) - 23/02/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

The text adopted in plenary had been tabled as a joint resolution by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, Greens /EFA, GUE/NGL and UEN groups.

The Parliament welcomes the decision of the ministers that 2005 is the Year of the Mediterranean, and calls on the Council and Commission to make a renewed effort to enhance democracy and contribute and promote the necessary political, economic and social reforms in the Mediterranean countries.

MEPs consider that the political dialogue envisaged has not yet led to tangible results throughout the region. They regret that the human rights aspect of the Barcelona process has not been developed sufficiently and deplore the failure to comply with the human rights clause in the Euro-Mediterranean agreements. The Commission is called upon to assume its responsibilities and ensure compliance with the human rights clause in the agreements.

The resolution calls on all the countries of the region to work in close cooperation in order to face the growing challenge of immigration in a spirit of shared responsibility. It calls on the Council and Commission, in their relations with the Mediterranean partners, to make concrete proposals for progress on security, making use of elements of the European Security Strategy and the crisis management instruments already in place at the Commission.

The Commission is called upon to design the new 'neighbourhood' financial instrument in a transparent manner, in cooperation with the partner countries and with the involvement of the Parliament and the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA), so as to make it truly capable of giving an impetus to development and encouraging investment. MEPs also stress the importance of promoting and extending the trans-European networks, especially in the fields of energy and transport, and support the proposal to set up a Mediterranean early warning system for disaster prevention. Moreover, they consider that the signing of the Agadir agreement between Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan in February 2004 is a positive indication of the strengthening of the axis of South-South cooperation.

The Parliament calls on Syria not to tolerate any kind of terrorism, including its support for the military wing of Hizbullah, and to refrain from any interference in the Lebanon's domestic affairs. It also calls on Syria to withdraw its troops from the Lebanon immediately and will treat this condition as crucial to its assessment when the time comes to sign the EC-Syria Association Agreement. It also strongly condemns the attack which killed the ex-Prime Minister of the Lebanon, Mr Hariri, and his escort and announces that it will pay close attention to the findings of the international inquiry now underway.

Libya is called upon to take the necessary steps and give the necessary undertakings, including releasing without delay the foreign medical workers held in prison, to allow it to be fully included in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, thus contributing to the enhancement of the Barcelona process.

MEPs also welcome the latest positive developments in the Middle East conflict, since they will have a decisive impact on the full development of the whole Euromed partnership. They call on all partner countries to make every effort to support the resumption of dialogue and firm up the Road Map.

Lastly, the Parliament wishes the Council to take a decision to organise a Euro-Mediterranean Summit meeting of Heads of State or Government to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Barcelona Process. It underlines the importance, in this context, of the parliamentary dimension of this process.