Basic information

1996/2113(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Mediterranean policy: follow-up to the Barcelona Conference 1995 **Subject** 6.40.05 Relations with the Mediterranean and southern European countries **Geographical area** Mediterranean Sea area	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	SAKELLARIOU Jannis (PSE)	09/02/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	DIMITRAKOPOULOS Giorgos (PPE)	10/10/1996

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1911	1996-03-25
General Affairs	1902	1996-01-29
General Affairs	1934	1996-06-10
General Affairs	1989	1997-02-24
General Affairs	1984	1997-01-20
General Affairs	1977	1996-12-06
Agriculture and Fisheries	1940	1996-06-27

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/01/1996	Debate in Council		Summary
25/03/1996	Debate in Council		
06/06/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	07987/1996	
10/06/1996	Debate in Council		Summary

19/07/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/12/1996	Debate in Council		Summary
20/01/1997	Debate in Council		Summary
28/01/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
28/01/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0027/1997	
24/02/1997	Debate in Council		
12/03/1997	Debate in Parliament		
13/03/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/04/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2113(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/08029

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0027/1997 OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0004	28/01/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0104/1997 OJ C 115 14.04.1997, p. 0117-0159	13/03/1997	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	07987/1996	06/06/1996	

Mediterranean policy: follow-up to the Barcelona Conference 1995

1996/2113(COS) - 06/12/1996

The Council took note of a Joint Report from the Presidency and the Commission on the follow-up to the Barcelona Conference and adopted the following conclusions : "On the basis of a joint report from the Presidency and the Commission, the Council carried out an assessment of the multilateral activities conducted within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership during the second half of 1996. The Council welcomed the consolidation of the "Barcelona spirit", the positive developments in the partnership during this period and the satisfactory balance and complementarity which has been maintained between its thee components : - in the political and security partnership, work on implementation of the

principles in the Barcelona Declaration will continue, notably through the Action plan. A number of confidence and security building measures habe been agreed and are being implemented and others are under discussion, with a view to the conclusion of a Euro-Mediterranean Charter/pact as an overall framework for work in this area; - in the economic and financial partnership, a number of activities were successfully undertaken on a joint basis. Mutual endeavours will continue to be developed in order to facilitate the establishment of the free trade area and to improve the efficiency of economic and financial cooperation; - in the social, cultural and human partnership, different initiatives are under active consideration. Joint activities already under way, in particular in the field of cultural heritage, will be developed further. The participation of civil society shoud be enhanced. The Council acknowledged the continuing important role of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process in evaluating all aspects of the partnership and updating the work programme. The Council considered that the number and range of activities which have taken place in all three areas throughout the year since the adoption of the Barcelona Declaration constitute substantial progress in the development of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, and welcomed the plans to consolidate this further through the programme of work scheduled for the coming months. The Council welcomed the adoption of the MEDA regulation and the Guidelines for the Indicative Programmes, as well as the Indicative Programmes themselves which pave the way for the implementation of economic and financial cooperation with the mediterranean partner countries. The Council underlined the priority it attaches to the Mediterranean region and reaffirmed its will to develop the Euro-Mediterranean partnership further. To this end, it looked forward to the opportunity of the Second Meeting of Foreign Minister in 15-16 April 1997 to assess to overall progress made, an d to set specific priorities and objectives for the futures."

Mediterranean policy: follow-up to the Barcelona Conference 1995

1996/2113(COS) - 29/01/1996

The Council re-emphasized the importance which the European Union attaches to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and expressed its firm desire to make every effort necessary to ensure that the objectives stated in the Barcelona declaration and the work programme agreed at the conference are implemented in full at an early date. It welcomed the practical proposals drawn up by the Presidency in cooperation with the Commission concerning in particular the timetable meetings of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process and of senior officials and also the measures that might be taken in the course of 1996. The Council agreed to return to this dossier periodically so that it could make a regular assessment of the progress of the work being done to implement the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and to give it the appropriate political impetus where necessary. The Council referred to the Madrid European Council's conclusions on Algeria, and agreed to return to this subject at its meeting in March on the basis of a proposal which had been promised by the Commission.

Mediterranean policy: follow-up to the Barcelona Conference 1995

1996/2113(COS) - 20/01/1997

The Council heard an oral report from the Commission on the negotiations currently under way on new association agreements with a number of the European Union’s Mediterranean partners. The Council reiterated its commitment to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and, in view of the second meeting of Foreign Ministers to take place on 15-16 April 1997, recalled that the Barcelona Declaration underlined the importance of strengthening bilateral relations as a counterpart to the multilateral framework. In this regard, the Council underlined its determination to conclude the negotiations with Egypt , Jordan and Lebanon as soon as possible, as a further step towards the completion of the network of Euro-Mediterranean association agreements. The Council welcomed the Commission’s intention to begin negotiations with Algeria shortly and encouraged it to pursue actively its exploratory talks with Syria . The Council also welcomed the recent conclusion of negotiations with the PLO on an interim association agreement and invited the Commission to submit a formal proposal for signature as soon as possible.

Mediterranean policy: follow-up to the Barcelona Conference 1995

1996/2113(COS) - 13/03/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Jannis SAKELLARIOU (PSE, D) on the follow-up to the Barcelona conference Parliament called on the Council to take joint actions to facilitate real political partnership and to contribute to improved security. With regard to human rights Parliament stressed that these principles should be fully respected in this region and considered that a closer and institutionalized cooperation was needed with all the participants with a view to monitoring the proper application of these principles. It proposed the establishment of a body to ensure respect for the agreement. The Commission would also submit each year a special report on the human rights situation in the twelve non-EU countries that signed the Barcelona Declaration. With regard to security Parliament called on the Council to draw up and propose to the partner countries agreements on conflict-prevention which would rebuild confidence. It called on the Council to consider the possibility of establishing a European Civil Peace Corps to strengthen humanitarian action. This corps would be responsible for achieving peaceful resolution of conflicts and preventing the outbreak of new conflicts. It also raised the possibility of the establishment of a joint peace-keeping force involving all the partners to the Conference. It would have a mandate to resolve regional conflicts without recourse to external assistance. Parliament also called for institutionalized form of dialogue and political intervention in the crises affecting this region and called on the Council to step up cooperation with the countries concerned in order to stabilize the region. Action should also be taken with a view to limiting arms and encouraging disarmament in the Mediterranean region. Parliament therefore called for the follow-up Conference to advocate the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the region. With regard to economic and financial cooperation Parliament called on the Union to act within the relevant international organizations to reduce the debt of Mediterranean countries. Everything possible should be done to modernize and develop the financial system of the Mediterranean countries (development of the stock exchange, of collective financial products, of merchant banks and of capital market banks, transfer towards the south of the capital of immigrants, etc.). Other actions should be considered with regard to energy and environmental protection. Parliament also wished to see the Mediterranean region play a full part in the world economy without this entailing any disruption of the social balances of the countries themselves. It stressed in particular the importance of financial cooperation to limit the adverse effects on the population of the reform process underway in this region. The Commission was also asked to submit a draft multilateral agreement covering an appropriate institutional structure for the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and supplementing current bilateral

agreements. Parliament also called on the Member States swiftly to ratify the Euro-Mediterranean partnership agreement. An annual report should be submitted to Parliament on the projects undertaken in connection with the partnership. With regard to cooperation on social, cultural and human activities, the Commission and Council were called on to act resolutely against racism and xenophobia in the Union. It called for the establishment of a contractual framework for immigration and the drawing up of a charter of the rights of immigrants. Parliament also called for an action programme concerning the Mediterranean social area and a series of initiatives in the cultural area (in particular promotion of the Euro-Mediterranean artistic heritage). Lastly, with regard to continuing the Barcelona process, Parliament hoped that measures would be taken so that it could play an appropriate part in the Conference of Malta (next stage in the process).

Mediterranean policy: follow-up to the Barcelona Conference 1995

1996/2113(COS) - 10/06/1996

The Council took note of the joint report from the presidency and the Commission on the follow-up to the Barcelona Conference. The presidency noted that the draft conclusions did not perceive any real difficulties on the part of the delegations and as a result the conclusions would be formally adopted at some future date once the general reservation expressed by the United Kingdom concerning BSE had been lifted.