Basic information

2005/2058(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
The Barcelona Process revisited **Subject** 6.40.05 Relations with the Mediterranean and southern European countries	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	JÄÄTTEENMÄKI Anneli (ALDE)	01/02/2005

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
INTA International Trade	ARIF Kader (PSE)	13/06/2005
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi (PPE-DE)	13/07/2005

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
12/05/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/09/2005	Vote in committee		Summary
03/10/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0280/2005	
26/10/2005	Debate in Parliament		
27/10/2005	Decision by Parliament	T6-0412/2005	Summary
27/10/2005	Results of vote in Parliament		
27/10/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2005/2058(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/6/27522

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Amendments tabled in committee		PE362.639	08/09/2005	
Committee opinion	INTA	PE360.154	13/09/2005	
Committee opinion	FEMM	PE360.363	16/09/2005	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0280/2005	03/10/2005	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0412/2005 OJ C 272 09.11.2006, p. 0454-0570 E	27/10/2005	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2005)4593	24/11/2005	

The Barcelona Process revisited

2005/2058(INI) - 27/10/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Anneli **JÄÄTTEENMÄKI** (ALDE, FI) on the Barcelona Process Revisited. (Please see the summary of 26/09/2005.) Parliament welcomed the recent communication by the European Commission and shared the conviction that, even if the Partnership has not contributed to the lowering of tensions in the area to its full potential, there is room for improvement and thus the Barcelona Process continues to be the appropriate framework for Mediterranean policy. An effective Euro-Mediterranean policy must be allocated a budget commensurate with its ambitions.

One of the main issues to be addressed is greater participation by all Mediterranean partner countries in the decision-making process of the Partnership, in order to encourage joint initiatives and to strengthen co-responsibility.

Future cooperation must be guided by the EU's security policy requirements or other related needs. The connection between the three areas of cooperation – peace, trade and civil society – needs highlighting; particularly acknowledges here the connection between security and development and the special importance of social and economic issues for people on the Mediterranean's southern rim. The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which is building on the achievements of the Barcelona Process and is based on the principles of co-ownership and differentiation, should reinforce existing forms of cooperation within the Euromed framework with the objective of offering partner countries the possibility of participating in EU programmes and policies on the basis of jointly agreed priorities and objectives. South-south regional integration is essential to the setting-up of a stable framework for shared prosperity, and that this is the example and experience of the EU. Parliament recalled that one of the main goals of EU Mediterranean policy as well as the ENP is to support and promote political reforms (progress with the process of democratisation, strengthening pluralism and the rule of law, and greater respect for human rights) together with economic and social reforms.

On the matter of trade, Parliament noted that, despite the hopes that existed when the Partnership began, the Mediterranean partner countries have not benefited from the commercial openings in terms of economic well-being and remain in a parlous economic situation. The unemployment rate is very high and the investment rate low, and because the average age of the population of those countries is very low, that situation is having a distinct influence on migratory flows. The economic aspect of the Partnership must be redirected towards social cohesion and sustainable economic development, given that trade liberalisation cannot be the sole objective and must have an appropriate legal framework.

Parliament stressed the importance of responding to the problems encountered by the textile sector by supporting the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. It recommended that a Euro-Mediterranean network of schools, training institutes and technical centres specialising in textiles and clothing be set up in for the purpose of promoting technical partnership, training and joint research programmes.

The growth of democracy in the region is one of the key issues for Europe, and Parliament recommended, therefore, that greater use be made of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) – a Community programme which funds various projects – to start up a variety of democracy projects. Encouraging the participation of women in economic, social and cultural fields and in the political activity of each country must be the essential mechanism for consolidating democracy and dealing with discrimination against women.

Migration and social integration of migrants is another key issue of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Association agreements and Neighbourhood Action Plans are adequate tools to promote joint management of the movement of people and migration flows. Parliament suggested in that respect that the new European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) be used to support cross-border cooperation among the partners. All cooperation on migration must be in compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law. Parliament rejected the principle of creating migration "portals" and/or camps in the neighbouring countries of the EU.

Parliament felt that no substantial progress had been achieved in the field of democracy and human rights and stressed the importance of ENP action plans which aim at defining clear commitments for action for partner countries so as to improve the democratisation process as well as respect for human rights. The Commission must involve Parliament in the assessment of the implementation of the ENP action plans, which should provide for clear suspension clauses covering the eventuality that the benchmarks included in respect of democratisation and human rights are not respected. Furthermore, Parliament stated that the clauses suspending Euro-Mediterranean association agreements in the event of violations of human rights and democratic freedoms should be invoked. In view of the 10th anniversary of the Barcelona process, the Commission is asked to draw up a public report on the implementation of the human rights and democracy policy in the Mediterranean countries upon which to develop the partnership further.