

**EURO-MED 1/06**

**LIMITE**

**COVER NOTE**

---

Subject : Follow-up to the Barcelona Conference:  
Euromed Committee and Senior Officials meetings' summary records

---

Please find annexed the following summary records of the meetings of the Euromed Committee and the Senior Officials of the Barcelona Process:

<b>38<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE OF THE BARCELONA PROCESS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>47TH MEETING OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BRUSSELS, 28 SEPTEMBER 2004) .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>48TH MEETING OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BRUSSELS, 11 NOVEMBER 2004) .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>49TH MEETING OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BRUSSELS, 26/27 JANUARY 2005) .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>50TH MEETING OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BRUSSELS, 28 FEBRUARY-1 MARCH 2005).....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>51ST MEETING OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BRUSSELS, 12 APRIL 2005) .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>52ND MEETING OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BRUSSELS, 19 MAY 2005) .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>53RD MEETING OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BRUSSELS, 26 JULY 2005) .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>54TH MEETING OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BRUSSELS, 6 SEPTEMBER 2005) .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>55TH MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BARCELONA, 26 SEPTEMBER 2005).....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>56TH MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BRUSSELS, 8 NOVEMBER 2005)...</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>57TH MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BRUSSELS, 17 JANUARY 2006) .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>58TH MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BRUSSELS, 22 FEBRUARY 2006) ..</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>59TH MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE (BRUSSELS, 15 MARCH 2006).....</b>	<b>65</b>

Brussels, 25 July 2003

**38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee  
of the Barcelona Process**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 38th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which was held in Athens on 6 May 2003.
2. The 39th meeting of Senior Officials responsible for political and security matters held on 5 May 2003 was the first meeting held in the presence of the ten acceding states; warm words of welcome by both EU and Mediterranean partners. The Presidency gave indications on the work programme of the Crete Mid-term Ministerial Conference. Main issues proposed: improving security dialogue (including ESDP), discussion on the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, assessment of MEDA implementation, discussion of enlargement in the light of the new EU neighbourhood policy, agreeing on guiding principles on the dialogue between cultures, state of progress on the setting up of a Foundation on Cultures and Civilisations.

**RECORD OF THE 38th MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE**

3. The 38th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process was held in Athens on 6 May 2003. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Sotiris Varouxakis. The Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration and restated in the Ministerial conclusions of Malta, Stuttgart and Marseilles, is to prepare for the next meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all elements of the Process and update the work programme.

4. The following items were accordingly on the agenda:

1. Preparation of the Euro-Mediterranean mid-term Ministerial Conference (issues relating to the second and third chapters of the Barcelona Process) (Crete, 26/27 May 2003)
2. Ad Hoc session on the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation
3. Information by the Commission on existing programmes
4. Any Other Business

**Agenda item 1: Preparation of the Euro-Mediterranean mid-term Ministerial Conference (issues relating to the second and third chapters of the Barcelona Process) (Crete, 26/27 May 2003)**

The Committee took note of a presentation by the Presidency of the organisational aspects of the Crete Ministerial, as well as of the subjects on which emphasis would be given.

**Agenda item 2: Ad Hoc session on the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation**

The Committee had an exchange of views on the basis of two documents that related to the Foundation. The first (Partenariat DS 22/A/03) contained the elements on which a consensus could be achieved to be endorsed by Ministers in Crete relating to the goals and objectives, the activities and the establishment of the Foundation. (An indicative list of activities would be annexed to the text). The second (Partenariat DS 22/B/03) relating to the structure and the functioning of the Foundation would be examined at a later stage in the run-up to the Naples Conference.

The following remarks were put forward:

-National focal points should be nominated to co-ordinate national views; they should then meet together to agree how to set up the Foundation; all partners should be represented on the Steering Committee which should be directly controlled by the Commission and report to the Euro-Med Committee; MEDA should provide additional finance. A presentation by a professor from Tunisia emphasised the importance that this institution could have for the partnership.

-the setting up of the Foundation should be managed by experts in this field; the Foundation should aim at the dialogue of Cultures not civilisations.

-Commission should evaluate existing programmes to identify new aspects or whether these programmes should be subsumed within the Foundation. In the spirit of the "Wider Europe" Initiative, Mediterranean partners should be included in the relevant EU programmes.

-A meeting should be organised between the Euromed Committee and the High level Group set up By President Prodi.

-Activities could comprise the following: school exchanges and visits; a mobile museum, a network of universities and academic exchanges, a network of libraries, safeguarding the archaeological heritage.

The Committee agreed that a new text would be drawn up by the Presidency on the basis of additional comments to be sent by 14 May; A succinct description of the objectives and the tasks would be added while more specific activities would be listed in an annex.

Two partners also proposed amendments to the document on the Guiding Principles for the dialogue of Cultures and Civilisations (Partenariat DS 13/03)

### **Agenda item 3: Information by the Commission on existing programmes**

The Committee took note of a presentation by the Commission of the "Wider Europe" Initiative which emphasised that the objective was to use the Barcelona Process as a Basis for promoting further reform in the Mediterranean region. While the approach remained global, it would be implemented in a differentiated manner. EU relations with Mediterranean Partners were already advanced. Once the EU Council had approved the general approach, the implementation would take place in consultation with the Mediterranean partners. Discussion could continue at the Euromed Committee, presumably in Autumn, under Italian Presidency.

Some partners requested the holding of an ad hoc meeting to discuss the issue.

### **Agenda item 4: Any other business**

None

**47th meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Committee**  
**(Brussels, 28 September 2004)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 47th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which was held in Brussels on 28 September 2004.
  
2. The 48th meeting of Senior Officials responsible for political and security matters was held on 27 September 2004. Regarding non-proliferation, in the run-up to the next Mid-term Ministerial of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, agreement, in principle, to explore ways to promote this issue within the partnership; to be followed by the organisation of an ad hoc meeting or a workshop. Agreement on pursuing dialogue on ESDP through the organisation of an ad hoc Euromed meeting at Senior Officials level, in Brussels. That meeting would be held in the Barcelona framework including the Political and Security Committee Chair, to which would be invited Political and Security Committee representatives, Officials of Mediterranean Partners responsible for security issues as well as the Euromed Senior Officials. Regarding the ad hoc groups, clear message given by the Senior Officials for work to be pursued intensively, with a view to present operational conclusions at the next SOM. Regarding the review of the Barcelona Process, initial debate on the tasking of EUROMESCO and FEMISE to contribute to a review of the Barcelona Process. Civil Protection and Disaster Management Bridging project (DS Partenariat Euromed 106/04) encouraged by all. Agreement that its co-management would remain with Egypt and Italy through two part-time managers. Egypt requested that the abovementioned document be discussed at a technical level before being adopted.

## RECORD OF THE 47th MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE

3. The 47th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process was held in Brussels on 28 September 2004. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Frederick Racké, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague. The Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration and restated in the Ministerial conclusions of Malta, Stuttgart and Marseilles, is to prepare for the next meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all elements of the Process and update the work programme.

The following items were accordingly on the agenda:

### 1. Euromed Foundation

- **Presentation by Mr Traugott SCHÖFTHALER, Executive Director Designate**
  1. **The Committee** welcomed Mr Traugott SCHÖFTHALER, Executive Director Designate, who made a presentation on his vision of Foundation's future role stressing the importance of education, civil society and visibility.
  2. **Several Arab Partners** underlined the importance of the use of the Arabic language in the workings of the Foundation.
  3. **The Committee** underlined the importance of this new institution given the ambitious goals, which had been set for it to accomplish.
- **Nomination of Advisory Committee**

4. **The Committee** was informed by the Presidency that consultations in that respect were continuing; it agreed to revert to this issue at its next meeting.
- **Drafting of Statute** (DS Partenariat Euromed 104/04 REV 1)
5. **The Committee** held a debate on the basis of a draft text, which was submitted by the Commission and the Council Secretariat following recent consultations with the Egyptian authorities. Egypt expressed its commitment to finalise soon the procedures for approval of the Presidential decree. The debate concentrated on the voting system for the Board of Governors and included some drafting suggestions.
6. **The Presidency** invited partners to submit written contributions and comments by the 15 of October, end of business; if necessary the Presidency would be organising an ad hoc meeting with a view to the final approval of the Statute.
- **Establishment of Network of networks** (DS Partenariat Euromed 103/04)
7. **The Commission** underlined the need for the list of Heads of National Networks to be completed; in that respect, it is essential that representatives of civil society replace officials who have temporarily been appointed in this position; it invited Partners to ensure that meetings, at national level, of networks be organised with a view to provide input to the work of Mr Schöfthaler.
2. **Seminar on Trade and Agriculture: presentation by the Commission and exchange of views**
8. **The Commission** informed on the preparation of a seminar of Senior Officials with a view to discuss trade and agriculture in Euromed Partnership. The aim would be to concentrate on regional aspects of the trade and non-trade dimensions of agriculture. FEMISE as well as CIHEAM would also be involved in the seminar.



**3. Euromed Industry Ministerial meeting (Caserta, 3 - 4 October 2004): Information and preparation (DS Partenariat Euromed 97/04, 98/04, 99/04, 100/04, 101/04, 102/04)**

9. **The Committee** took note of the information provided by the Commission on the preparatory work of the above mentioned Conference which inter alia aims at the signing of the Euro-Mediterranean Charter of the Enterprise and the adoption of a work programme for industrial cooperation for the period 2005 - 2006.

**4. Update of priority actions on the basis of Commission Calendar**

10. **The Committee** took note of the abovementioned Calendar. No observation was made.

**5. Evaluation of past activities**

- **Euromed Trade Ministerial meeting (Istanbul, 21 July 2004): Information by the Commission**

12. **The Committee** took note of the information provided by the Commission regarding the positive outcome of the Istanbul Conference. It underlined the importance of the adoption of the regional Istanbul protocol on liberalisation of services as well as of the new provisions to introduce more flexibility to the conditions for qualifying for cumulation of origin in the Pan-Euro-Med Protocol of Origin.

- **Presentation by a representative of Aidco on ongoing Euromed programmes**

13. **The Committee** took note of the information provided by the Commission on the progress of the Unimed Programme through which the Commission finances a network aiming at the facilitation of the exchange of best practices, training and visit exchanges for staff of Mediterranean employers' associations. This resulted in the creation, in Istanbul in February 2002, of UMCE (Union Méditerranéenne des Confédérations d'Entreprise) which brings together non-sectoral trade organisations of the Mediterranean partners.

14. **The Committee** also took note of the presentation by the Commission of the state of play of Med Enterprise which focuses on co-operation between small and medium size enterprises in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

6. **A.O.B.**

None

---

**48th meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Committee**

**(Brussels, 11 November 2004)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 48th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which was held in Brussels on 11 November 2004.
2. The 49th meeting of Senior Officials responsible for political and security matters was preceded on 10 November 2004 by an ad hoc meeting on the fight against terrorism as well as a Euromed meeting on dialogue with Mediterranean Partners on ESDP. Regarding terrorism, Senior Officials heard a presentation by the Chairman of COTER of the EU activities in this field, they discussed recent developments in the international fora and heard a presentation by the Commission of the Police component of the JHA regional programme. Regarding ESDP the Chairman of the Political and Security Committee of the EU informed on the multiple ESDP activities; possibilities for further co-operation with Mediterranean countries were discussed; agreement to continue developing a contact network in this field. A seminar on Crisis Management hosted by Greece to be held in June 2005 was welcomed. At the Senior Officials meeting on 11 November discussion started on the preparation of the Hague Ministerial meeting on the basis of draft Presidency conclusions (DS Partenariat 124/04). The Senior Officials meeting took note of information provided by France regarding the latest Ministerial meeting of the Mediterranean Forum (DS Partenariat 125/04, 126/04, 127/04 and 128/04). The Euromed intermediate programme regarding the creation of an Euro-Mediterranean system of mitigation, prevention and management of natural and man-made disasters (Bridge Project 2005 - 2007) (DS Partenariat 106/04) was agreed. Finally, the guidelines for an assessment of the EMP to the attention of the Euromesco network (DS Partenariat 123/04) were also agreed upon.

## **I. RECORD OF THE 48th MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE**

3. The 48th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process was held in Brussels on 11 November 2004. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Frederick Racké, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague. The Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration and restated in the Ministerial conclusions of Malta, Stuttgart, Marseilles and Naples, is to prepare for the next meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all elements of the Process and update the work programme.

The following items were accordingly on the agenda:

### **1. Preparation of the Euromed Mid-term Ministerial Meeting (The Hague, 29 - 30 November 2004): second and third chapter issues**

4. **The Committee** had an initial exchange of view on the second and third chapter issues of the draft Presidency conclusions (DS Partenariat 124/04). The Presidency indicated that consultations would continue during its trip in the region in the incoming week.
5. Regarding the agenda items of the Ministerial several ideas were put forward; the following issues were considered: the review of the Barcelona Process, economic reforms and investment in the region, approval of the Statute and the Work Programme of the Euromed Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures.

### **2. Draft Statute of the Euromed Foundation**

6. **The Committee** agreed on the Draft Statute of the Foundation as it appears in the document DS Partenariat 104/04 REV 4.

7. *In this framework the Commission informed the Euromed partners that its participation in the Board of Governors is to be decided according to the Commission's internal rules and procedures and requires a College decision.*

3. **A.O.B.**

None

II. **INFORMAL MEETING OF THE ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION “NATIONAL NETWORKS”**

8. Following the initiative by the Dutch Presidency, an informal meeting was held on the 11th of November between the Foundation's Heads of the National Networks with Mr Traugott Schöfthaler, Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation. On 12 November, the results of the informal meeting were presented to the Euromed Committee, in a joint working session with the heads of the Foundation's National Networks and the Advisory Committee of the Foundation which had an exchange of views on the basis of a draft outline of the Foundation's programme and Strategy 2005 - 2007 (DS Partenariat 120/04)

---

**49th meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Committee**

**(Brussels, 26/27 January 2005)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 49th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which was held in Brussels on 26/27 January 2005.
2. For practical reasons, it was decided that the Euromed Committee meetings will follow immediately after the meeting of the Senior Officials.
3. The 50th meeting of Senior Officials responsible for political and security matters was the first under the Luxembourg Presidency. The main orientations to be pursued in the framework of the first chapter of the Barcelona Process were presented. Hopes following the Palestinian elections should impact positively on the Barcelona Process. Preparatory work for Barcelona VII, following extensive consultations, will concentrate on the assessment and the outlining of new orientations in view of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Barcelona Process. The assessments drawn up by Euromesco and Femise networks will be discussed at the next Senior Officials meeting. The Commission will publish its Communication on the subject, end of March-beginning of April 2005. A precise mandate was given to the ad hoc group on Partnership Building Measures to undertake a detailed examination in the framework of maritime security, of the preparation of the setting up of an early warning system against tsunamis, to define a mandate for the drawing up of assistance plans in case of tsunamis in the framework of the existing Euromed bridging project on natural disasters as well as to examine issues relating to demining. Work of the ad hoc group on Neighbourhood Policy suspended. The articulation of the activities of the Euromed Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) with the other institutions of the Partnership was discussed.

## I. RECORD OF THE 49th MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE

4. The 49th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process was held in Brussels on 26/27 January 2005. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Jean Faltz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg. The Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration and restated in the Ministerial conclusions of Malta, Stuttgart, Marseilles and Naples, is to prepare for the next meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all elements of the Process and update the work programme.

The following items were accordingly on the agenda:

### **1. Presentation of the Priorities of the Luxembourg Presidency**

5. **The Committee** had an exchange of views on the economic, financial, social, cultural and human aspects of the Barcelona Process as contained in the priorities of the Presidency (DS Partenariat 02/05).
6. **Several Partners** underlined the importance of focusing on the development process of their economies as well as the need for stronger encouragement of investment in the countries of the region. The role of the EIB through the Facility (FEMIP) was welcomed and the need to strengthen its role was mentioned. The assessment of its activities, to occur in December 2006, was recalled. The idea of the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Bank was underlined, trade exchanges, legal movement of persons as well as the transfer of technologies should be developed.

7. **Several Partners** underlined the importance of strengthening civil society; the Anna Lindh Euromed Foundation should play a decisive role in this regard. Exchanges in the field of education should be developed (inter alia through the extension of EU programs such as Tempus and Erasmus).

#### **Preparation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Barcelona Process (Barcelona, November 2005)**

8. **The Committee** endorsed the Presidency proposal to handle the preparation of this anniversary within its remit.
9. **The Presidency** indicated that the Euromed Ministerial Conference (Barcelona VII) would mainly focus on the assessment and the objectives to be achieved in view of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Barcelona Process and that it will constitute a decisive landmark for the holding of this event.

#### **Visibility of the Barcelona Process – Information by the Commission**

10. **The Committee** had an extensive exchange of views on the basis of a Commission document (DS Partenariat 03/05 and 05/05). Several delegations underlined the importance of the unique character of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership as well as the common achievements of the exercise. It was decided that common messages will have to be outlined.
11. **The Committee** adopted by acclamation a logo for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (the one which had been used at the Barcelona Conference in 1995).

#### **Review of past and future activities**



12. **The Committee** took note of information provided by the Commission on the following activities:

- the seminar on trade and agriculture which took place in November 2004 which concentrated on the liberalisation of trade in agricultural products, the accompanying measures envisaged at the Venise conference, in November 2003, concentrated on rural development and the improvement of product quality. A second seminar, foreseen for mid-April in Rabat, will focus on the finalisation of a roadmap on the subject with a view its submittal at the Barcelona VII Ministerial in Luxembourg.
- the Working Group on Industrial Cooperation which should meet on 1-2 February 2005, in Brussels should focus on the follow-up of the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Enterprise adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial in Caserta. Equally, euro-mediterranean industrial cooperation, should be examined (MEDA programs i.e. Euro-Med Market, ANIMA, Euromed Quality, Euromed Innovation, UNIMED, as well as cooperation between SME.). The future of the textile sector as well as a report on the implementation of the Palermo Action Plan on the free movement of industrial products, will also be discussed.

13. The Commission distributed a calendar of activities for the year 2005 (DS Partenariat 04/05).

#### **5. Anna Lindh Euromed Foundation:**

14. As its statutes are not yet finalised, **the Euromed Committee** decided to suspend provisionally the designation of a President and a Vice-President. The acting Chairman of the Euromed Committee will fulfil those functions for a period of six months in order to allow for the Anna Lindh Foundation, at its starting phase, to function without facing procedural hurdles.

## **II. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

15. None.

---

**50th meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Committee**

**(Brussels, 28 February-1 March 2005)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 50th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which was held in Brussels on 28 February-1 March 2005.
2. For practical reasons, it was decided that the Euromed Committee meeting will follow immediately after the meeting of the Senior Officials.
3. Senior Officials heard a presentation made by EUROMESCO of a report on the assessment of 10 years of the Barcelona Process (Partenariat DS 14/05 REV1)(with a summary outline (Partenariat DS 19/05)). The report assesses the several areas of the partnership and proposes the setting up of a Euro-Mediterranean Community of Democratic States; it recommends integrating the ENP into the Barcelona Process.; the continuing relevance of the Barcelona Declaration and of the centrality of the Barcelona Process was underlined; follow up mechanisms should be developed; effort should be made to identify areas of convergence; sensitive issues like migrations should be addressed, at the earliest by the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The report was considered by some partners as food for thought for the ongoing debate in the run up to the 10th Anniversary, while others underlined that the comprehensive nature of the Barcelona Process was not adequately addressed, some ideas of the report not being consistent with the Process and suggesting that it be modified accordingly.

4. The 51st meeting of the Senior Officials discussed the themes contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Group on Partnership Building Measures (Partenariat DS 12/05 REV 2): they took note of its conclusions that the setting up of an early warning system in view of preventing tsunamis in the Mediterranean had to be part of a global approach, still under study by the Commission and due to report at the April GAERC: it was recognised that the Barcelona Process offered a framework which could allow the acceleration, , of action in this field, inter alia, through Meda funding. On civil protection, it was noted that the existing activities already envisaged, under the Euromed Intermediate Project 2005-2007 (Partenariat DS 106 REV 3) would also focus on tsunamis; a seminar, to be held in Marseilles, in June 2005, would aim at integrating the existing mechanisms to that effect; the Ad Hoc Group would continue work on this issue; on demining, the Presidency underlined the importance of starting a process of consultation between partners on this issue: the discussion of the terms of reference for a seminar on demining on the basis of an amended proposal (Partenariat DS 10/05 Rev1) will continue; some partners emphasized the importance of landmine clearance and international assistance and generally, the humanitarian and developmental aspects of this issue ; the Presidency invited partners to submit proposals to facilitate agreement on the terms of reference of the envisaged activity. On ESDP, the Presidency informed on the Euromed ESDP dialogue meeting (to be held in Brussels on 11 April, 2005 in the Euromed format as under the Netherlands Presidency, including the EU Political and Security Committee troika). The Presidency circulated, for consideration by Partners a proposal by the Political and Security Committee of the EU, (reinforcement of EU co-operation with Mediterranean partners including a draft annual programme of action (Partenariat DS 23/05) to be discussed on 11 April, 2005. The attention of delegations was also drawn to tentative programme for the EU-Med Partner Crisis management seminar (to be held in Athens on 27-29 June 2005) (Partenariat DS 22/05). Mention was also made of a high level information seminar on ESDP and the Mediterranean, to be held in Paris, on 10 May 2005 by the EU Institute of Security Studies.

The Presidency also announced the holding of an information meeting to be held by the Secretariat in Brussels.

## RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE

5. The 50th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process was held in Brussels on 28 February - 1 March 2005. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Jean Faltz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg. The Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration and restated in the Ministerial conclusions of Malta, Stuttgart, Marseilles and Naples, is to prepare for the next meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all elements of the Process and update the work programme.
6. **The Committee**, immediately after the end of its meeting, also met as Board of Governors of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for dialogue between cultures (Minutes of this meeting will be drawn up by the Executive Director of the Foundation as Secretariat of the Board of Governors).
7. **The Committee** agreed to add under Item 2 of the agenda, the issue of the rules of origin (on the basis of a non-paper by Tunisia, (Partenariat DS 18/05) while it agreed to postpone the discussion of Item 1, for its next meeting.
8. **The Committee** discussed a report presented by the FEMISE (Euro-Mediterranean Network of Economic institutes) (Partenariat DS 13/05) on the assessment of the economic aspects of the Barcelona Process. The report focussed on the insufficient convergence between the economies of the region as well as on demographic issues. Suggestions included: accelerating reform, strengthening private sector, improving conditions for foreign direct investment, as well as research development. Increased financial support by the EU was also called for. The Commission underlined the benefits of the conclusion of Association Agreements and of the improved financial cooperation. General recognition that more needs to be done by the EU regarding migration.

The following items were accordingly on the agenda:

**I. The Committee agreed to postpone the discussion of Item 1, Education, for its next meeting.**

**II. Review of Past and Future activities**

9. **The Committee** regarding the rules of origin, took note of a call by Tunisia (Partenariat DS 18/05) to the EU to take a decision, unilaterally, anticipating the implementation of the Pan-European accumulation in the interest of the Mediterranean countries members of the EMP. The urgency of this request was justified in particular with regard to the textile and clothing sector in order to take into account delays in the effective implementation of the pan-euro-Mediterranean origin cumulation protocol due to procedural requirements. **The Commission** undertook to look into this matter.

**Several EU and Mediterranean partners** supported this request, underlining the importance of this issue for the enhancement of South-South trade and of North-South integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

**The Presidency** shared those concerns and indicated that the delays were due to EU procedures, which required a few more weeks (all linguistic versions of the Protocol being necessary).

10. **The Committee** took note of a presentation by the Commission of regional and bilateral Meda cooperation activities in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security (Partenariat DS 15/05).

**Several Partners** underlined the importance of the success of the implementation of these activities, which are held in the framework of the implementation of the Valencia Action Plan and called for the carrying out of regular mid-term reviews of these activities in order to ensure their efficiency; reference to previous activities with a view to facilitate comparison was called for; the Commission undertook to circulate a detailed calendar of activities in this field.

11. **The Committee** took note of information provided by the Presidency with regard to future activities.

- An experts' committee of the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) (Luxembourg, 7-8 March 2005) will concentrate on the modernisation of banking and financial markets in the Med region; its report will be submitted to the FEMIP Ministerial Committee meeting (20 June, in Morocco)
- A meeting of the Euromed Civil Forum (Luxembourg, 1-3 April 2005) which will involve 250 participants of the civil society and will concentrate on the evaluation of the Barcelona Process.
- A Seminar of Experts on Economic Transition (Brussels, 11-12 April 2005) which will involve 300 participants and will focus on issues such as impact of institutional reforms, economic performance, Association Agreements and the ENP.
- A ministerial Meeting on Information and Communication Technologies (Dublin, 11-12 April, 2005) will aim at preparing a common position for the World Technology Summit to be held in Turin, later this year.

### **III. Any Other Business**

12. **The Committee** was informed by the Commission that the Euromed logo, and the calendar of activities for the "2005-Year of the Mediterranean", both adopted at its previous meeting, could be found in the Commission website.

13. **The Committee** was informed by the Presidency on practical arrangements regarding the Euromed Foundation launching event , to be held on 18 -20 April in Alexandria.

14. **The Committee** took note of information provided by the UK (incoming presidency) with regard to the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration (Barcelona, 27-28 November 2005). A UK contribution (Partenariat DS 17/05) as well as a non-paper by the Arab Group (Partenariat DS 11/05) were circulated. The Presidency underlined that this event occurs at an important moment during ongoing debate within the EU with regard the future financial perspectives

---

**51st meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Committee**

**(Brussels, 12 April 2005)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 51st meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which was held in Brussels on 12 April 2005.
2. The Senior Officials meeting was preceded by ad hoc meeting on European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) held in the presence of the chairman of PSC, H.E. Ambassador Mr. Duhr, and Mrs. Arnould, Director at the GSC, which concentrated on ESDP current developments, a proposal for a draft action programme for strengthening cooperation in this field (DS Partenariat 23/05), drawn up by the Political and Security Committee of the EU on crisis management (Athens, 27-29 June, 2005) (Partenariat 22/05) as well as a seminar on security in the Mediterranean (Paris, 10 May, 2005). This meeting was preceded by an information session by the SCG (General Secretariat of the Council) on this issue, during which a number of important questions were raised by some Med partners (Partenariat DS 35/05). Several partners welcomed the deepening of the political dialogue to include such sensitive issues; however, the importance of addressing the crisis in the Middle East taking into account all the recent peace efforts was underlined; efforts should be pursued in further developing cooperation in civil protection activities, with a view to alleviate human suffering caused by natural disasters. Lebanon pointed out that ESDP should remain at this stage a dialogue focussed on exploring possible areas of cooperation.



3. The 52nd meeting of the Senior Officials discussed the terms of reference of a seminar on anti-personnel landmines on the basis of an EU proposal (Partenariat DS 10/05 REV1) and an Egyptian contribution (Partenariat DS 28/05). It was decided to continue consultations, taking into account additional proposals, with a view to finding an agreement.

### **RECORD OF THE 51st MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE**

4. The 51st meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process was held in Brussels on 12 April 2005. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Jean Faltz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg. The Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration and restated in the Ministerial conclusions of Malta, Stuttgart, Marseilles, Valencia and Naples, is to prepare for the next meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all elements of the Process and update the work programme.
5. **The Committee**, immediately after the end of its meeting, also met as Board of Governors of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for dialogue between cultures (Minutes of this meeting will be drawn up by the Executive Director of the Foundation as Secretariat of the Board of Governors).

The following items were accordingly on the agenda:

1. **Preparation of the 7th EUROMED Ministerial Conference (Luxembourg, 30 and 31 May, 2005):**

– *Exchange of views on assessment and redirection of the Barcelona process, in particular on the basis of an oral Communication from the Commission.*

- **The Committee** had a preliminary exchange of views on the basis of a draft (Partenariat DS 42/05). In its presentation, the Commission concentrated inter alia on three main areas, i.e. education, sustainable economic growth, and human rights. A five-year work programme included in the communication also focuses on justice, security and freedom issues, in particular political issues, such as combating terrorism, WMD, MEPP, and the role of the civil society in the Barcelona Process; an agenda of discussion is added.

- **Several partners** expressed their appreciation on some issues taken up by the Communication; it was however underlined that the political and security dialogue and its contribution to the MEPP should have been emphasized more. The ENP should not weaken the Barcelona process which should retain its centrality.

- **The Commission** underlined that the global nature and centrality of the Barcelona process remained always valid; its approach aimed at adding more focus indicating concrete actions; ENP improved the Barcelona process and could not have been possible without its achievements;

- **The Presidency** underlined the importance of adequate consultations on the Commission's communication as well as the draft conclusions of the Luxembourg Ministerial Conference.

– *Information on the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum (Luxembourg, 1 to 3 April 2005)*

- **The Presidency** informed on the outcome of the Civil Forum events (Luxembourg, 1-3 April, 2005) (Partenariat DS 39/05).

- **The Committee** acknowledged the importance of associating civil society to the Barcelona Process and decided to invite representatives of the Platform to the next meeting of the Euromed Committee in order to allow them to present the results of the Luxembourg Civil Forum.

**2. Commission briefing on Education**

- **The Committee** took note of a detailed presentation by the Commission of its activities in the area of education, professional training and employment possibilities in the Euromed context (Partenariat DS 31/05, 32/05, 33/05).

- **Several partners** stressed the importance of this issue; they underlined that it should become one of the most promising areas of cooperation in the Euromed context. Visibility of action undertaken in these fields should be enhanced and focus should be placed on achieved results in relation to the funds disbursed.

**3. Protocol on rules of origin: Commission briefing**

- **The Committee** was informed by the Commission on the state of play with regard to this important issue and in particular on the request for a specific exemption regarding Tunisia.
- **The Committee** also took note of a non-paper distributed by Egypt-Tunisia-Morocco (Partenariat DS 40/05) with regard to the evolution and prospects of the textile and clothing sector in the Euromed area, and the serious socio-economic situation, which ensued following the dismantling of the multi-fibre agreement, and the job loss it has caused.

#### **4. Any Other Business**

- **The Committee** took note of information provided by the Presidency on:
  - the first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) (Dundalk 11-12 April, 2005).
  - the First session of the Euromed Parliamentary Assembly (Cairo, 12-15 March, 2005) (Partenariat DS 43/05, 44/05, 45/05, 46/05).
  - the inaugural ceremony of the Anna Lindh Foundation to be held on the 20 April, 2005, in Alexandria (Partenariat DS 35/05).
  - a meeting organised by the Commission Med partners on liberalising agricultural trade (Rabat, 4-5 April, 2005); a draft roadmap for agriculture was drawn up, containing measures aimed at stimulating agricultural trade and cooperation (Partenariat DS 41/05).

---

**52nd meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Committee**  
**(Brussels, 19 May 2005)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 52nd meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which was held in Brussels on 19 May 2005.
  
2. An ad hoc meeting on terrorism was held in a constructive spirit on the basis of substantial interventions presentations by Mr Robert Rollinger, President of COTER, Mr. De Vries, EU Coordinator on Counter-Terrorism and Mr. Hojbjerg, Deputy Director of Europol. The 53rd SOM, 18 May 2005, focused on the preparation of the VIIth Euromed Ministerial to be held in Luxembourg on the basis of draft conclusions distributed by the Presidency (DS Partenariat 57/05). Following an exchange of views and the submittal by the Arab Group of written counter-proposals (DS Partenariat 59/05), the Presidency undertook to engage in consultations with all Mediterranean Partners with a view to achieve consensual conclusions at the Ministerial. Regarding demining, consultations continued on the basis of a new compromise proposal (DS Partenariat 55/05). Furthermore Greece recalled the seminar on ESDP to be held in Athens on 27-29 June 2005. It also launched the idea of the nomination of a Euromed Rapporteur, to be examined further at a later stage.

**RECORD OF THE 52nd MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE**

3. The 52nd meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process was held in Brussels on 19 May 2005. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Jean Faltz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg. The Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration and restated in the Ministerial conclusions of Malta, Stuttgart, Marseilles, Valencia and Naples, is to prepare for the next meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all elements of the Process and update the work programme.

The following items were accordingly on the agenda:

**1. Civil forum: presentation by representatives of the Euromed Non-Governmental Platform of the outcome of the Luxembourg Civil Forum (1 to 3 April 2005)**

4. **The Committee** took note of introductory statements made by representatives (Mr. Martin President, Mr. Alal Coordinator and Mr. Mathias responsible for the organisation of the civil forum in Luxembourg) of the Euromed Non-Governmental Platform following the Euromed Civil Forum meeting which took place in Luxembourg, on 1-3 April 2005 assembling 250 representatives of the civil society from 42 countries. The representatives stressed the interest of the civil forum on all three chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, guaranteed and timely access to the preparatory documents, increased recourse to the civil society expertise. Their interventions focused on the following:

- the holding, twice a year, of a meeting with the Euromed Committee on the basis of an agreed agenda;
- permanent mechanisms of consultation with civil society representatives to be established progressively

They finally expressed the wish to be given the opportunity to address their concerns at the VIIIth Luxembourg Euromed Ministerial Conference as well as at the extraordinary high-level anniversary event to be held in Barcelona at the end of the year.

**2. Preparation of the 7th Euromed Ministerial Conference (Luxembourg, 30 and 31 May 2005):**

**- Discussion of the draft ministerial conclusions**

5. **The Committee** welcomed the intention of the Presidency to engage in consultations with partners on the basis of the draft conclusions (DS Partenariat 57/05) distributed beforehand and the written contributions (to date, Arab Group counter proposals DS Partenariat 59/05).

**3. Past and future activities**

6. **The Committee** took note of information provided by the Presidency on the Euro-Mediterranean ECOFIN/FEMIP Ministerial Meetings to take place in Skhirat, Morocco, on 19th and 20th June 2005 (DS Partenariat 60/05).

**4. Other business**

7. **The Committee** heard a presentation by Morocco of a UK/Morocco non-paper on the follow up of the Marrakech Conference and the setting up of an electronic Euromed network for an exchange of good practices in the field of managing the social consequences of economic reforms (DS Partenariat 56/05). **The Committee** was informed by the incoming Presidency (UK) of its calendar of activities (DS Partenariat 61/05).

**II. 5th meeting of the Board of Governors of the Anna Lindh Foundation, Brussels, 19 May 2005:**

1. Report by the Presidency
2. Report by the Executive Director
3. Functioning of national networks
4. Date and place of next meeting
5. Other business

The Minutes will be drawn up by the Executive Director of ALF.

---



**53rd meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Committee**

**(Brussels, 26 July 2005)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 53rd meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which was held in Brussels on 26 July 2005.
2. First one day meeting under the UK Presidency with presentation of its priorities in the run-up to the Barcelona Summit; agreement to hold an ad hoc meeting on terrorism; presentations related to the FEMIP Ministerial meeting as well as to the Joint Euromed Economic and Finance Ministers Meeting held in Skhirat, Morocco; presentation by Morocco of a non-paper prepared jointly with Spain and France on joint management of migration flows and reinforced cooperation on Judicial and Police matters. Updates by Greece on Euromed Seminar on Crisis Management held in Athens, late June 2005, by Italy, on the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Euromed Bridge Programme on Civil Protection, held in Rome beginning of July, 2005. A revised version of the terms of reference of an Ad hoc meeting on non-proliferation was discussed followed by the terms of reference of a seminar project on Demining. The Commission made a presentation of the Euromed Heritage Regional Programme. The resumption of the funding of the Euronews TV channel in Arabic, was raised by several partners, as well as the issue of Libya and Mauritania joining the Barcelona Process.

**RECORD OF THE 53RD MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE**

3. The 53rd meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process was held in Brussels on 26 July 2005. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Frances Guy, Euromed Coordinator, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London. The Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration and restated in the Ministerial conclusions of Malta, Stuttgart, Marseilles, Valencia, Naples and Luxembourg is to prepare for the next meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all elements of the Process and update the work programme.

The following items were accordingly on the agenda:

**Introduction by UK Chair of Presidency Priorities** (DS 72/05)

4. **The Committee** took note of a short presentation without lengthy discussion;
5. **Turkey** announced a written contribution in view of the Summit, which would focus on the enlargement of the EMP (Euro-Mediterranean Partnership) and the need to set up a permanent secretariat of the Barcelona Process to take advantage of the fact that the Process is now able to stand on its own feet. More importantly, a secretariat will help reinforce ownership of the Process by all partners.
6. **Several partners** underlined the importance of including Mauritania and Libya to the EMP was underlined by several partners; reference was made to an agreement reached in the framework of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of the Western Mediterranean Dialogue (5+5) held in Malta on 29/30 June 2005 (DS 90/05, 91/05, distributed for information) to consider positively Mauritania's request to join the Barcelona Process, made officially at the last Luxembourg Euromed Ministerial Meeting.

7. **Egypt** also announced a paper of the Arab Group in view of the Barcelona Summit.

**Presentation on EuroMed Economic and Finance Ministers Meeting and FEMIP Ministerial meeting**

8. The Committee took note of the presentations, made respectively by Mr. Philippe de Fontaine-Vive, EIB Vice President, and on behalf of the Commission by Mr. Antonio De Lecea, Director, DG EC FIN (background notes were distributed as DS 70/05, 73/05, as well as the FEMIP 2004 annual report)

**Justice, Security, Social Integration and Migration** (French/Spanish/Moroccan non-paper)

9. **The Committee** took note of a presentation by Morocco of a framework document jointly prepared with Spain and France (DS 75/05 REV1), to allow for an initial exchange of views, for a coordinated approach, to be discussed in the run-up to the Barcelona Summit.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Anna Lindh Foundation**

- **Dr. Schöfthaler** presented the state of play of consultations with regard to the contract of the ALF with the Egyptian authorities and AIDCO (DS 71/05, DS 77/05, DS 49 REV 1, DS 79/05).

- **The Commission** informed the Committee of a decision taken by the College on 25 July 2005 with a view to ensure complete segregation of duties between DG RELEX (representing the Commission as an observer) and DG Europe Aid (authorizing officer of the Commission grant), in order to avoid a conflict of interests (DS 79/05).
  
- **Several Partners** warmly supported the activities and the efforts of its Executive Director, with a view to ensure that the Foundation functions effectively, at the earliest.
  
- **Italy** informed on the activities of the Italian network (DS 77/05).

### **Seminar on the Euromed Process** (Helsinki, 13 June, 2005)

**Sweden** informed on the above mentioned seminar (DS 76/05), which had focussed on gaining from experiences in other geographical areas, such as the Baltic sea region that could prove useful for the EMP; in particular, Spain, Finland and Sweden had jointly considered that issues such as industrial and environmental challenges could be addressed together with issues of cooperation in justice, security, migration and social integration and could also be raised at the Barcelona Summit.

### **Euromed Baltic Seminar, Tallinn, Estonia, 22-24 August 2005**

**Estonia** informed on the upcoming seminar which will focus on exploring ways the Southern Mediterranean Countries could benefit from the Baltics' political experiences. (DS 81/05, DS 82/05)

## **Euronews in Arabic**

**Several Partners** underlined the importance of ensuring that Euronews channel is transmitted in Arabic, and the impact of such a move for the visibility of the EU and the EMP.

**The Commission** indicated that the main reason for the interruption of the funding had been the absence of a private contractor; it undertook to look into the matter.

**The Euromed Committee** agreed to revert to the issue at the earliest (most probably at its session at the end of September

## **Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Transport, Marrakech, 15 December 2005**

**The Commission** presented a framework document in view of the First Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Transport (DS 83/05). Its main objectives will be:

- reviewing the transport situation in the region,
- taking stock of the situation to date,
- agree on the key policy recommendations and priorities for Euromed cooperation in this area

---

**54th meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Committee**  
**(Brussels, 6 September 2005)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 54th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which was held in Brussels on 6 September 2005.

**RECORD OF THE 54th MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE**

2. The 54th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process was held in Brussels on 6 September 2005. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Frances Guy, Euromed Coordinator, FCO, London. The Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration, is to prepare for the next meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all elements of the Process and update the work programme.
3. Concise and productive meeting, which allowed, inter alia, a first Commission presentation on the EU electoral observation policy; positive comments by Lebanon on EU role at recent elections; confirmation of agreement to hold a Euromed ad hoc meeting on terrorism that will concentrate on radicalisation and recruitment; with regard to the ad hoc meeting on non proliferation and the possible seminar on de-mining update on ongoing consultations: no change in respective positions. Presidency information on the upcoming Barcelona Summit.

4. **Egypt**, on behalf of the Arab group, insisted that the Senior Officials at their next meeting, in the framework of their political dialogue, raise the issue of the Middle East Peace Process; the Presidency acquiesced.

The session concentrated on the following themes:

#### **Presentation and discussion on EuroMed Youth Programmes**

5. **The Committee** took note of a Commission presentation of the Euromed Youth Programme, which is now at its third phase since its beginning in 1999; it was set up to promote intercultural youth exchanges, volunteer services for youth workers in the region. Emphasis was put on the role of the Euromed Youth Platform, as well as its links with the activities of the Anna Lindh Foundation. Reference was also made to a mid-term evaluation of the project, (to be found in [http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/program/evaluation\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/program/evaluation_en.html))

#### **EuroNews presentation and discussion**

6. **The Committee** took note of a presentation by Mr Kaila, director of Euronews, regarding the transmission of Euronews in Arabic.

**Several partners** expressed an enthusiastic support, underlining that this would ensure increased feasibility of the Barcelona Process, in particular in view of the upcoming Summit. The Commission undertook to study the various existing possibilities of financing this activity and revert to the Committee on this issue.

#### **Justice, Home Affairs and Migration discussion (follow on from Spanish/French/Moroccan paper and including an introduction by the Commission on the status of the implementation of the programme endorsed in Valencia in 2003)**

7. **The Committee** took note of an introduction by the Commission of the above mentioned programme.

**Egypt**, on behalf of the Arab Group, underlined the importance of taking stock of the results achieved to date in this area, before moving on. The benefits of legal migration towards the EU would have to be assessed.

**Algeria** underlined the importance of a global approach with regards to migration, as well as its historical and developmental contribution.

**The Commission** referred to the state of implementation of the three “volets” of the JHA programme in Valencia in 2003.

**Malta** emphasised its concern referring to the dramatic increase of illegal immigration in its country. Aspects related to countries of origin, transit, and destination should be examined in depth.

**Some partners** referred to the need to develop a common space that would adopt a global view and would go beyond a repressive approach for the management of this issue (DS 75/05 REV1), also raised in the Arab contribution (DS 94/05).

**The Commission** confirmed its attachment to a global approach in dealing with this issue.



## **Euromed Transport Ministerial, Marrakech (15 December 2005)**

8. **The Committee** approved the holding of the above mentioned ministerial on the basis of document DS Partenariat 83/05.

### **Any Other Business**

9. **Spain** indicated that the Institute IEMED would inform the Committee at its next meeting in Barcelona on the outcome of a recent survey on the EMP with decision makers.
  10. **Italy** announced the issuing of a reflection document on the 10 years of the Barcelona Process.
-

**55th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee**  
**(Barcelona, 26 September 2005)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 55th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which was held in Barcelona on 26 September 2005.

**RECORD OF THE 55TH MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE**

2. The 55th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process was held in Barcelona on 26 September 2005. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Frances Guy, Euromed Coordinator, FCO, London. The Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration, is to prepare for the next meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all elements of the Process and update the work programme.
3. Presentations on terrorism were made by Tunisia and Spain. An exchange of views on MEPP allowed all the Partners involved to express their hope for the improvement of conditions following the disengagement from Gaza. Update by the Presidency on the ad hoc meeting on non-proliferation, the seminar on de-mining and the seminar on Xenophobia and Racism. Presidency presented the thrust of the Draft Declaration and five year Action Plan as agreed to by the EU; consultations would be undertaken by the Presidency with Partners, in the run-up to the Barcelona Summit. IEMED presented the findings of a survey on the EMP following a questionnaire involving decision makers; representatives of the Euromed. Civil Society Platform presented their proposals in view of the Summit.

The session concentrated on the following themes:

### **Catalan presentation on activities in the run-up to the Summit**

The regional government representative (Generalitat of Catalunya) described the main events to occur in the margins of the Summit (Partenariat DS 113/05, DS 114/05).

### **IEMED presentation on Survey Findings**

4. The Committee heard a presentation by Mr. Andreu Claret, Director of IEMED, on the results of a survey made on the basis of a questionnaire transmitted to decision makers from both shores of the Mediterranean active in the Barcelona Process (DS Partenariat 100/05); the findings of the survey were noted as food for thought for future deliberations.

### **Civil Society platform presentation**

5. Civil Society Platform representatives reiterated their perception of the partnership and announced a proposal it intended to be submitted to the Summit relating to the holding of a Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Governance that would focus on the fight against corruption. In parallel they informed on a programme of national consultations to be held for the preparation of the Civil Forum prior to the November 2006 Euromed Ministerial Conference "Barcelona VIII", under Finnish Presidency.

### **Any other business**

- **EuroNews:**

6. Several Partners reverted to the issue of the transmission of Euronews in Arabic. The Commission, having explored existing possibilities to ensure such a financial contribution, indicated that it was bound to respect the Financial Regulation tendering procedures; these procedures did not guarantee that Euronews would be awarded the final contract.
7. Several Partners underlined the importance of ensuring that Euronews was transmitted in Arabic and the potential it represented for the visibility of the EU and the EMP.
8. Israel referred to the development of a project on peace between Israel and the Arab World, and indicated the willingness of Israeli broadcasters association to cooperate on such a project.

**- Social Economy and the EMP**

9. Spain underlined the importance of this aspect on socioeconomic development, also referred to in the recent Luxembourg Euromed Conference conclusions. In particular its contribution to assist enterprises to favour employment opportunities (Partenariat DS 116/05). Several Mediterranean Partners confirmed its valuable contribution to job creation in the region. France also underlined the importance of this dimension and referred to a debate on the EMP that would be organised by the French Economic and Social Committee.

---

**56th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee**  
**(Brussels, 8 November 2005)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 56th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which was held in Brussels on 8 November 2005.

**RECORD OF THE 56TH MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE**

2. The 56th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process was held in Brussels on 8 November 2005. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Frances Guy, Euromed Coordinator, FCO, London. The Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration, is to prepare for the next meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all elements of the Process and update the work programme.
3. At the 57th meeting of the Senior Officials dealing with the Political and Security partnership, discussions mainly focussed on issues relating to the run-up to the Barcelona Summit. Senior Officials heard a presentation on the developments and activities of the EMPA. EuroMeSCo made a presentation of its scheduled activities for 2005-2006. Following a presentation by the Commission an exchange of views was held on the financial Governance Facility envisaged by the EU aiming at assisting reform efforts. A discussion was initiated on the working methods of the partnership on the basis of proposals by Turkey and Belgium; it was agreed to examine those proposals in detail after the Summit under the Austrian and the following Presidencies. Discussions focused on the Summit texts on the basis over alternative drafting proposals; it was agreed to pursue consultations with a view to reach agreement .

- **EMPA**

4. **The Senior Officials** took note of a presentation by the Secretariat of EMPA which focused on its activities and new parliamentary structures (specialised commissions and working groups), set up with a view to examine and monitor all Euromed activities. (Information documentation was circulated: Partenariat DS 140/05, 141/05, 142/05).
5. **Several partners** expressed their satisfaction on the rapid development of this institution, notably its focus on sensitive issues, such as dealing with natural disasters, de-mining, Middle-East Peace Process, etc.
6. **Senior Officials** agreed to examine, at a later stage, specific suggestions regarding the articulation of EMPA activities with the Senior Officials discussions.

- **EuroMeSCo**

7. **The Senior Officials** took note of a presentation by EuroMeSCo representatives of its work programme for 2005-2006, focussing on its main research projects, rapid response facility, exchange programmes, surveys, and seminars. (Partenariat DS 138/05).

- **Mondomix**

8. **The Euromed Committee** heard the presentation by Mr. Marc Benaïche, General Manager of Mondomix Media (based in Paris) regarding a three-year-project called Med in Flux, which aims at providing information on a selection of cultural projects and cultural players of the region (DS Partenariat 139/05).
9. This project was welcomed by several partners; the importance of ensuring translation of content in several languages was underlined. In particular, **Israel** expressed its willingness to cooperate with a view to create content, relevant to the cultural aspects of the EMP; it referred to a project regarding “technology incubators” which aims at exchanging know how and provide incentives for young entrepreneurs to engage into commercial ventures in the region..

- **Summit logistics**

10. **The Presidency** provided updated logistical information on the upcoming Summit; regarding the Summit Plenary, it indicated that partners had been invited to focus their Head of State or Prime Ministers' interventions to take into account the four themes previously mentioned; within this framework each partner was free to determine the emphasis to be given to any specific area. It recalled that Civil Society representatives would also intervene briefly during the Plenary.

The remark was made that observer attendance to Euromed meetings as well as their speaking rights, should be agreed beforehand.

11. **Spain**, added that:

- before the ceremonial dinner offered by the H.M .the King of Spain , the Heads of State and Prime Ministers, would have the opportunity to have an exchange of views.
- a working dinner of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs will be hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr. Moratinos (discussion items will be notified shortly).

12. **The Commission** made a presentation of the envisaged financial **Governance Facility**; in this regard, the precedent of the EU structural adjustment programmes was referred to.

13. **Several EU partners** underlined the importance of the envisaged Instrument which would be part of the ENPI (European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (i.e. also applying to the East-European neighbours) (and currently still under discussion) and constitute an important feature of the EU neighbourhood policy; it would allow the EU to support national reform efforts under way in many Arab countries, also confirmed by the recent Arab League and Arab Summit Declarations.

14. **Egypt**, on behalf of the **Arab Group**, underlined that the issue of reform was a shared commitment in the Euromed context; it insisted on the need to dispose of more precise parameters regarding this Facility; at this stage, it would not be advisable to include an explicit reference to the Facility, in the texts of the Summit; several partners supported this view and confirmed that national reform efforts were under way, progress was slow and assistance would be necessary. The sensitivity of the issue was emphasized.
15. **Senior Officials** also held an exchange of views on the working methods of the partnership on the basis of contributions by Belgium and Turkey (DS Partenariat 98/05, 120/05). Discussion focussed on the following themes: ownership of the process, accountability of the activities, setting up of a Euromed Secretariat, relationship between the bilateral and the multilateral track, rotating co-chairmanship, accountability and transparency of projects, sub-regional cooperation, possibility of “variable geometry” solutions, allowing some partners to go ahead in separate co-operative schemes, enlargement of the Barcelona Process.
16. **Several Partners** also acknowledged the need to address further those issues; It was agreed that the Senior Officials would revert to the issue after the Summit, under Austrian Presidency and the following Presidencies.

### **Discussion on Summit Texts**

17. **Senior Officials** had an exchange of views on the basis of the amendments introduced by the Arab Group to the first Presidency proposal (DS Partenariat 133/05, 134/05, 135/05). In the light of this debate, the Presidency circulated a revised proposal (DS Partenariat Euromed REV 2 regarding the draft Statement, and DS Euromed Interne 45/05 REV 2, dated 08.11.2005) with a deadline for comments ending Friday, 12 November, 1700.
18. **The Presidency** undertook to continue informal consultations with a view to achieve agreement on the three drafts. A further SOM would be organised before the Summit with a view to finalise the drafts.



## **Any other business**

19. **Portugal**, (currently chairing the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe), informed on the outcome of a Ministerial Conference, held on 28 October on Intercultural dialogue, which resulted in a common declaration (Partenariat DS 136/05, 137/05).
  
  20. **Portugal and Morocco** also gave a detailed information on a joint initiative, regarding the setting up of an Euro-Mediterranean Open University with a view to encourage exchange of experiences in the region in the area of democratic transition, good governance, economic integration and social cohesion (DS Partenariat 131/05); first sessions were held on 14-18 July 2004 and 7-10 July 2005; the aim is greater mobility and enhancement of reciprocal knowledge involving multiple actors such as diplomats, academics, researchers and journalists.
-

**57th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee**  
**(Brussels, 17 January 2006)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 57th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process, which was held in Brussels on 17 January 2006.

**RECORD OF THE 57TH MEETING OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COMMITTEE**

2. The 57th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process was held in Brussels on 17 January 2006. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Hans Kogler, Euromed Coordinator, MFA, Vienna. The Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration, is, inter alia, to prepare the Ministers of Foreign Affairs Conferences, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all its elements and update the work programme.
3. At the 58th meeting of the Senior Officials dealing with the Political and Security partnership held on 16 January 2006, discussions focussed on the Presidency plans to implement the Work Programme adopted at the Barcelona Summit (DS Partenariat 07/06). Egypt, on behalf of the Arab group, insisted on the importance of allowing for a joint reflection on the ways to implement the agreed 5 year programme; it undertook to submit its views on the Presidency document. Several partners supported the idea of holding an additional Senior Officials meeting in February to allow for the continuation of the exchange of views. In addition, Senior Officials agreed on the principle of holding a Ministerial meeting on migrations in the Euro-Med region as proposed by the Presidency; it was however underlined by several Partners, that Senior Official expert meetings would have to ensure adequate preparation of this important issue.

The Presidency gave indications on the envisaged ad-hoc meeting on terrorism aiming at implementing the Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism agreed in Barcelona. The Commission informed on the series of the Media Seminars that were held and the future activities of the Euro-Med Media Task Force. Senior Officials were debriefed on the state of the ongoing discussions regarding the envisaged de-mining and WMD seminars as well as the state of preparations of the Seminar on Racism and Xenophobia in the Media. In addition, with regard to institutional arrangements and the future of the Barcelona Process, the Presidency undertook to examine the way to build upon contributions by partners (notably, suggestions by Turkey and Belgium (DS Partenariat 120/05 and 98/05). Regarding the EUROMED Bridge Programme, Italy informed on the upcoming Third Operational Committee meeting (Rome, 6 February 2006) (DS Partenariat 01/06) and on the Second Steering Committee meeting (Rome, 7-8 February 2006); it circulated some proposals by the Italian civil protection authorities aiming at the development of a permanent Euromed Civil Protection System (DS Partenariat 09/06).

#### **57TH EUROMED COMMITTEE MEETING, 17 JANUARY 2006**

**1. Presentation of the Presidency plans to implement the Work Programme adopted in Barcelona (Chapters II and III)**

**The Euro-Med Committee** agreed to revert to the examination of this item (DS Partenariat 07/06) in the light of written contributions by Partners with the aim of integrating additional comments to the implementation schedule proposed by the Presidency.

**2. Information on past activities:**

- Transport Ministerial (Marrakech, 15 December 2005)

**The Euromed Committee** was briefed by the Commission on the positive outcome of the first Euro-Med Transport Ministerial meeting (Marrakech 15 December 2005) (DS Partenariat 154/05) with important Ministerial attendance, which had built on the work done by the Euro-Med Transport Forum and its working groups; emphasis was given inter alia to the advancement of the objective of an integrated multimodal Euromed transport network, the achievements to date and to the setting up of a Joint Transport Office between Israel and the Palestinian Authority aiming at facilitating cooperation on transport infrastructure planning and development.

- High Level Environment meeting (Barcelona, 19 December 2005)

**The Euromed Committee** was briefed by the Commission (DS Partenariat 08/06) on the Euro-Med Environmental High Level meeting -Horizon 2020 (Barcelona 19 December 2005) (as well as on the initiative to “de-pollute the Mediterranean Sea by 2020”) which brought together several participants from international finance institutions, the Barcelona Convention Secretariat, local, regional and national administrations, networks of Mediterranean towns, as well as NGOs. A Euro-Med Ministerial Meeting of Environment Ministers is expected to be called and to formally launch the initiative in the second half of 2006.

### **3. Future activities:**

- ICT Senior Officials meeting

**The Euromed Committee** was briefed by the Commission on the holding of a meeting of a Euromed Forum on Information Society that would be held, on 4 April 2006, in Brussels 2006, as a follow up to the ICT Dundalk Euromed Ministerial.

- Euro-Med Trade Ministerial Meeting (March 2006)

**The Euro-Med Committee** was informed on the next Euro-Med Trade Ministerial meeting to be held in Marrakech, on 24 March 2006. Adequate preparation of this meeting will be ensured by a Trade Senior Officials meeting to be held beforehand.

#### 4. **Anna Lindh Foundation: Information point, state of play**

**The Euromed Committee** was informed by the Executive Director of the ALF on the latest relevant events (in particular the third meeting of the Heads of the ALF National Networks, held in Barcelona, on 27 November 2005 (DS Partenariat 02/06 and 05/06); the following issues were discussed:

- National networks: **The Euromed Committee** took note of the common wish of the Heads of the 35 National Networks (DS Partenariat 4/06) that their assignment be re-launched by April 2006, be provided with appropriate status and resources, enabling them to implement their tasks and contribute to the objective of “giving the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership a face at the national as well as regional level”.

- Study Committee: the Euromed Committee took note of the composition of the Study Committee i.e. Presidency, Italy, Sweden, Belgium, UK, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority, the European Commission, the Council Legal Service and the Council Secretariat; it was suggested that the Executive Director of the ALF would act as its Secretary; the Committee would focus on the financing of the national networks, the revision of the Statutes of the ALF and its Rules of Procedure (a draft would be submitted to the Board of Governors by 15 April 2006); following an opinion by the Council Legal Service, the Euromed Committee agreed to recommend the above for approval by the Board of Governors of the ALF, by a written procedure, ending on 10 February 2006.
  
- A Euromed Youth Workshop for the Simulation of the Euromed Conference of MFA “The role of women in Society: How to fight Against Social Stereotypes” (Naples, Italy, 17-20 December 2005) (DS Partenariat 6/06).

## 5. AOB

Italy informed on the holding of a Conference on Higher Education to be held in Catania on 27-29 January 2006.

---

**58th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee**

**(Brussels, 22 February 2006)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 58th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process and the 59th meeting of the Senior Officials, held in Brussels on 22 February 2006. The meetings were chaired by Mr. Hans Kogler, Euromed Co-ordinator, MFA, Vienna. The Euromed Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration, is, inter alia, to prepare the Ministers of Foreign Affairs Conferences, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all its elements and update the work programme, while the Senior Officials are responsible for the political and security aspects of the Partnership.

**RECORD OF THE 59TH MEETING OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS**

2. At the 59th meeting of the Senior Officials dealing with the Political and Security partnership held on 22 February 2006 agreed to revert to the issue of the implementation of the Barcelona Five Year Work Programme (DS Partenariat 7/06 REV1) taking into account comments of the Arab Group (DS Partenariat 31/06) on the text of the Presidency. On migrations, the Presidency informed on how it intends to proceed in preparing a meeting of Ministers responsible for migration issues, ensuring adequate preparation and substantial results; it was underlined that dates (both for the Ministerial and expert senior officials meeting) would be determined by common agreement between the EU and Mediterranean partners;

Egypt, on behalf of the Arab Group expressed its willingness to contribute on the basis of a working document which the EU undertook to present; a comprehensive approach of this issue was essential; in that respect, a call was made to EU partners to ensure facilitation of visa issuance procedures for persons involved in Euromed meetings in accordance with the relevant Euromed ministerial conclusions (Valencia, Luxembourg). On demining, Belgium informed on a new and final proposal for terms of reference for the envisaged seminar (DS Partenariat 26/06); no agreement could be reached at the meeting. Regarding the Vienna seminar on Racism and Xenophobia and the Media, consultations were ongoing; it was agreed to revert to the issue at the next meeting. Regarding the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA), Senior officials were informed on the next meeting of its Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights (6 March) and its plenary (26-27 March). A debriefing by Italy, on the state of play of the Euromed Bridge Programme focussed on the meeting of the second Steering Committee on 6-8 February in Rome.

#### **58TH EUROMED COMMITTEE MEETING, 22 FEBRUARY 2006**

1. **Ways and means to improve the dialogue of cultures and civilisations: exchange of views (in the presence of Dr. Schoefthaler, Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures)**
  
3. **The Committee** had an in depth exchange of views on the issue of the cartoons which had upset public opinion in several countries of the region; **several partners** welcomed the opportunity provided by the Presidency to the Euromed Committee to discuss this important issue which fell well within the remit of the purpose of the Euro- Mediterranean Partnership and the many instruments and institutions at its disposal; existing political engagements in this field in the EMP framework were recalled; the **Council Secretariat** undertook to draw up a list of commitments and activities in the intercultural cultural field in the EMP framework. The Commission presented a working document with a Decalogue of ideas and the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures its action plan. Both proposals received initial support from Partners.



It was stressed that the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures should be allowed to play its full role by mobilising the civil society; reference was made to the “guiding principles” that should lead the dialogue between cultures, adopted by the Crete Euromed Conference (DS Partenariat 13/03). Advantage should be taken of the Alliance of Civilisations initiative together with the reinforcement of the role of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures. Work already accomplished in other fora such as the OSCE, could be useful. Equally, it was noted that bilateral national initiatives on cultural workshops with Muslim countries were under way; the idea of a “Mediterranean Cultural Workshop” involving civil societies in the region was put forward. While expressing their attachment to the freedom of expression as a fundamental value to be adhered to, **several partners** condemned any hurting of spiritual and religious feelings that had occurred by unwise acts; they deplored the acts of violence that had resulted in the loss of life and the burning of diplomatic missions.

4. During the meeting the **HR/SG Javier Solana**, referring to his recent trip to the region, had words of encouragement for the ongoing search by the Euromed Committee for the ways forward; he recalled his attachment to the Barcelona process and his conviction that all the available mechanisms set up in this framework should be utilised to deal with the current crisis; **several partners** expressed their appreciation to the HR/SG for his persistent efforts to calm down the situation.
5. **The Committee** noted the several ideas put forward with a view to involve the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in defusing the continuing crisis in several countries of the region. Egypt, on behalf of the Arab Group underlined the need to adopt a comprehensive approach and made a statement on the “Defamation of Islam and the dialogue of Cultures” (DS Partenariat 32/06) which stressed that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities and the need to build bridges of understanding and respect; it also examined inter alia how the EMP could contribute in defusing the crisis; it reverted to the five principles and parameters that should govern dialogue, proposed by Egypt, in the Action Programme on Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations and endorsed by the MFA, in Valencia, in April 2002, notably:

1. Respect for pluralism, diversity and cultural specificities
2. Equality and mutual respect
3. Avoidance of prejudices and stereotypes
4. Dialogue should aim to reach, not only a better understanding of “the other”, but also solutions for persistent problems.
5. The ultimate goal of dialogue should not be to change “the other” but, rather, to live peacefully with “the other”.

it proposed specifically to:

- intensify efforts to avoid repetitions of the offences to religions and their symbols.
- intensify dialogue between cultures by the regular inscription of this issue on the agenda of the Euromed Committee with the aim of developing measures to reduce racist and anti-Muslim sentiments in the world.
- activate the Alliance of Civilisations initiative, endorsed recently by the Barcelona Summit and which should be translated into deeds and actions.
- mobilise the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures to organise a seminar involving Senior Officials and eminent persons from both shores to discuss ways and means of enhancing dialogued ensuring respect for all adopt a code of conduct on combating defamation of religions. Lebanon stressed its support for this idea.
- to ensure that the second Vienna seminar may discuss an agreement on a code of ethics for the media regarding self restraint in publications that hurt or insult religious sanctities
- send a clear message to the international community that all countries reject defamation of religions or cultures and are determined to stand up against any attempts at smearing or mocking any religion, belief, culture, ethnic group or their symbols; this could be done by our representatives working on a UN Resolution , taking as a basis GA Resolution 60/150.

- following the 59th Euromed Committee meeting, issue a Presidency statement on behalf of the 35 Euromed partners that could be publicized worldwide and help defuse the current crisis.;
    - it could contain the following elements:
    - reflecting their joint resolve to intensify the dialogue,
    - to work diligently to prevent the recurrence of those offences to Islam, or to any other religion,
    - to reaffirm that we share a common future to be nurtured together and to reiterate the continuing validity of the five principles that should govern our dialogue as set out in Valencia.
    - encourage the forthcoming EU GAERC meeting on 27 February 2006, adopts a firm position regarding the issue of defamation of religions.
6. **The Committee** heard a presentation by **the Commission** (DS 29/06 Partenariat) of a decalogue of ideas aiming at involving Euromed networks to strengthen intercultural dialogue; they include:
- a. endorsement by the Euromed Committee/Board of Governors of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures strategy presented by its Executive Director, involving more its 35 national networks; a call was made to all partners to provide financial support of the national networks, enabling them to function adequately;

- b. reinforcing the role of the Platform in view of the 2006 Civil Forum with the aim of identifying the roots of the recent exacerbation of stereotypes;
- c. including in the preparation of the Vienna seminar on racism, xenophobia and the media, aspects of the inter-cultural dialogue raised during the Cairo meeting of the Media Task Force (9-10 February 2006);
- d. mobilisation of the networks involved in the three main Euromed regional networks (Heritage, Youth and Audiovisual)
- e. involvement of existing networks of academic institutions, EuroMeSCo, and Femise, Eumedis)
- f. raising those issues bilaterally, in the framework of the Association Agreements and the ENP Action Plans.
- g. organising occasional Euromed Committee meetings in the region in the Euromed capitals bringing together local diplomatic representatives with the host country administration and inter alia discuss the Euromed priorities.
- h. involvement of the EMPA, that could foster the role of parliaments in the region to promote intercultural dialogue
- i. encouragement of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures and the networks to establish necessary contacts with other international intercultural initiatives
- j. focus attention to the cultural impact of the Code of Conduct on Terrorism adopted by the Barcelona Summit;

7. **The Committee** heard a presentation by **Dr. Schoefthaler** who referred to some ideas contained in a draft strategy and action plan for relaunching the Dialogue between Cultures in the Euromed Region (DS Partenariat 22/06) presented by himself. A first draft had been developed together with the Head of the Danish national network, Mr. Olaf Gerlach Hansen, Director General Danish Centre for Culture and Development, during an ISESCO Symposium in Tunis (30 Jan-1 Feb) which coincided with the outbreak of the crisis. The document focuses on key arguments to be communicated, media campaign, identification of relevant priorities within the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures programme and the involvement of all its 35 national networks. He also referred to a Congress of the European Movement on North South Mediterranean dialogue to be held in Algiers on 24-25-26 February 2006, co-organized by the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures (DS Partenariat 23/06) under the High Patronage of H.E. Mr. A. Bouteflika, President of Algeria. **Algeria** confirmed the high attendance (more than 400 participants) and the importance of the gradual involvement of the civil society. Finally, press releases of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures (12-02-06/15-02-06 on the “cartoons crisis” were also made available (DS Partenariat 24/06 and 25/06). Dr. Schoefthaler explained that the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures was established as a “network of networks” and will be able to play its full role only with functioning national networks in all 35 EMP partner countries. He recalled the joint statement adopted by the 35 Heads of Networks in Barcelona on 27 November 2005, inviting the 35 Governments “to renew the mandate of, or to re-establish, each national network as of 1 April 2006” (DS 04/06). Each national network would need appropriate status and human and financial resources, at least the minimum needed for functioning.

8. **The Committee** agreed that , the election of the Chairman of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures Board of Governors from a Med Partner could send a clear political message; **several partners** supported this idea; the Council Legal Service undertook to clarify the issue of the nomination of the Chair (notably the eventual revision of article VI of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures draft Statutes) also in preparation of the first meeting of the Study Committee, to be held on 13 March 2006, in Brussels;
9. **The Committee** agreed to continue the search for the best possible response to the crisis through inter alia the examination and assessment of the above numerous proposals; it was agreed to revert to the issue at the next meeting
10. **The Committee** was informed by Finland, incoming chair of the EU, of a letter sent by the Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja, to the Arab press, on 13 February (DS Partenariat 18/06), regretting the events and undertaking to work towards the promotion of intercultural and religious dialogue.

**2. Euromed and the Media: debriefing by the Commission on the Cairo Task Force meeting, 9-10 February 2006.**

11. **The Committee** heard a debriefing from the Commission on the Cairo event (DS Partenariat 20/06); it noted the suggested recommendations that could provide food for thought for the Vienna Euromed Seminar on Xenophobia and racism and the media and agreed to revert to the issue at the next meeting.

**3. Alliance of Civilisations: information on the state of play:**

12. **The Committee** took note of a presentation made by Spain and Turkey of the state of play of the Alliance of Civilisations project, notably of the first meeting of the High level Group having met in Palma De Mallorca on 27-29 November 2005 (DS Partenariat 30/06) and of a joint article published in the International Herald Tribune by PM Zapatero and PM Erdogan calling for the responsible exercise of freedom of expression with respect to the different sensibilities. It recalled the support of the Barcelona Summit to the UN Alliance of Civilisations initiative and the contribution of Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures Foundation in promoting intercultural dialogue and agreed to the need to be kept abreast of work progress in this context.

#### **4. AOB**

13. **The Committee** heard a presentation by the Commission on the Fifth Euromed Trade Ministerial Conference (Marrakech, 24 March 2006) (DS Partenariat 28/06) set to focus on the issues of the promotion of regional integration, the liberalisation of trade in services, the approximation of legislation in the field of standards and technical regulations, the liberalisation of trade in agricultural, processed agricultural and fishery products and allow discussion of the establishment of bilateral dispute settlement rules of procedure as well as the Doha development agenda.

14. **The Committee** took note of information provided by Finland, incoming presidency as to the envisaged meeting during its term notably a Ministerial on Women (beginning of November 2006, ongoing consultations aiming on possible venue in Turkey); a Euromed Ministerial on Environment (venue to be confirmed) the conclusions of which could be endorsed by the Foreign Affairs Ministerial, to be held in Tampere, on 27-28 November 2006; Egypt, on behalf of the Arab Group, drew attention in this regard to its comments made on the implementation of the Barcelona Five Year Programme (DS Partenariat 31/06) and stressed the need of holding a Euromed Meeting at the level of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
15. **The Committee** took note of information provided by Malta on the 20th Euromed Training and Information Seminar to be held in Malta, on 5-8 May 2006, set to focus on the follow up to the Barcelona Summit (DS Partenariat 33/06).
-



**59th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee**

**(Brussels, 15 March 2006)**

**-0-0-0-**

1. Delegations of the Member States of the European Union and the Mediterranean partners will find attached for information the summary record, drawn up by the Council Secretariat, of the 59th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process and the 60th meeting of the Senior Officials, held in Brussels on 14-15 March 2006. The meetings were chaired by Mr. Hans Kogler, Euromed Co-ordinator, MFA, Vienna. The Euromed Committee's task, as agreed in the Barcelona Declaration, is, inter alia, to prepare the Ministers of Foreign Affairs Conferences, review the development of the Barcelona Process, evaluate progress made in all its elements and update the work programme, while the Senior Officials are responsible for the political and security aspects of the Partnership.

**RECORD OF THE 60TH MEETING OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS**

2. At the 60th meeting of the Senior Officials dealing with the Political and Security partnership held on 14 March 2006, on the implementation of the Five Year Work Programme, the Presidency presented an amended version of its priorities (DS Partenariat 7/06REV2) and underlined that they concerned the actions to be undertaken during its term of office; Egypt, on behalf of the Arab Group, regretted that the points made in their contribution (DS Partenariat 31/06) had not been taken into account. The Commission underlined that the Arab suggestions could be taken into account in the drawing up of the Commission Communication to be prepared in view of the next Euromed Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (November 2006 in Tampere)<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Regarding DS Partenariat 07/06 Rev 2, Turkey wished the deletion of the phrase "in the light of the opening of negotiations with Turkey on EU accession" from the second paragraph under "III. Education and Socio-Cultural Exchanges".

Regarding the Euromed Seminar on racism and xenophobia and the media, (22-23 May 2006 in Vienna), Partners discussed the programme description presented by the Commission (DS Partenariat 42/06 REV1). Regarding migrations, (DS Partenariat 34/06), Senior Officials confirmed agreement to hold, at the earliest, an expert meeting with a view to prepare adequately a Euromed Ministerial meeting; the Presidency undertook to propose a date for such a meeting. Regarding civil protection, Senior Officials heard a presentation (DS Partenariat 35/06) from the Executive Director, Mr. Philippe Nardin, on the activities of the intermediate Bridge Project; and endorsed a report on the implementation of the intermediate bridge programme as well as strategic orientations and proposals for a long term programme. (DS Partenariat 36/06); attention was drawn to the preparatory documents for the drawing up of the proposals (DS Partenariat 44/06 and 45/06). Regarding working methods, Senior Officials agreed to revert to this issue at their next meeting and discuss on the basis of existing (DS Partenariat 98/05, and DS Partenariat 120/05) and additional contributions (DS Partenariat 41/06 and 48/06, 51/06). Egypt, on behalf of the Arab Group requested that Senior Officials be provided the opportunity to discuss the political situation in the region.

## **59TH EUROMED COMMITTEE MEETING, 15 MARCH 2006**

### **1. Dialogue between cultures and civilisations: continuation of discussion**

3. **The Committee** agreed that the item “Dialogue between cultures and civilisations” would be regularly inscribed as a standard item of its agenda.
  
4. **Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group** underlined the importance of a global strategy to deal with the situation and reverted to the specific proposals made during the last meeting of the Euromed Committee (DS Partenariat 32/06). **The Council Secretariat** undertook to amend the relevant minutes, with a more detailed presentation of these proposals.

5. **The Committee** noted remarks made that welcomed the joint proposals by HR/SG SOLANA and Commissioner FERRERO WALDNER, during the recent informal meeting of the EU **Ministers** of Foreign Affairs, in Salzburg, on 10-11 March, with regard to the issue of improving the dialogue between cultures and civilisations, notably:
- a proposal that the EU organises a special event on 25 November 2006 to mark the 25th anniversary of the proclamation of the UN Declaration of removing all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief as well as
  - a proposal for the EU to draw up an inventory of the different national legislations of its Member States and carry out an exchange of best practice in terms of laws protecting minority rights and individual dignity,
  - the support for the Commission ideas (expressed in DS Partenariat 29/06) on the use of Euromed instruments to promote intercultural dialogue
6. **The Committee** had an extensive exchange of views and several ideas were put forward by Partners; one Partner observed that there was no contradiction between freedom of expression and the respect of religious beliefs; it was suggested that a Euromed Seminar on Education could contribute in promoting tolerance, focussing on the respective school systems and their role in preventing incitement to violence, at an early age; further proposals included ensuring the implementation of the Barcelona Summit Five Year Programme commitments, in this field, with specific projects; strong emphasis was given to the need to enhance mobility of young people; the importance of promoting academic exchanges at high school and university level (student exchanges for extended stays in the host country); it was also underlined that such mobility could be enhanced by the facilitation of the issuance of visas.

7. **Several partners** underlined the importance of using the numerous means and institutions provided for by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership i.e. the Ministerial Conferences, the Euromed Committee , the Anna Lindh Foundation, the EMPA, the Civil Forum (next meeting to be held under Finnish Presidency before the next Euromed MFA Conference), contributions by EuroMeSCo network of Foreign Policy Institutes and the Femise network of Economic Institutes.
8. **The Commission** suggested the following course of action with a view to develop a coherent and global approach:
- better use of all the official and institutional channels: several official meetings and instances had concentrated on the issue of cartoons (MFA meetings, the EMPA, the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, the Alliance of Civilisations meetings in Doha and New York etc.)
  - identification by Partners of all the concrete actions and initiatives , each would be willing to undertake in this field
  - presentation and assessment by the Commission of the ongoing Tempus programme.
9. **The Committee** noted a “Vademecum of the Intercultural Dialogue activities since the Barcelona Conference” prepared by the General Secretariat of the Council (DS Partenariat 40/06), with a view to provide a global picture of the activities in this field and assist the Euromed Committee in its monitoring functions.

10. **The Committee endorsed** the Decalogue proposed by the Commission as a set of measures that could also contribute in promoting this dialogue (DS Partenariat 29/06).

11. **The Presidency concluded** that a paper would be prepared, presenting all the proposals on the table to be discussed/approved during the next meeting in April.

**2. Euromed Youth Platform: presentation by Mr. Giovanni Buttigieg, Director of the Euromed Youth Platform**

12. **The Committee** took note of a presentation by AIDCO, of the Euromed Youth Programme, its main objectives, activities, budget, implementation methods and selection procedures (Partenariat DS 49/06). It also heard a presentation by Mr. Giovanni Buttigieg, Director of the Euromed Youth Platform, who presented the activities of the Platform, focussing on the setting up of a data base, publications and websites, the setting up of networks, ensuring that the very numerous youth associations in the region and at country level, are heard, and on increasing visibility of the Barcelona Process.

**3. Presentation Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures: state of play**

13. **The Committee** noted the information provided by Dr Schoefthaler, Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation, on the holding of the Congress held in Algiers from 24 to 26 February (DS Partenariat 39/06) under the patronage of H.E. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of Algeria, organised by the European Movement, the Algeria Committee, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and its Arab Reform Forum and the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures; emphasis had been put on the knowledge of cultural diversity, inter-cultural education and on promoting academic exchanges, in order to overcome stereotypes and achieve a more coherent approach to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, as a whole.
  
14. **Dr. Schoefthaler** referred to several areas of activity of the Foundation such as the implementation of the strategy presented on the 22 February (DS Partenariat 22/06) the training of journalists, teacher training seminars, facilitation of the exchange of resident artists, the Algiers conference and made a call to all Partners to ensure that their respective national networks are adequately supported in order to function.

**4. Study Committee: information on state of play of discussions (1st meeting: 13 March 2006)**

15. **The Committee** was informed by Dr Schoefthaler, on the meeting of the Study Committee held on 13 March, in Brussels; it had not been possible to deal with the Rules of Procedure, but work had advanced on the revision of the ALF Statutes.
  
16. **The Committee** agreed to a revision of Article VI of the Anna Lindh Foundation Statutes regarding the Chairmanship of the Board of Governors, by the Council Legal Service (as suggested in DS Partenariat 17/06).

**5. Avian Flu: Information by the Commission on external response**

17. **The Committee** heard a presentation by Mr. Vincent Picket, Head of Unit for Centralised Operations Asia, EuropeAid, on what is currently being done to face the bird flu threat, notably the coordinating efforts between donor countries and the financing proposals regarding the Mediterranean region (DS Partenariat 47/06).

**6. 10th Euromed Economic Transition Conference (Brussels, 6-7 June 2006) and 2nd ECOFIN/FEMIP Ministerial meeting (Tunis, 25-26 June 2006): presentation by the Commission.**

18. **The Committee** heard a presentation by the Commission on the above-mentioned conference which aimed at providing an informal forum for open debate on key economic policy issues under the Partnership (DS Partenariat 37/06).

19. **The Committee** was also informed by the Commission on the ECOFIN/FEMIP Ministerial to be held in June 2006; it indicated that the EIB had already started consultations with Mediterranean partners, on the issue of the future of FEMIP; a Review Report was being drawn up, on which the ECOFIN Council would have to decide by the end of the year.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION FOR THE DIALOGUE  
BETWEEN CULTURES**

20. **The Board of Governors** elected Mr. Muhyieddeen Shabaan Touq of Jordan, as its Chairman and Mr. Lars Bjarme of **Sweden**, as its Deputy Chairman.

**7. AOB**

21. **Several partners**, as a follow up of the Barcelona Summit, underlined the importance of associating the civil society representatives (Euromed Non-governmental Platform), the EMPA bodies, Euromesco, Femise to the work of the Euromed Committee. In this respect it was agreed to invite for the next meeting the Euromed Non-Governmental Platform to present the plans for the Civil Forum and other questions related to the Barcelona process.
22. **The Commission** informed on the future conferences on gender issues, it intends to organise (DS Partenariat 46/06); it was agreed to revert to this issue at the next meeting.
23. **The Committee** noted the envisaged timetable of the next meetings, to be confirmed by the Secretariat:

26 April 2006: 1500 Study Committee  
27 April 2006: 0900-1030: EU coordination and  
1030-1300: Senior Officials Meeting  
27 April 2006: 1500-1800 :Meeting of the Board of Governors  
28 April 2006: 1000: Euromed Committee