



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



Rabat, 21 November 2005

DECLARATION OF THE PRESIDENCY
ADDRESSED TO THE
10TH ANNIVERSARY EURO-MEDITERRANEAN SUMMIT

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The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) meeting in plenary session in Rabat (Morocco) on 20 and 21 November 2005 declares its strong commitment to contributing to the pursuit of the objectives of the Barcelona Process in its tenth anniversary.

The EMPA sees this year as an opportunity to assess the last decade and set the direction for the next one. EMPA reaffirms its support for this process by playing an ever stronger role in bringing citizens from two shores of the Mediterranean closer to one another and seeking to adapt the project to their needs and aspirations.

Citizens of the Euro-Mediterranean region are concerned that the right to peace, democracy, security, economic prosperity and social progress is out of reach of many of them. In spite of the efforts made over the last decade, the economic and social gaps between the two shores of the Mediterranean has widened further. The priority now is to bridge this gap to avoid a permanent fracture.

The Euro-Mediterranean parliamentary dialogue is a powerful instrument of the Barcelona Process which can contribute effectively, by adding value to classical governmental or multilateral diplomacy, to promoting mutual understanding and cooperation on current challenges.

EMPA therefore calls on the Euro-Mediterranean Summit in Barcelona on 27-28 November 2005 to launch the policies necessary :

1. To create the regulatory framework necessary to promote economic growth and to attract more foreign direct investment to the region. To support the efforts of all Mediterranean partners to improve knowledge-based education, vocational training and access to new technologies. In this way, to improve the employment prospects of the young.
2. To support the far-reaching economic reforms and elimination of barriers necessary to achieve a Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area by the year 2010.
3. To bring new dynamism and hope to the Middle East Peace Process, strengthening parliamentary dialogue within the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and, involving to a greater extent civil society across the region in order to bring together the parties concerned.
4. To promote parliamentary democracy, enhance respect for the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression as well as other obligations arising from international law, notably those deriving from the regional and international Conventions to which all the Euro-Mediterranean partners are party.
5. To promote women's rights strongly and enable their participation in social, economic and political life. Gender equality is an integral part of good governance.
6. To build capabilities within society to respond effectively to health threats and natural environmental disasters, promoting early warning systems, best practices and good governance within the administration at national and local levels.
7. To enhance their role in the fight against terrorism through Euro-Mediterranean police and judicial cooperation, while protecting civil liberties. To support effective implementation of the agreed Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism.

8. To promote a culture of tolerance, by supporting educational measures, isolating radical behaviour and promoting social rejection of any incitement to violence.
9. To mobilise all social, economic and political actors to fight against racism and xenophobia (including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia) and to build on a common cultural heritage and respect for diversity, leading to a true alliance of civilisations. To support the UN's Alliance of Civilisations project and the activities of the Anna Lindh Foundation in particular in the area of education and in combating the spread of false perceptions and stereotypes about people on the two shores of the Mediterranean in the mass media.
10. To promote enhanced cooperation in the area of migration by appropriate integration policies which ensure that due respect is shown for the rights and freedoms of immigrants legally resident within the EU, and that, with appropriate integration policies in place, at the same time, the latter may show due respect for the duties incumbent on citizens in their host society and the shared values of that society.

The EMPA calls for the allocation of sufficient financial means within the framework of the new financial perspectives to pursue these objectives, which are elaborated in more detail in the three Committee Recommendations adopted by this Assembly.

The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, as the parliamentary institution of the Barcelona Process, expresses its will and determination to further pursue its efforts and engagement in working in an ever closer and coordinated manner with the executive bodies involved in the Barcelona Process (the Ministerial Conference, the Senior Officials Committee and the Euro-Med Committee) in order to fulfil these common objectives and to secure support from the people of the Mediterranean Basin.