

NOTA INTRODUCTORIA

Asunto: **Conferencia Euromediterránea de Ministros de Asuntos Exteriores
(Valencia, 22 y 23 de abril de 2002)
- Conclusiones de la Presidencia**

Adjunto se remite a las Delegaciones las conclusiones elaboradas por D. Josep Piqué i Camps al final de la Conferencia Euromediterránea de Ministros de Asuntos Exteriores celebrada en Valencia los días 22 y 23 de abril de 2002 y los documentos adoptados:

- Plan de Acción de Valencia
- Documento marco sobre un programa de cooperación regional en materia de Justicia, lucha contra las drogas, la delincuencia organizada y el terrorismo así como de cooperación en el tratamiento de los asuntos relacionados con la integración social de los migrantes, las migraciones y la circulación de personas
- Programa de Acción para el diálogo entre culturas y civilizaciones.

CONCLUSIONES DE LA PRESIDENCIA

QUINTA CONFERENCIA EUROMEDITERRÁNEA DE MINISTROS DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES (Valencia, 22 y 23 de abril de 2002)

1. La Quinta Conferencia de Ministros de Asuntos Exteriores del área Euromediterránea, celebrada en Valencia los días 22 y 23 de abril se celebró en uno de los momentos de mayor tensión en la región en los últimos tiempos. En estas circunstancias difíciles, los Ministros destacaron la necesidad de intensificar el diálogo y la pertinencia de los principios y objetivos acordados en la Declaración de Barcelona de 1995 para hacer del Mediterráneo una región de paz y estabilidad, desarrollo y prosperidad para todos, cooperación y entendimiento entre culturas y civilizaciones.
2. Los Ministros acordaron que la trágica situación de Oriente Próximo debe abordarse tanto con urgencia como en una perspectiva a plazo más largo. En este sentido destacaron el valor y la necesidad de la Asociación Euromediterránea como un marco esencial de diálogo y cooperación, un auténtico punto de encuentro de distintas culturas y civilizaciones. Hacer de esta diversidad un factor de riqueza es uno de los retos más decisivos de la Asociación.
3. Los Ministros acordaron que, tras el nuevo ímpetu que adquirió el Proceso de Barcelona en Marsella, Valencia debe marcar el comienzo de una nueva fase seis años después de su lanzamiento. Los retos de la ampliación de la UE, los acontecimientos del 11 de septiembre y los graves acontecimientos de Oriente Próximo, así como otros cambios estructurales en la escena internacional, hacen que el Proceso de Barcelona sea más necesario que nunca. Este es el momento adecuado para solicitar una renovación del compromiso común que contribuya a la estabilidad y paz regionales y dé mayor profundidad a la Asociación Euromediterránea. Se destacó un refuerzo tangible del sentido de implicación de todas las partes en el proceso y se acordaron iniciativas concretas en este sentido.
4. Para contar con un programa de trabajo en el que se especifiquen claramente las numerosas iniciativas y compromisos distintos, los Ministros adoptaron un Plan de Acción que, teniendo en cuenta el proceso en su conjunto, incluyera los tres capítulos y las disposiciones institucionales. Este documento se ha elaborado tras largas consultas con todos los socios en las que se incluyen las visitas realizadas por la Presidencia, conjuntamente con la Comisión y con la Secretaría General del Consejo, a las capitales mediterráneas. El Plan de Acción de Valencia incluye varias iniciativas a corto y medio plazo para dar un impulso político al proceso y conseguir que avance sustancialmente en la consecución de los objetivos de la Declaración de Barcelona. Este plan refleja los principios de visibilidad de la implicación de todos los interesados, eficacia y credibilidad del Proceso de Barcelona y contará con el seguimiento y los mecanismos de aplicación adecuados.
5. Entre las iniciativas adoptadas en el Plan de Acción de Valencia, pueden destacarse algunas características de importancia:
 - En el capítulo político y de seguridad y las disposiciones institucionales, los Ministros acordaron reforzar el diálogo político, incluidos los asuntos de defensa, acordaron un

planteamiento común sobre el diálogo y la cooperación en materia de lucha contra el terrorismo internacional y una profundización del diálogo sobre derechos humanos y establecieron las líneas principales de los futuros trabajos en relación con las medidas de consolidación de la Asociación.

- Los Ministros reiteraron su firme compromiso político con la democracia, los derechos humanos y el Estado de Derecho en la región y acordaron seguir desarrollando la dimensión parlamentaria de la Asociación. Acogieron con satisfacción la celebración de la reunión de los presidentes de los parlamentos euromediterráneos en Atenas del pasado febrero, reconocieron el valor de los foros parlamentarios Euromed existentes y acordaron recomendar la creación de una asamblea parlamentaria Euromed como propuso el Parlamento Europeo.
- En el aspecto económico y financiero, los Ministros estuvieron de acuerdo en la necesidad de aumentar las inversiones para promover el crecimiento y el empleo en la zona del Mediterráneo. Acogieron con satisfacción la decisión de crear un fondo reforzado dentro del BEI que movilice recursos, en particular para las inversiones del sector privado. En este sentido, la Presidencia tomó nota del firme respaldo manifestado por los socios mediterráneos a la creación de un Banco euromediterráneo.
- Basándose en las conclusiones de las reuniones de los Ministros de Comercio e Industria, la Conferencia solicitó la realización de un seguimiento sostenido en el marco del Plan de Acción, especialmente sobre la armonización de normas de origen y en las áreas de promoción de las inversiones, integración regional, liberalización de los servicios, reforma reglamentaria y acceso a las nuevas tecnologías. Los Ministros acogieron asimismo con satisfacción la propuesta griega de celebrar una conferencia euromediterránea sobre energía.
- Los Ministros acogieron con satisfacción los avances realizados en el Proceso de Agadir y reiteraron su firme respaldo a iniciativas subregionales del mismo tipo. La UE renovó su oferta de facilitar asistencia técnica a dichas iniciativas. Por otra parte, los Ministros reiteraron que habría que incluir el desarrollo sostenible entre los principios rectores del Proceso de Barcelona y en este sentido acogieron con satisfacción la próxima Conferencia de Ministros de Medio Ambiente en Atenas el próximo mes de julio.
- En relación con las dimensiones social, cultural y humana de la asociación, los ministros manifestaron su convicción de que la construcción de la Asociación Euromediterránea necesita la participación y el compromiso de los gobiernos, así como de las sociedades y de todos los actores pertinentes, destacando en este sentido la necesidad de aprovechar plenamente las posibilidades que ofrece el tercer capítulo de la Declaración de Barcelona en todas sus distintas áreas.
- Tras intensos trabajos, se aceptó un documento marco con la intención de poner en marcha un programa de cooperación regional en materia de Justicia, lucha contra las drogas, la delincuencia organizada y el terrorismo, así como de cooperación en materia de tratamiento de las cuestiones relativas a la integración social de los migrantes, las migraciones y la circulación de personas.
- En el contexto de la situación internacional actual, los Ministros destacaron la importancia de promover el diálogo y la cooperación entre culturas y civilizaciones.

Para ello, los Ministros aceptaron el principio de la creación de una fundación euromediterránea que impulse en mayor medida el diálogo entre culturas y civilizaciones y aumente la visibilidad del Proceso de Barcelona mediante encuentros intelectuales, culturales y de la sociedad civil.

- Los Ministros se congratularon de la adopción del programa de acción para el diálogo entre culturas y civilizaciones, que incluye importantes iniciativas en materia de juventud, educación y medios de comunicación.
 - Los Ministros también acogieron con satisfacción la ampliación del Programa Tempus de cooperación interuniversitaria a los socios mediterráneos y permitirán a las universidades convertirse en protagonistas activos de la Asociación y contribuir a la ampliación de las ofertas educativas adaptadas a las demandas de los mercados de trabajo.
6. Los Ministros debatieron los últimos acontecimientos en Oriente Próximo. Manifestaron su grave preocupación sobre la situación actual, que implica riesgos graves para la seguridad regional y conduce a una grave crisis humanitaria. Continuaron aumentando en la región la violencia, destrucción, sufrimiento, violaciones de los derechos humanos y derramamiento de sangre, alcanzado un nivel sin precedentes durante las últimas semanas. Los Ministros manifestaron su condena del terrorismo y la violencia y deploraron la pérdida de vidas humanas y manifestaron sus sinceras condolencias a las familias de los muertos y heridos.
7. Los Ministros destacaron que no existe una solución militar al conflicto y reiteraron que es preciso aplicar inmediatamente y en su totalidad la Resolución 1402 del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU, como se destaca en la Resolución 1403, con la intención de iniciar negociaciones y alcanzar, dentro de un plazo definido, una solución política basada en las resoluciones 242, 338 y 1397 y los principios de la Conferencia de Madrid, Oslo y los acuerdos subsiguientes, y que tenga en cuenta otras iniciativas, como la iniciativa árabe a la que se hace referencia en el punto 9, que permitiría la existencia de dos estados, Israel y Palestina, que vivieran en paz y seguridad y desempeñaran plenamente su papel en la región.

Las negociaciones deberían conducir a la creación de un Estado palestino democrático, viable e independiente, acabando con la ocupación de 1967, así como el derecho de Israel a vivir dentro de fronteras seguras y reconocidas, garantizado por el compromiso de la comunidad internacional.

El fin del conflicto requiere soluciones negociadas a todos los aspectos de las cuestiones del estatuto permanente.

Una paz global debe incluir también a Siria y a Líbano basándose en los mismos principios.

8. Los Ministros instaron a una aplicación inmediata de la Resolución 1405 del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU para que se permita un acceso sin restricciones a las organizaciones humanitarias y médicas a las poblaciones palestinas, que se enfrentan a una situación humanitaria atroz. Se congratularon de la iniciativa del Secretario General de obtener una información fidedigna mediante un equipo de investigación en lo que se refiere a los acontecimientos del campo de refugiados de Yenin.
9. Los ministros se congratularon sinceramente de la iniciativa de paz del Príncipe heredero saudí Abdalá, respaldado en Beirut por la Cumbre de la Liga Árabe, por constituir un marco significativo hacia una paz global.

El ministro Peres mencionó asimismo otras iniciativas, como la de Abu Ala-Peres.

10. Los ministros se congratularon sinceramente de la declaración conjunta del Cuarteto realizada en Madrid el 10 de abril. Destacaron la necesidad de una acción internacional sostenida y concertada en la búsqueda de la paz y manifestaron su deseo de que el Cuarteto siga tomando medidas. Se manifestaron distintas opiniones sobre la posibilidad de una conferencia internacional.

11. Los Ministros tomaron nota de que existe la convicción generalizada de que un mecanismo de control por parte de terceros ayudaría a ambas partes en sus esfuerzos y les instaron a que consideraran las propuestas de aceptar observadores. Varias delegaciones destacaron la necesidad de fuerzas internacionales de mantenimiento de la paz.
12. Los ministros hicieron un llamamiento a la comunidad internacional para que proteja, fortalezca y asista a la Autoridad Palestina, incluso mediante esfuerzos para reconstruir su infraestructura, seguridad y capacidad de gobierno. Apelaron también a la comunidad de donantes y a las instituciones financieras internacionales para que renovaran su compromiso y movilizaran urgentemente recursos para facilitar ayuda humanitaria de urgencia a la población palestina, y ayudar a la reconstrucción económica e institucional en el contexto de la promoción del desarrollo regional y la integración económica.

La normalización de los flujos comerciales, los traslados y las condiciones económicas en los territorios palestinos son una dimensión fundamental de la recuperación de la economía palestina.

13. Como conclusión del debate, la Presidencia hizo un llamamiento a las autoridades de Israel para que pongan fin a sus operaciones militares, retiren inmediatamente sus fuerzas militares de las ciudades palestinas, en particular Belén y Ramala, incluido el cuartel general del Presidente Arafat, cuya seguridad personal y libertad de movimientos deben respetarse y garantizarse. Es preciso encontrar asimismo una solución pacífica para la situación de la Iglesia de la Natividad. Hizo un llamamiento al pleno respeto del Derecho humanitario internacional.

Hizo un llamamiento a la Autoridad Palestina y al Presidente Arafat, como líder elegido y reconocido del pueblo palestino, para que actúen con determinación y tomen todas las medidas posibles a su alcance para luchar contra el terrorismo, en particular los atentados suicidas con bombas, y para que pongan coto a la incitación a la violencia. Para tener éxito, la lucha contra el terrorismo debe incluir el desmantelamiento de las infraestructuras y financiación de los terroristas.

14. Con ocasión de la Conferencia Ministerial de Valencia, y en presencia del Presidente Buteflika de la República de Argelia y del Presidente Aznar del Gobierno de España, tuvo lugar la ceremonia de firma del Acuerdo de Asociación Euromediterránea con Argelia. Los Ministros se congratularon de la firma del Acuerdo con Líbano que tendrá lugar en las próximas semanas, y de la entrada en vigor del Acuerdo de Asociación con Jordania el 1 de mayo. La celebración de once de los doce acuerdos de asociación abre de este modo una nueva fase en las relaciones euromediterráneas y la mayoría de los socios están inmersos en la actualidad en un proceso que conducirá progresivamente al establecimiento de un área de libre comercio en la región.
15. La Presidencia de la UE dio la bienvenida a la Delegación libia a la Conferencia de Valencia. Teniendo en cuenta el papel de Libia en la región mediterránea y en el continente africano, la Presidencia de la UE manifiesta su esperanza de que Libia contribuya plenamente al relanzamiento de la cooperación euromediterránea. También dio la bienvenida a otros invitados especiales de la Presidencia: la Liga Árabe, la Unión del Magreb Árabe (UMA) y Mauritania.
16. La Conferencia lamentó la ausencia de Siria y Líbano pero manifestó respeto por su decisión. La Presidencia espera que ambos países continúen su cooperación en el marco del Proceso de Barcelona.
17. Los ministros tomaron nota del informe final del Foro Civil que se celebró los días 12 y 13 de abril en Valencia y de los esfuerzos emprendidos para garantizar la continuidad de los trabajos de los foros civiles. Animaron a los interlocutores de la sociedad civil a reforzar su contribución hacia el cumplimiento de los objetivos de la Asociación.

18. Los ministros concluyeron que la Conferencia de Valencia había sido la oportunidad para un debate profundo, franco y constructivo sobre lo que se ha logrado desde Barcelona, los problemas encontrados y las soluciones logradas. El Proceso de Barcelona está en la actualidad lo suficientemente fuerte y bien establecido para que los participantes puedan comprometerse en un diálogo abierto sobre todos sus aspectos de interés común. La Presidencia tomó nota de los deseos de los participantes de mejorar la visibilidad del proceso aumentando el conocimiento del público de sus actividades.

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Los ministros acogieron con satisfacción la propuesta de Grecia de celebrar una reunión ministerial durante el primer semestre de 2003. La VI Conferencia Euromediterránea de Ministros de Asuntos Exteriores (Barcelona VI) tendrá lugar durante el segundo semestre de 2003 durante la Presidencia italiana.

Vth Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs

VALENCIA ACTION PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

The partners of the Barcelona Process taking part in the Euro-Mediterranean Conference Barcelona V held in Valencia (Spain) the 22nd and 23rd of April 2002,

Stressing that the strategic importance of the Mediterranean and the prevailing political, economic and social circumstances call for a global response based on comprehensive co-operation and solidarity;

Expressing their conviction that the peace, stability and security of the Mediterranean region are a common asset which they pledge to promote and strengthen by all means at their disposal;

Reiterating the importance they attach to sustainable and balanced economic and social development with a view to achieving the objective of creating an area of shared prosperity;

Recognising that dialogue among cultures, civilisations and religions throughout the Mediterranean Region is more necessary than ever before in order to promote understanding among them;

Aware that the coming perspective of the European Union's enlargement reinforces even more the relevance of the Barcelona Process;

Convinced that after six years of Partnership, the Barcelona Process should achieve new levels of Euro-Mediterranean integration thus generating new momentum in their relations and to foster a more balanced approach to the common objectives.

Agreeing that the sense of ownership of the Process by all partners must be reinforced;

Favouring an increased visibility of the Process by the public opinions of all partners;

Convinced that these objectives may be achieved within the framework and the development of the Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in Barcelona on the 27th and 28th of November, 1995;

Conscious that the incomplete implementation of the main objectives of the mentioned Declaration, despite the progress obtained since 1995, demands a global reassessment and a new commitment from all participants to build on the reactivation of the Process since Barcelona IV (Marseilles 2000);

Hereby agree to establish an Action Plan on reinforced political dialogue, further development of economic, commercial and financial co-operation and renewed emphasis on the social, cultural and human dimension.

This Action Plan will abide by all the Principles of the Barcelona Declaration, through regional, sub-regional and other multilateral actions. It is complementary to the bilateral co-operation implemented under the Association Agreements between the EU and its Mediterranean partners or between partners themselves.

The implementation of this Action Plan shall start immediately after the Barcelona V Conference and will be reviewed at Barcelona VI.

II. POLITICAL AND SECURITY PARTNERSHIP

1. The Conference agreed:

- That the political dialogue, in order to implement the principles adopted by the Barcelona Declaration, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the Euromed partnership, must focus among others on the following items:
 - a) Effective dialogue on political and security matters, including on the ESDP;
 - b) Enhancement of stability and reinforcement of democratic institutions;
 - c) Conflict prevention, crisis management and consideration of the causes of instability;
 - d) Regular information on EU enlargement developments and implications for the Euro- Mediterranean partnership, taking into account the interests of Mediterranean Partners;
- To confirm the mandate of the Senior Officials on the Draft Charter for Peace and Stability to continue their work as appropriate so as to enable the Charter to be adopted as soon as the political situation allows.

2. Terrorism

Referring to the deliberations of the ad hoc working group on terrorism, which met in Brussels on March 27th, the following axes of dialogue and cooperation in the domain of the terrorism have been retained:

- a) That the Barcelona Process cannot remain indifferent to the phenomenon of Terrorism which should continue being examined from a global and multidisciplinary approach, and in a spirit of partnership and solidarity.

- b) To recognize the central role of the UN in the fight against terrorism and to show strong support to the work of the UNSC Committee against terrorism.
- c) Taking note of the progress of work at regional and inter-regional levels, to reiterate that all 27 Partners are committed to the implementation of relevant UN Resolutions, particularly 1373 and 1390 and, as appropriate, to International Conventions.
- d) Taking into account that only a multilateral approach and practical measures can assure an effective fight against terrorism, to renew the mandate of the Ad hoc Group on Terrorism.
- e) To pursue the activation of the Euro-Mediterranean network of contact points for the fight against terrorism.

3. Human Rights and Democracy

The Conference agreed to encourage the continuation of the political dialogue on human rights by means of national and regional presentations. They also mandated Senior Officials to study the setting of a more structured dialogue on this sensitive topic so as to increase its effectiveness and deepen the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in this area.

4. Partnership Building Measures

The Conference confirmed the mandate to Senior Officials contained in the conclusions of Marseilles and Brussels Conferences, to consolidate partnership measures already in force, identify new ones and strengthen good-neighbourly relations on a regional or sub-regional basis.

Following a gradual approach, concrete proposals could, inter alia, go along the following lines:

- a) Working towards a common language on defence and security issues. One of the major problems in the region is the absence of a common strategic language. It is essential to overcome prejudices and conceptual and terminological misunderstandings. An initial common basis could be found in International Conventions ratified by Countries from the North and South of the Mediterranean.
- b) Developing preventive diplomacy mechanisms. The Mediterranean region requires bilateral and multilateral cooperation on conflict prevention with a special emphasis on crisis management. Presentations of national concepts of conflict prevention and related structures to manage crises. Med partners' experiences in these areas can become a subject of exchange of views by Senior Officials.
- c) Reactivation of the Bilateral and Multilateral Register of Treaties concluded by Partners.

Recognize the usefulness of some existing PBMs such as the Malta Seminars; EuroMeSCo contribution and the experience accumulated by the pilot project on mitigation of natural or manmade disasters and identify new partnership measures progressively while consolidating those already in force within the limits of existing budgetary constraints.

III. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

5. Association Agreements

The Conference recalled the objective of creating a Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area by the target date of 2010 and in this context underlined the importance of completing the grid of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements by concluding negotiations with Syria, and accelerating the ratification processes and the implementation of the Agreements.

The Conference agreed on the following:

6. South-South trade integration

- To express strong support to the Agadir Process and to all initiatives that aim at extending free trade agreements to Southern and Eastern Mediterranean partners, including integration at the sub-regional level such as the UMA.
- To welcome the decision taken by the Ministers of Trade to create a Working Group on Trade Measures relevant for Regional Integration, whose task will be to implement a Plan on Trade and Investment Facilitation covering:
 - a) Customs procedures
 - b) Standardisation issues and conformity assessment
 - c) Regulatory framework of investment
 - d) Protection of intellectual property rights.
- To endorse the decision taken by the Ministers of Trade to accept the principle of the participation of the Mediterranean partners to the system of pan-European cumulation of origin and urged:
 - a) The continuation of the technical work of the working group on rules of origin to solve practical problems and to reach concrete proposals at the earliest.
 - b) The introduction of the necessary amendments to the Association Agreements' protocols.
 - c) The conclusion of Free Trade Agreements with harmonised rules of origin between the Mediterranean partners.
- To work to promote investment through concrete measures.

7. Developing of Free Trade in Services

To welcome the decisions of Ministers of Trade, namely:

- To ask the Working Group on Trade in Services to continue its meetings in order to organise in- depth examination of various key service sectors and to discuss how to improve and liberalise the existing regulatory framework on transports, telecommunications, tourism and services to enterprises
- To ask the Commission to examine and meet, as much as possible within the existing MEDA programmes, relevant technical assistance needs in areas such as impact studies, capacity building and statistics.

8. *Improving Market Access in Agriculture*

To examine the prospects for greater reciprocal liberalisation of trade in agricultural products, in conformity with the provisions of the Association Agreements and the progress achieved in the multilateral context. The Conference asked the Commission to elaborate a study on the impact of such liberalisation on the European Union and the Mediterranean Partners.

9. *Financial co-operation*

- To welcome the ECOFIN and the Barcelona European Council Conclusions on the need to enhance Mediterranean Partnership and financial assistance towards its partners in the Barcelona Process.
- To take note of EIB estimates of 2 billion per annum of net lending and risk sharing commitments to the countries in the area by 2006, including a growing share to finance private sector projects.
- To welcome the establishment within the EIB of a reinforced Investment Facility to promote infrastructure and private sector Investment; complemented with the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Arrangement and an EIB representation office located in the area.
- The Conference took note of the interest expressed by the Mediterranean partners in the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Bank to promote investment and economic development.
- To note that the European Council has agreed that, on the basis of an evaluation of the Facility's performance, and taking into account the outcome of consultations with our Barcelona Process Partners, a decision on the incorporation of an EIB majority owned subsidiary dedicated to the Mediterranean Partner Countries will be considered and taken one year after the launching of the Facility.

10. *Improvement of the Meda programme management*

The Conference took note of the tangible improvements recently achieved in the management of Meda, through the reform of external assistance, the creation of Europe-Aid and the gradual devolution of Programme management to the delegations of the Commission. It asked the Commission

to continue its efforts to ensure rapid and efficient delivery of financial assistance under Meda programme.

11. *Infrastructure investments and interconnection*

The Conference decided:

a) *Transport*

- To welcome the launching of a first regional transport Project, which will identify, starting from existing studies, the key priority infrastructure in the region and the necessary interconnection between them as well as linking them to the Trans-European Transport Network.
- To ask the Commission to speed up preparations to draw up an Action Plan on transport sector reform integrating security, safety and environment aspects.
- To invite the Commission to take the necessary steps to boost co-operation regarding navigation by satellite (GALILEO), considering its concrete applications in the field of transport and also in the field of energy (see b)).
- To request the Commission to promote in the VI Framework Research Programme, the priorities of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation in the field of transport with regard to research and technological development.

b) *Energy*

- To invite the Commission and the EIB to identify priority projects with the southern Mediterranean partners which will help to develop connections between them and with the Trans-European energy networks.
- To request the Commission to make proposals for reinforcing co-operation regarding the security and safety of energy infrastructures, in particular the promotion of the use of new technologies such as GALILEO.

c) *Telecommunications*

To ask the Commission to draw up a strategy aimed at identifying the priority needs of the Mediterranean partners in this field and to make proposals to facilitate the integrations of telecommunications infrastructures on both shores of the Mediterranean.

d) *Investment provisions*

To encourage private sector and financial institutions, including the EIB and the World Bank, to actively participate in the development of these regional strategies with a view to financing their implementation.

12. From the Free Trade Area to the Internal Market Harmonisation of policies and regulations

- To welcome the launching of the Euromed Internal Market Programme and, in this framework, ask the Commission to identify priority areas where harmonisation with EU rules could be viewed as particularly useful.
- To take note of the decision of Ministers of Industry to ask the Commission to study the development of a virtual network of relevant Euro-Mediterranean administrations with a view to managing information flows in the free trade area.

13. *Fostering innovation and access to technologies*

To endorse the decisions of Ministers of Industry, namely the launching of the Regional Programme on Innovation, Technology and Quality with its focus on the upgrading of Innovation and Technological centres, and to ask the Commission:

- a) To develop synergies with EU financed co-operation in the area of research and technological development, as well as with EUREKA.
- b) To encourage participation of Mediterranean Partners in the VI Framework Research Programme.
- c) To give special consideration to cross-sectoral issues such as development of electronic commerce, taking into account the results achieved in the framework of the EUMEDIS Programme.

14. Reinforcing the role of the private sector

- To welcome the creation of the Union of the Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises and to declare the readiness of policy makers in the Euro-Mediterranean region to deepen the dialogue with the private sector, including on the development of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area and the latter's place in the global economy.
- To endorse the decision of Ministers of Industry to encourage the Commission to continue its activities aimed at improving the business framework for enterprises.

15. Ensuring sustainable development with a high degree of environmental protection

The Conference:

- Taking note of the progress of work in view of the launching of a sustainability impact assessment to ensure that the establishment of the Free Trade Area and Environmental protection are mutually supportive.

- Welcomed the next Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Environment that will take place in Athens in July 2002 and its intention to adopt a strategic framework for the environmental integration process in a perspective of sustainable development.

- Urged the Ministers of Environment to promote in Athens a joint approach to the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development.

- Asked the Commission to promote initiatives to strengthen technical and institutional capacity in the region, in synergy with other programmes such as the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

16. Tourism

The Conference asked the Commission to look at ways of helping partners to take account of the impact of tourism in other policy areas so as to ensure the sustainable development of the sector.

17. Reinforcing Economic Dialogue

The Conference welcomed the establishment of an institutional dialogue in the financial and economic chapter and took note that the second meeting of the strengthened economic dialogue will concentrate on growth and employment.

The Conference agreed that the Reinforced Economic Dialogue should in future meetings also take into consideration issues such as the implications of the Euro, the enlargement of the European Union and the social and economic impact of September 11, on the basis of the report presented by the Commission.

IV.- SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND HUMAN PARTNERSHIP

The Conference reiterated the importance of the third Chapter of the Declaration of Barcelona and mandated the Euromed Committee to study ways and means to develop further its contents.

18. Cooperation in the field of Justice, in combating drugs, organised crime and terrorism as well as cooperation in the treatment of issues relating to the social integration of migrants, migration and movements of people.

The Conference endorsed the Framework Document and asked the Commission to implement it with partners, notably through a regional cooperation programme including concrete measures on the above mentioned issues in a balanced, reciprocal and co-ordinated manner.

19. Migration and Human Exchanges

The Conference:

- Welcomed the idea for a Ministerial Conference on Migration and Social integration of emigrants to be held in the second half of 2003, which should include aspects such as: co-operation with the countries of origin, social integration of its migrant workers and management of migratory flows.

20. Dialogues between cultures and civilisations

The Conference underlined the importance of promoting co-operation in the field of culture, involving the general population with a view to furthering mutual understanding and combating misconceptions and stereotypes.

The Conference agreed to the principle of creating a Euro-Mediterranean Foundation to promote a dialogue of cultures and civilisations and to increase the visibility of the Barcelona Process through intellectual, cultural and civil society exchanges. The Foundation should be based on the principle of co-ownership and work in close coordination with other similar institutions including private sector entities. The modalities concerning the organization, the activities and the financing of this Foundation will be studied further.

The Conference endorsed the Action Programme on Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations aiming at Youth, Education and the Media which will be regularly updated and welcomed the Commission's Proposals:

- To extend the Tempus higher education Programme to the non-candidate Mediterranean partners as an intellectual and financial contribution to the development of new curricula and the adaptation of qualifications to today's needs and standards.
- To open to non-candidate Mediterranean partners NETD@YS and e-schola activities such as school-twinning, joint projects between schools and exchange of teachers.
- To streamline the existing EuroMed Youth Programme with the aim of increasing its efficiency.
- To launch the Programme on Information and Communication aiming at improving the visibility of the partnership. In this field, the Conference asked the Commission to study the possibility of supporting the efforts of Euro-Mediterranean audio-visual media to foster co-operation and thus contributing to a greater public opinion awareness of the Partnership.

The Conference underlined the importance of pursuing and enhancing the existing programmes on intercultural dialogue (Euromed Heritage and Euromed Audio-visual) as well as launching, when budgetary conditions allow, a regional programme on human sciences and exploring the possibilities of further use of current programmes Culture 2000 and Media Plus.

21. SOCIAL DIMENSION

The Conference asked the Commission to continue its activities with a view to launching a regional vocational training programme including arrangements for the setting up of a Euro-Mediterranean Observatory on Employment and Training; the programme will aim at promoting employment opportunities, in particular for the young, and in the field of new technologies.

The Conference took note with satisfaction of the preparatory work undertaken by the Commission with a view to launching, as soon as possible, a programme aiming at increasing opportunities for women in economic life.

A dialogue will be conducted on the implications for all partners resulting from demographic evolution.

The Conference welcomed the recommendations of the Euro-Mediterranean meeting of Economic and Social Consultative Bodies held in Athens.

22. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL ENTITIES

The Conference welcomed the Declaration of the Meeting of Euro-Mediterranean cities held in Barcelona last February. It also agreed that the Euromed Pact proposal presented by Eurocities merited further study.

23. CIVIL FORUM

The Conference welcomed the holding of the Civil Forum in Valencia and agreed to define the best way to support and develop further the involvement of civil society in the Partnership at the earliest possible stage.

V. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

The Conference agreed on the following:

- While recognizing the value of existing parliamentary fora, to recommend the strengthening of the Parliamentary dimension through the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, as proposed by the European Parliament, and to this end to mandate Senior Officials to liaise with the Parliaments of the Euro-Mediterranean partners and the European Parliament to examine the necessary agreements and steps to facilitate its establishment, as soon as possible.
- The holding of ad hoc meetings of Senior Officials with the participation of competent Directors of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the 27 Partners and the Commission, or Officials responsible for the issues being discussed in the ad hoc meetings.

- To examine ways and means to restructure the Euromed Committee, with a view to ensure a greater involvement of partners in the elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of programmes, actions and projects agreed upon by the Conference.
- The discussion of the next meeting's agenda will be included as a permanent item in the agenda of each Senior Official and Euromed Committee meeting.
- The principle of co-chairmanship is consistent with the essence of the Partnership and shall be implemented as soon as possible.
- The principle of alternate venues of Ministerial meetings is consistent with the essence of the Partnership and shall be put into effect as soon as possible.
- To mandate Senior Officials to study and put forward proposals leading to:
 - a) The holding of "like-minded" exercises or meetings, depending on the circumstances in hand and with a goal to form a group of like minded Euro-Mediterranean countries whenever issues of relevance for the Euro-Mediterranean region, notably those in the framework of the UN system are discussed. To this end, the establishment of an informal Euro-Med Working Group should be studied.
 - b) The idea of holding meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the established basis, including mid-way informal meetings and extraordinary sessions when the circumstances so require.

The Conference also agreed that in view of changes that the partnership will undergo in the near future, it is necessary to further examine the different proposals made, that are intended to give the partner countries more responsibility, involving them more directly in the elaboration and preparation of actions, programmes and initiatives, through a permanent and better structured dialogue.

VI. FOLLOW-UP

This Action Plan will be the object of a first evaluation at the next formal Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Barcelona VI).

The Conference mandated the Euro-Mediterranean Committee to examine adequate follow-up and implementation mechanisms for this Action Plan.

**REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF JUSTICE,
IN COMBATING DRUGS, ORGANISED CRIME AND TERRORISM
AS WELL AS COOPERATION IN THE TREATMENT OF ISSUES RELATING
TO THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS, MIGRATION AND
MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE

FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT**

1. Introduction

Judicial questions, the fight against drugs, organised crime and terrorism, the social integration of migrants, migration and movements of people) play a key role in the policies and actions of governments. Such issues are no longer purely internal, and governments now recognise that lasting solutions to these problems can only be arrived at through close regional and international cooperation. This was emphasised by the events of 11 September 2001, which highlighted the importance and urgency of increased international cooperation in these areas.

The 1995 Barcelona Declaration had already stressed the importance of such cooperation and had specified strengthening the rule of law as one of the objectives of the Partnership. It emphasised the need to develop closer links in areas such as the fight against organised crime, judicial and police cooperation, migration and trafficking in human beings. These are shared problems which need to be addressed as a whole. Dealing with them will require unprecedented levels of cooperation between administrations, as well as changes in legislation and administrative practices. Working together in these areas will also make it possible to intensify current Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and contribute to achieving the general objectives of the Barcelona Process.

At the Marseilles Ministerial Conference in November 2000, the Presidency's formal conclusions on these issues reaffirmed the need to enhance political dialogue, and instructed the Senior Officials to extend the dialogue to areas such as the process of consolidating the rule of law and to study partnership measures in the civil area, in relation to the fight against crime and illicit trafficking of all kinds, migration and movements of people. Particular emphasis was placed on the desirability of intensifying dialogue on this question by favouring a comprehensive and balanced approach and by strengthening the policies of development and integration of third-country nationals residing legally in the territory of the Member States.

2. Towards a regional programme for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation

General aims

Broadly speaking, the main aim of this future programme is to strengthen cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean Partners in priority areas. The regional dimension will facilitate exchanges of views, information and best practice, as well as the development of policies for possible implementation at national, regional or sub-regional level.

Cooperation should take account of the following elements in particular:

- (a) Promotion and effective implementation of the international acquis on the subject

Where circumstances require, cooperation should favour the adoption by the Euro-Mediterranean Partners of legislative measures to conform to international rules. It would be advisable to develop a cooperation policy aimed at effective implementation of these measures and improvement of existing administrative practices. This presupposes a cooperation policy focused on the modernisation of administration and the training of staff.

- (b) Promotion of the fundamental values to which the Euro-Mediterranean Partners are attached, in particular human rights, democracy, good governance, transparency and the rule of law

These goals represent a lofty ambition which the Euro-Mediterranean Partners could endeavour to achieve in a spirit of mutual respect and by pragmatic methods.

- (c) Creation of a stable and transparent judicial environment.

Cooperation should encourage reforms in the interests of both the Mediterranean partners and the EU Member States. A stable and transparent legal system is an important factor in ensuring respect for the rule of law, the protection of human rights and the economic interests of domestic and foreign investors.

- (d) The aim of achieving sustainable development leading to long-term stability and prosperity.

Specific objectives

The precise definition of the objectives of this future programme will have to involve a process of dialogue and working together between all the partners. There may therefore be a need for actions such as drawing up an inventory of the relevant national regulations of the Euro-Mediterranean Partners, exploratory missions and situation studies on more specific issues, to be carried out in agreement with the countries concerned.

The main areas of common interest as regards cooperation are judicial cooperation, the fight against drugs and organised crime, the fight against terrorism; as well as cooperation on the processing of questions relating to the social integration of migrants, to migration and to movements of people.

The regrouping of these four areas in two main chapters differentiating on the one hand between co-operation in the field of Justice, in combating drugs, organised crime, terrorism and, on the other hand, co-operation in the treatment of issues relating to the social integration of migrants, migration and movement of people, does not prejudge the relative importance of these four areas.

There is a clear common interest in adopting a joint approach to the fight against drugs, organised crime and terrorism, all of which have a cross-border dimension. The Euro-Mediterranean Partners should work together to combat the organised crime networks which support terrorism, arms trafficking and money laundering, and to fight against all forms of organised crime.

The social integration of migrants, migration and movements of people are of vital importance to the Partnership. A large proportion of migrants legally resident in the European Union are from the Mediterranean Partner countries. The harmonious development of the Partnership will be facilitated by measures aimed at promoting their social integration by combating racism and xenophobia. Furthermore, the promotion of partnerships between countries of origin and host countries in order to make the most of migrants' contribution to the regional or local development of their countries of origin will stimulate trade and investment in the Mediterranean Partner countries.

The geographical proximity and the gap in prosperity between the European Union and its Partners have led to illegal migration flows and trafficking in human beings, with very adverse consequences in social and human terms. All the Partners are aware of their common interest in combating these phenomena. Furthermore, the implementation of procedures governing the issue of visas to nationals of the Mediterranean Partners has often been placed on the agenda for our Euro-Mediterranean meetings. All these issues should be approached in a spirit of cooperation and with a view to identifying mutually acceptable solutions.

It is clear that the issues coming under this future programme are "horizontal" in nature and cover the three strands (political, economic and human) of the Partnership. However, for reasons of practical efficiency, it will be necessary, within an overall balanced approach, to concentrate efforts and avoid a dispersal of action. This regional programme should therefore target specific objectives within these areas and should not overlap with other Partnership programmes in the economic development or social fields.

Given the importance of the issues involved and the particular features of the institutional and legislative systems of each of the Euro-Mediterranean Partners, the programme must be implemented in a concerted and progressive manner. It should also be implemented in association with other relevant programmes, taking account of the implications for and the political links with those other areas.

The following is to be understood as a non-exhaustive list of proposed areas for action for this Euro-Mediterranean programme and which should lead to practical activities in the fields of training, transfer of know-how and upgrading of administrations, including through twinning arrangements between the administrations of the Euro-Mediterranean countries. At regional level, the Euro-Mediterranean Partners should identify the guidelines to be followed in these areas; on this basis, action will be taken at regional, sub-regional or national level in the light of the specific needs of each Partner. These activities will be implemented gradually and pragmatically, with priorities being set and distinctions made between what can be achieved in the short, medium and long terms, taking account of horizontal issues such as equal

opportunities for men and women. The Partners' best practices will contribute to the setting of objectives to be attained for the Partnership as a whole.

I. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF JUSTICE, IN COMBATING DRUGS, ORGANISED CRIME AND TERRORISM

A. Cooperation in the field of Justice

- (1) improve awareness of legal systems of different inspirations and facilitate judicial cooperation, notably through meetings and information exchanges at expert and official level including, where appropriate, through decentralised cooperation;
- (2) encourage modernisation and efficiency in the legal systems of the Partners, particularly as regards access to justice to ensure effective legal protection;
- (3) promote the training of judges, judicial staff and legal practitioners in all areas of law;
- (4) cooperate in resolving civil law problems relating to individuals taking into account the relevant conventions;
- (5) encourage the provision of information on their rights and on court procedures to those seeking justice;
- (6) consolidate the bilateral conventions on mutual assistance in civil, commercial and criminal matters concluded between the Euro-Mediterranean Partners including, as far as necessary, matters of extradition;
- (7) encourage cooperation in relation to non-judicial means of settling disputes (arbitration, conciliation and mediation).

B. Cooperation in combating drugs and organised crime

(1) Cooperation in combating drugs

- (a) encourage accession to and effective implementation of the relevant international instruments;
- (b) promote the training of staff of police and customs services and of any other service with responsibilities in combating this type of activity;
- (c) encourage the adoption and effective implementation of a balanced and coordinated approach by all the government bodies involved – from the health, legal and education standpoints – in the fight against drugs, based on the reduction of supply and demand;
- (d) encourage exchanges of information and statistics on drug trafficking;
- (e) promote coordination between police and customs services and the national and international bodies with responsibility for combating drugs.

(2) *Cooperation in combating organised crime*

- (a) cooperate in preventing and combating organised crime, money laundering, and arms trafficking;
- (b) encourage accession to and effective implementation of the relevant international instruments;
- (c) promote the training of judicial, police and customs staff in combating organised crime;
- (d) assist in setting up an effective legal, institutional and administrative framework for combating the various forms of organised crime;
- (e) cooperate in combating corruption, particularly by establishing appropriate legislation and institutions, training staff responsible for combating corruption, and providing mutual assistance in investigations of corruption.

C. Cooperation in combating terrorism

- (1) cooperate in a coordinated and interdisciplinary approach with a view to preventing and penalising terrorist acts;
- (2) encourage accession to and effective implementation of the relevant international instruments taking into account the relevant United Nations Resolutions, with particular reference to Resolution 1373 of the United Nations Security Council, also within the framework of the prevention and penalising of the financing of terrorist acts by applying such necessary measures as those identified by the FATF;
- (3) encourage the exchange of information on means and methods of combating terrorist groups and their networks;
- (4) promote the exchange of experiences and the training of judicial, police and customs personnel and of units specialised in counter-terrorism.

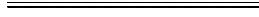
II. COOPERATION IN THE TREATMENT OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS, MIGRATION AND MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE

- (1) Social integration of migrants and the promotion both of their status in the host countries and of their relationship with their countries of origin
 - (a) reinforce measures for the social inclusion and family reunion of nationals of the Mediterranean Partners residing legally in Member States, taking into account national legislation and future Community legislation, in association with existing and future Community and national programmes, taking account of the bilateral Agreements and of the provisions of the Association Agreements concluded or to be concluded between the Mediterranean Partners and the European Union; promote activities aimed at non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural life;

- (b) strengthen the human rights of nationals of the Mediterranean Partners and step up the fight against racism and xenophobia by means of suitable measures;
 - (c) promotion of partnerships between countries of origin and host countries in order to make the most of migrants' contribution to the regional or local development of their country of origin.
- (2) Stepping up dialogue and cooperation on the management of migration flows and movements of people and on questions relating to the right of asylum
- (a) promote and improve exchanges of information and statistics on migration flows, including the possible creation of databases, and intensify information exchanges on migration flows in general;
 - (b) in accordance with the applicable Schengen provisions, investigate the possibilities of simplifying and accelerating visa-issue procedures in general, investigate the possibility of recognition by Member States of special treatment for certain categories of persons from the partner countries, and specifically introduce measures to facilitate the issuing of visas in the cases of persons taking part in actions to promote Euro-Mediterranean cooperation;
 - (c) in agreement with the countries concerned, promote, where appropriate, assistance, cooperation and training relating to increasing the capacities of institutions in the processing of asylum applications and in refugee protection.
- (3) Combating illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings
- (a) combat illegal immigration by developing, in particular, mechanisms for combating networks involved in smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings; provide appropriate assistance to the victims of such crimes;
 - (b) promote, as far as possible, bilateral readmission agreements between the European Union and the Mediterranean Partners and between the Partners themselves for people in irregular situations, in accordance with the provisions of public international law, and, where applicable, with the obligations contained in the Association Agreements and bilateral Agreements between the Euro-Mediterranean Partners;
 - (c) examine the causes of migration flows in order to take appropriate development measures, in particular by supporting the integrated development effort initiated by the southern countries in disadvantaged areas from where there may be substantial migration, in order to combat clandestine migration upstream by discouraging potential emigrants from leaving;
 - (d) strengthen solidarity and exchanges of information between countries of origin, transit and destination;
 - (e) set up modern and effective systems to control and monitor borders, especially by strengthening administrative infrastructures, offering technical assistance for training the staff that are assigned to them and cooperating in the use of suitable

technical resources. Along these lines, provision must be made to train border police and airline and shipping-line staff in the detection of false documents;

- (f) encourage accession to and real application of relevant existing international instruments.



ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN CULTURES AND CIVILISATIONS

I.- In the 1995 Barcelona Declaration, all 27 Euro-Mediterranean Partners agreed that the Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations is an essential factor in bringing their peoples closer, promoting understanding between them and improving their perception of each other.

II.- Dialogue between cultures and civilizations should be conducted on the basis of certain parameters and principles, namely:

A – Respect for pluralism, diversity and cultural specificities.

B – Equality and mutual respect.

C – Avoidance of prejudices and stereotypes.

D – Dialogue should aim to reach, not only a better understanding of “the other”, but also solutions for persistent problems.

E – The ultimate goal of dialogue should not be to change “the other” but, rather, to coexist peacefully with the other.

III.- This operative Action Programme for the Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations is urgent and should be drawn up in close co-operation between all 27 Euro-Mediterranean Partners in a joint effort towards common goals.

IV.- This Action Programme takes note of the principle of creating a Euro-Mediterranean Foundation to promote a dialogue of cultures and civilisations and to increase the visibility of the Barcelona Process through intellectual, cultural and civil society exchanges.

V.- The Action Programme focuses, in particular, on youth, education and media, since

- today's youth are the decision-makers of tomorrow;
- education is a powerful instrument in fighting ignorance, which is a breeding-ground for intolerance, racism and xenophobia, and
- media are an effective means to reach out to the general public in all countries.

VI.- The Action Programme contains concrete and feasible activities, proposed by both the EU and its Mediterranean Partners. The purpose of this Program is not to list only new initiatives, but to focus on all those activities that can contribute most effectively to the realisation of the objectives of the Dialogue. Consequently, some of the listed activities are new, while others have already proven their value in practical application. By listing both new and existing activities, the Action Programme offers a general overview of the present situation and gives an opportunity to all interested parties to concentrate their efforts to those areas that are considered most important. A basic principle of the Action Programme is that dialogue must be pursued in respect of pluralism and diversity and on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

VII.- Although the major part of these activities are financed by the EU, through the European Commission, contributions from Mediterranean Partners and from individual EU Member States will underline the reciprocal nature of the Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations. Consequently, the Action Programme should list contributions both from the European Union and from individual Mediterranean Partners, EU Member States and other sources.

VIII.- The Foreign Ministers, at their meeting in Palermo in June 1998, and the Ministers of Culture at their meeting at Rhodes in September 1998, endorsed the "Stockholm Conclusions", which had been adopted at a meeting in Stockholm in April the same year and which provide general guidelines and principles for the Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations. The Stockholm Conclusions provide useful inspiration for the future work with the Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations in the Barcelona Process.

IX.- In order to develop the Action Programme, the Euro-Mediterranean Committee is invited to ask the members of the Partnership to continue submitting their contributions, and to evaluate ongoing activities in relation to the objectives of the Dialogue and to report regularly to the Foreign Ministers on the implementation of the Action Program. This Action Programme will be updated regularly¹.

A. YOUTH

EU contributions

Commission

1. Launching of the second stage of the Euro-Med Youth Programme, whose goals are: the development of intercultural dialogue among the 27 Euro-Mediterranean partners, the promotion of a better and mutual knowledge and understanding, and the integration of young people in social and professional life. The Programme is scheduled for three years (2002-2004) and 14 Million Euros will be allocated to it.

¹ The full text of the proposals will be annexed to the Action Programme

2. Enlarging the [NETD@YS](#) and eSchola Programmes to Mediterranean partners. These two initiatives are aimed at encouraging and favouring the use of new technologies to promote activities such as school-twinning, joint projects and exchange of teachers.

National contributions¹

France

1. Ongoing co-operation aiming at youth exchanges (schools, youth, educational and sports associations, as well as training activities of association managers).

Greece

2. Proposal for the placing of the Mediterranean Observatory on Youth and Media in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership within the framework of the Barcelona Process.

B. EDUCATION

EU contributions

Commission

1. Enlargement of the TEMPUS Programme to Mediterranean partners. It aims at enhancing co-operation among the Universities of both shores of the Mediterranean, improve the management of Universities and assist them in updating their syllabuses and promote the training and exchange of teachers. The Programme will have a budget of 43 Million Euros.

2. Regional Programme on teaching and training for employment. Its goals are the setting up of a network of Euro-Mediterranean observatories of institutions involved in the training and employment policies, establish a regional system for the mutual validation of certificates and set up programmes for the reform of the educational system, employment and training, with a view to improving the efficiency of the strategies designed to fight unemployment. Its launching is envisaged for 2004.

National contributions²

France

1. Creation of Euro-Mediterranean educational exchange networks aiming at allowing actors in educational systems to share their experiences as regards teaching objectives and methods and to focus these exchanges in the perspective of optimal use of available educational resources.

¹ Contributing countries to be listed in alphabetical order.

² idem.

2. Support programme for a better knowledge of the culture of partners countries in the European educational systems. The aim of this programme will be to develop exchanges between actors of educational systems.

Spain

3. Setting up of the Euro-Arab Network for the exchange of executives. The Euro-Arab business school in Grenade offers a young executives exchange Programme including multicultural professional training for young executives of Arab and European companies.

Sweden

4. Student exchanges with Mediterranean Partners through the Linnaeus-Palme programme for teachers and students at undergraduate and master's level of higher education, which aims at strengthening co-operation between institutions of higher education in Sweden and developing countries and thereby increasing global contacts in the world of higher education.

C. MEDIA

EU contributions

Commission

1. Euro-Med Audio-visual Programme. Its goal is to promote co-operation among European and Mediterranean operators in the audio-visual sectors and foster regional projects in the fields of radio, cinema and television. Currently, there are already five projects under way, amounting to a total of 18 Million Euros. The second stage will be launched in 2004.

2. Regional Programme on information and communication. Its goal will be to improve the visibility of the Barcelona Process and its perception by the general public and opinion makers (media, political institutions, businessmen and civil society). The Programme will be launched this year and will be allocated a budget of 10 Million Euros.

National contributions¹

Austria

1. Expert Seminar on the Role of the Media. Vienna. 3rd June. Media business representatives, journalists, writers, and academics will discuss how to raise the awareness of the significance of the images about different cultures and civilisations produced and transported by the media. They will elaborate ways on how the media may include a wider public in the dialogue, and analyse and promote the possibilities of the media in the Euro-Mediterranean countries concerning the dialogue between cultures.

¹ idem.

France

2. Providing better information to the professional operators on the possibilities offered by Euromed Audiovisual.

Sweden

3. A new regional culture co-operation programme focusing on media/journalists to be launched. Programmes for training of journalists in Turkey and Gaza/The West Bank. International courses on media for participants from Mediterranean Partner Countries.

D. DIALOGUE OF CULTURES

EU contributions

Commission

1. Meeting on "Intercultural Dialogue". Brussels, March 20th. Organised by the European Commission, the "Inter-cultural Dialogue" initiative gathered in Brussels experts in several fields and of different nationalities to hold a discussion focused on the dialogue of cultures. The works around this inter-cultural dialogue have echoed the importance of education, of inter-religious dialogue and the exceptional representative value of the Mediterranean. Its conclusions will be submitted in the Valencia Summit.

National contributions¹

Denmark

2. The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs currently supports a project name "Forum for Dialogue Between Civilisations", which focuses on the dialogue between the various cultures of the Middle East and Europe.

The daily operation of the project is carried out by the University of Southern Denmark, and its main activities include seminars and conferences with participation of scholars, journalists, civil servants and politicians from the Middle East, Gulf region and Europe. Furthermore, the writing of a book with chapters by different authors from the regions is envisaged.

The hope is that the continued dialogue and exchange of views can diminish misunderstanding between the various cultures, and enhance scientific and political cooperation.

Morocco

3. Conference on inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue. This Conference will be held on the second half of 2002 and its goal is to draft a Chart of Ethics among monotheistic religions.

¹ idem.

Spain

4. International meeting on Dialogue among Cultures. The Foundation of the Three Cultures of the Mediterranean, sponsored by the Autonomous Government of Andalucia and the Kingdom of Morocco, will organise this meeting next June in Seville. Politicians and intellectuals will analyse the role played by cultural dialogue and multi-culturalism in the present day process of globalisation.
