



EP 07 – Resolution on the 10th anniversary of the Barcelona process

5 Acknowledging that the new European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which aims at preventing the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and offers them the chance to participate in various EU activities through greater political, security, economic and cultural co-operation, is a well-intended approach to construct a common European foreign and security policy towards some of its Eastern and Southern neighbours.

10 Bearing in mind the substantial cultural, economical, geographical, historical and political differences between EU's new Eastern neighbours and the countries of the Mediterranean.

15 Being aware of the slow progress of the Barcelona process due to the challenges related to issues of democracy and respect for human rights, the difficult security situation in the Middle-East, the lack of progress towards a solution in the Western Sahara, and of the difficulties inherent to the whole approach.

20 Reminding, however, also of the positive impetus of the Euro-Med Partnership and the MEDA-program as the EU's principal financial instrument for its implementation, especially in the youth sector.

25 Recalling its resolution regarding the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership adopted at the Barcelona Federal Committee meeting in March 2004.

JEF-Europe welcomes:

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- the inclusion of Libya on the list of partnership countries, meaning that now all Mediterranean countries are part of the Barcelona process;
 - the formation of so-called "tailor-made" Action Plans that focus on bringing real benefits to both sides in a range of fields from Education to the Environment, and from Transport to Security Issues.

35 ***However JEF- Europe believes:***

- that the political and economic reality of the EU's Eastern and Southern neighbors is of a different nature and as such needs a differentiated approach in terms of co-operation and political dialogue;

- that the ENP should not disregard the current Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, but rather include it, up-date it and – aiming to reach consensual solutions to present conflicts in the region¹ – foster further dialog not only between the Mediterranean countries and the EU but mainly between themselves (the so-called South-South cooperation);
- the Barcelona process has to be reinforced in terms of a stronger political dialogue (from both sides), financial commitment and technical co-operation;
- that a reinforced Barcelona Process should remain the corner-stone of the Euro-Mediterranean relations, albeit in the framework of the ENP.

In this regard, JEF-Europe states that:

Since this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Barcelona Process, we call upon EU institutions, EU member states' and other countries' institutions to use this occasion to ensure the implementation of the agreed policies, discuss the future developments and engage themselves financially in support of actions, such as the EuroMed component of the Youth Program.

¹ Such as the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the case of Western Sahara