



Draft Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean
Paris, 13 July 2008

In the presence of

Albania represented by

Algeria represented by

Germany represented by

Austria represented by

Belgium represented by

Bosnia and Herzegovina represented by

Bulgaria represented by

Cyprus represented by

Croatia represented by

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Egypt represented by

Spain represented by

Estonia represented by

Finland represented by

Greece represented by

Hungary represented by

Ireland represented by

Israel represented by

Italy represented by

Jordan represented by

Latvia represented by

Lithuania represented by

Lebanon represented by

Libya represented by

Luxembourg represented by

Malta represented by

Morocco represented by

Mauritania represented by

Monaco represented by

Montenegro represented by

Netherlands represented by

Poland represented by

Portugal represented by

Czech Republic represented by

Romania represented by

United Kingdom represented by

Slovakia represented by

Slovenia represented by

Sweden represented by

Syria represented by

Tunisia represented by

Turkey represented by

Palestinian Authority represented by

European Union represented by

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Euro-Mediterranean Heads of States and Government meeting in Paris on 13 July 2008, inspired by the shared political will to revitalize efforts to transform the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy, cooperation and prosperity, agree to adopt the following joint declaration:

The Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean, building on the Barcelona Declaration and its objectives of achieving peace, stability and security, as well as the acquis of the Barcelona Process, is a multilateral partnership with a view to increasing the potential for regional integration and cohesion. Heads of State and Government also reassert the central importance of the Mediterranean on the political agenda of all countries. They stress the need for better co-ownership by all participants, and for more relevance and visibility for the citizens.

They share the conviction that this initiative can play an important role in addressing common challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean region, such as: economic and social development ; world food security crisis ; degradation of the environment, including climate change and desertification, with the view of promoting sustainable development ; energy ; migration ; terrorism and extremism ; as well as promoting dialogue between cultures.

It will encompass all EU Member States and the European Commission, together with the other States (members and observers) of the Barcelona Process. The Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean welcomes Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Monaco and Montenegro which have accepted the acquis of the Barcelona Process. **[The Arab League will be accorded an observer status].**

A strategic ambition for the Mediterranean

1. Europe and the Mediterranean countries are bound by history, geography and culture. More importantly, they are united by a common ambition: to build together a future of peace, democracy, prosperity, and human, social, and cultural understanding. To achieve these common objectives participants agree to continue with renewed dynamism the quest for peace and cooperation, explore their joint problems and transform these good intentions into actions in a renewed partnership for progress.
2. Heads of State and Government underline the important role played by the Barcelona Process since 1995. The Barcelona Process has been the central instrument for Euro-Mediterranean relations. Representing a partnership of 39 governments and over 700 million people, it has provided a framework for continued engagement and development. The Barcelona process is the only forum within which all Euro-Mediterranean partners exchange views and engage in constructive dialogue. It represents a strong commitment to democracy and regional stability and security through regional cooperation and integration. The Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean aims to build on that consensus to pursue cooperation, political and socio-economic reform and modernisation on the basis of equality and mutual respect for each other's sovereignty.
3. To take advantage of the opportunities offered by an enhanced framework of multilateral cooperation, Heads of State and Government decide to launch a reinforced partnership: The Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean.
4. This initiative is also the expression of a common aspiration to achieve peace **[and pursue a mutually and effectively verifiable Middle East Zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems]**. It shows the determination to favour human resource development and employment in line with the Millennium Development Goals, including alleviating poverty; Heads of State and Government underline their commitment to strengthen democracy and political pluralism by the expansion of participation in political life and the embracing of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. They also affirm their ambition to build a common future based on the full respect of democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in international human rights law, such as the promotion of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, strengthening the role of women in society, the respect of minorities, the fight against racism and xenophobia, and the advancement of cultural dialogue and mutual understanding.

5. **[Heads of State and Government reiterate their condemnation of terrorism in all its form and manifestation and their determination to eradicate it and combat its sponsors. They emphasise the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and confirm their complete rejection of attempts to associate any religion or culture with terrorism and confirm their commitment to do their utmost efforts with a view to resolving conflict, ending occupation, confronting oppression, reducing poverty, promoting human rights and good governance.]**
6. Heads of State and Government underscore the importance of the active participation of civil society, local and regional authorities and private sector in the implementation of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean.
7. **[to be updated] [Heads of State and Government are aware that the persistence of the Arab-Israeli conflict has challenged and stretched the EUROMED partnership to the limit of its abilities to preserve the channels of dialogue and the scope of cooperation among all partners.]** In line with the Barcelona Declaration, **[and stressing that this Euromed initiative is not intended to replace the other activities and initiatives undertaken in the interest of the peace, stability and development of the region, but that it will contribute to the success,]** they reaffirm their commitment to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Arab Israeli conflict, consistent with the terms of reference of the Madrid conference and its principles, including land for peace and based on the relevant UNSC resolutions and the Road Map. They acknowledge the importance of recent regional developments and initiatives. Partners underline their support for efforts to promote progress in the Middle East Peace Process in all its tracks **[(Palestine, Syria, Lebanon)]**. **[They also recall the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative as a major element in moving the Middle East Peace Process forward. Thus unleashing the full potentials of our partnership.]**

Heads of State and Government welcome the positive role played by the EU in the Middle East, notably in the framework of the Quartet. They reaffirm their commitment to support the Israeli Palestinian ongoing negotiations on all outstanding issues, including all final status issues, making every effort to conclude a peace agreement before the end of 2008 as agreed in Annapolis in November 2007. They also encourage the parties to continue on the path of direct dialogue and negotiation in the fulfilment of the vision of two states **[for two peoples]**, a safe and secure Israel and a viable, **[contiguous]**, sovereign and democratic Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. Final status issues, **[including border issues]**, have to be agreed by the two parties. They recall that peace in the Middle East requires a comprehensive solution and

in this regard welcome the announcement that Syria and Israel have initiated indirect peace talks under the auspices of Turkey.

Scope and main objectives

8. Heads of State and Government agree that the challenge of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean is to enhance multilateral relations, increase co-ownership of the process, set governance on the basis of equal footing and translate it into concrete projects, more visible to citizens. Now is the time to inject new and continuing momentum into the Barcelona Process. More engagement and new catalysts are now needed to translate the objectives of the Barcelona Declaration into tangible results.
9. The Euro-Mediterranean partnership has always been an inclusive process that has been driven in all its aspects by the principle of consensus. The Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean will continue to operate on this basis at all levels. All institutions and dimensions of the process, including projects will be open to all participants on an equal footing.
10. **[Any country opting to join a project already launched should obtain the approval of all members participating in this project.]**
11. **[To be updated]** The Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean will build on the acquis and reinforce the achievements and successful elements of the Barcelona Process. The Barcelona Declaration, its goals and its cooperation areas remain valid and its three chapters of cooperation (Political Dialogue, Economic Cooperation and Free Trade, and Human, Social and Cultural Dialogue) will continue to remain central in the Euro-Mediterranean relations. The Five Year Work Programme adopted by the 10th Anniversary Euro-Mediterranean Summit held in Barcelona in 2005 (including the fourth chapter of cooperation on "Migration, Social Integration, Justice and Security" introduced at that stage) and the conclusions of all ministerial meetings will remain in force. **[Heads of State and Government acknowledge the progress and economic benefits of the creation of a Free Trade Area in the Euromed region by 2010 and beyond. They support a full, fair and business-friendly implementation of the trade agreements and enhance [civil society/private sector/business community] ownership of the trade liberalisation objectives in the Mediterranean].**

12. Heads of State and Government underline that the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean aims to achieve a future of peace and shared prosperity in the entire region by implementing projects that will enhance the flow of exchanges among the people of the whole region. In this regard they acknowledged the human and cultural dimension of this initiative. They stressed that promoting legal migration opportunities, fighting illegal migration and fostering links between migration and development are issues of common interest which should be addressed through a comprehensive, balanced and integrated approach. In the framework of this approach, they underline the commitment to facilitate legal movement of individuals and promoting legal migration flows, as it constitutes an opportunity for economic growth and the means of solidarity and improving links between Euro-Mediterranean countries.
13. The Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean will be complementary to EU bilateral relations with these countries¹ which will continue under existing policy frameworks such as the Association Agreements, the European Neighbourhood Policy action plans, and, in the case of Mauritania, the African Caribbean Pacific framework. It will also be coherent and complementary with the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. While complementing activities concerning its regional dimension, the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean will be independent from the EU enlargement policy, accession negotiations and the pre-accession process.
14. The Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean gives a new impulse to the Barcelona Process in at least three very important ways:
- by upgrading the political level of the EU's relationship with its Mediterranean partners;
 - by providing for further co-ownership to our multilateral relations; and
 - by making these relations more concrete and visible through additional regional and sub-regional projects, relevant for the citizens of the region.

¹ The countries concerned are: **Albania, potential candidate country to the EU; Algeria; Bosnia-Herzegovina potential candidate to the EU; Croatia, negotiating candidate country to the EU; Egypt; Israel; Jordan; Lebanon; Mauritania; Monaco; Montenegro, potential candidate to the EU; Morocco; Palestinian Authority; Syria; Tunisia; Turkey, negotiating candidate country to the EU; Libya, invited by the presidency since the Euromed Stuttgart ministerial meeting of 1999**

Upgrading of relations

15. Heads of State and Government agree to hold biennial summits. The summits should result in a political declaration, and a short list of concrete regional projects to be set in motion. The conclusions should endorse a broad two-year work programme for the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean. Annual Foreign Affairs Ministerial meetings will review progress in the implementation of the summit conclusions and prepare the next summit meetings and, if necessary, approve new projects.
16. The summit meetings should take place alternately in the EU and in Mediterranean partner countries. The host country should be selected by consensus. All countries party to the initiative will be invited to Summits, Ministerials and other plenary meetings of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean.
17. The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly will be the legitimate parliamentary expression of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean. Heads of State and Government strongly support the strengthening of the role of the EMPA in its relations with Mediterranean partners.
18. The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures as a Euro-Mediterranean institution will contribute in an effective manner to the cultural dimension of the initiative.

Increased co-ownership and institutional governance

19. Heads of State and Government agree on the creation of a co-Presidency and also decide that a joint secretariat will be established. Participation in the co-presidencies and the secretariat will be open to all members of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean.
20. The current structures of the Barcelona Process should be preserved and adapted when new modalities are approved by the Euro Mediterranean Foreign Affairs Ministers.

Co-Presidency

21. Heads of State and Government establish a co-presidency in order to improve the balance and the joint ownership of their cooperation. One of the co-presidents will be from the EU, and the other from the Mediterranean partner countries. The co-presidency shall apply to Summits, all Ministerial meetings, Senior Officials meetings, and the Joint Permanent Committee and, [**when possible**], experts/ad hoc meetings within the initiative.

22. The establishment of a co-presidency

- from the EU side must be compatible with the external representation of the European Union in accordance with the Treaty provisions in force;
- from the Mediterranean side, the co-president must be chosen by consensus for a non-renewable period of [**two years**].

Institutional governance and Secretariat

23. Heads of States and Governments agree to establish new institutional structures which will contribute in achieving the political goals of this initiative, especially reinforcing co-ownership, upgrading the political level of EU-Mediterranean relations, and achieving visibility through projects.

24. They agree that a **Secretariat** for the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean will be established, with a key role within the institutional architecture. The Secretariat will give a new impulse to this process, in terms of identification, follow-up, promotion of the projects and the search for partners. The funding and implementation of projects will be pursued on a case by case basis. The Secretariat will work in operational liaison with all structures of the process, including by preparing working documents for the decision making bodies. The Secretariat would have a separate legal personality with an autonomous status.

25. The mandate of the Secretariat is of a **technical nature** while the political mandate related to all aspects of the initiative remains the responsibility of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Senior Officials.

26. The **Joint Permanent Committee** based in Brussels will assist and prepare the meetings of the Senior Officials and ensure the appropriate follow up; it may also act as a mechanism to react

rapidly if an exceptional situation arises in the region that requires the consultation of Euro-Mediterranean partners.

27. The **Senior Officials** will continue to convene regularly in order to prepare the Ministerial meetings including projects to be endorsed, take stock of and evaluate the progress of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean in all its components and submit the annual work program to Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

28. **Details of the mandate** of the new institutional structure as well as the composition, seat and funding of the Secretariat will be decided on the basis of consensus by the Foreign Affairs Ministers in November 2008 taking into account thorough discussions and proposals submitted by all partners.

Projects

29. The projects **selection process** will be in conformity with the Barcelona Declaration objectives notably achieving peace, security and stability. The partners will set up a favorable environment for the implementation of projects taking into account the regional, sub-regional and trans-national character of proposed projects as well as their size, relevance and interest for the parties involved, in line with the scope and main objectives of the initiative. The potential to promote balanced and sustainable development, regional and sub-regional integration, cohesion and interconnections will be considered and their financial feasibility including the maximization of private sector financing and participation will be sought. Senior Officials will prepare the criteria for the selection of projects to be approved by Foreign Ministers.

30. The Heads of State and Government underscored the potential offered by the reinforced cooperation through the principle of variable geometry projects in line with the scope and main aims of the initiative. Such an approach will enable member countries with affinities, shared objectives and complementarities to give momentum to the process and reach the goals of the Barcelona Declaration.

Funding

31. The Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean will mobilise additional funding for the region, mainly through regional and subregional projects. Its capacity to attract more financial resources for regional projects, with a high degree of donor coordination, will constitute its added value mainly through the following sources inter alia: private sector participation; contributions from EU budget and all partners; contributions from other countries international financial institutions and regional entities; Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership Facility (FEMIP); the ENPI Euro-Med envelope, the Neighbourhood Investment Facility and the cross-border cooperation instrument within the ENPI, as well as the other instruments applicable to the countries covered by the initiative, for which the usual selection and procedural rules will continue to apply.

Concluding points

32. The Participants stress that the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean is an historic opportunity to revitalise Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Process and upgrade it to a new level. The ultimate success of the initiative also rests in the hands of citizens, civil society, and the active involvement of the private sector.

33. Heads of States and Government invite Ministers of Foreign Affairs to finalise during their next meeting in November, the modalities for the institutional set up of the initiative. The new structures for the initiative should be fully operational before the end of 2008. EU Member States, Mediterranean Partner countries and the European Commission will work in close coordination to achieve this objective.

ANNEX

The future of the Euro-Mediterranean region lies in improved socio- economic development, solidarity, regional integration, sustainable development and knowledge. There is a need to increase co-operation in areas such as, business development, trade, the environment, energy, water management, agriculture, food safety and security, transport, maritime issues, education, science and technology, culture, media, justice and law, security, migration, health, strengthening the role of women in society, civil protection, tourism, urban planning, ports, decentralised co-operation, the information society and competitive clusters.

The importance of water is acknowledged: the Euro-Med Ministerial Conference in Jordan in October 2008 shall define a Mediterranean water strategy, promoting conservation of water resources and efficient and sustainable use of water.

The priorities set out in the Regional Indicative Programme for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, as well as those of future programmes, will continue to apply and any potential Community contribution to the new regional projects listed below will not be financed at the expense of the existing bilateral allocations under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument or the Pre-accession Instrument (or in the case of Mauritania the European Development Fund)².

It is crucial to translate the goals set by the Barcelona declaration of 1995 and the work program of 2005 into major regional concrete projects. As a first stage, it is decided to launch a number of key initiatives listed hereafter which the future Secretariat is mandated to detail.

De-pollution of the Mediterranean: The Mediterranean is resonant with culture and history. But it is much more than a symbol or an icon for the region. It also provides employment and pleasure for its people. However, its environmental quality has suffered serious degradation in recent times. Building on the Horizon 2020, the de-pollution of the Mediterranean, including coastal and protected marine areas, particularly in the water and waste sector, will therefore be of major benefit for the lives and livelihoods of its people.

² Commitments as specified in the EU budget Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 will be guiding.

Maritime and Land Highways: The Mediterranean is a sea that joins, not separates, its people. It is also a highway for commerce. Easy and safe access and flow of goods and people, on land and sea, is essential for maintaining relations and enhancing regional trade. The development of motorways of the sea, including the connection of ports, throughout the entire Mediterranean basin as well as the creation of coastal motorways, the modernisation of the trans-Maghreb train will increase the flow and freedom of the movement of people and goods. Particular attention should be devoted to cooperation in the field of maritime safety, in a perspective of global integration in the Mediterranean region.

Civil Protection: The global landscape is littered with examples of the devastation caused by man-made and natural disasters. The effects of climate change are evident for all. The Mediterranean region is particularly vulnerable and exposed to such disasters. A joint Civil Protection programme on prevention, preparation and response to disasters, linking the region more closely to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, is, therefore, one of the main priorities for the region.

Alternative Energies: Mediterranean Solar Plan: The recent activity on energy markets in terms of both supply and demand, confirms the need to focus on alternative energy sources. Market deployment as well as research and development of all alternative sources of energy are therefore a major priority in efforts towards assuring sustainable development. The Secretariat is tasked to explore the feasibility, development and creation of a Mediterranean Solar Plan.

Higher Education and Research, Euro-Mediterranean University: A Euro-Mediterranean University (with its seat in Slovenia) can contribute to the understanding among people and encourage cooperation in higher education, following up on the objectives of the Catania Process and of the First Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Scientific Research (Cairo, June 2007). Through a cooperation network of partner institutions and existing universities from the Euro-Med region, the Euro-Mediterranean University will develop postgraduate and research programmes and thus contribute to the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Higher Education, Science and Research Area. Partner countries are encouraged to make full use of possibilities offered by existing higher education cooperation programmes such as Tempus and Erasmus Mundus including the External Cooperation Window.

The Mediterranean Business Development Initiative is aimed at assisting the existing entities in partner countries operating in support of micro, small and medium sized enterprises by assessing the needs of these enterprises, defining policy solutions and providing these entities with resources in the form of technical assistance and financial instruments. It will be based on the principle of co-ownership and its activities are expected to be complementary to those of the existing entities working in the field. Contributions by countries from both rims of the Mediterranean will be done on a voluntary basis.

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