

# Final Declaration of the IIIrd Extraordinary Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum\*

## Brussels, 8 November 2001

1. The IIIrd extraordinary meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum was held in Brussels on 8 November 2001 in the presence of parliamentarians representing the parliaments of the Mediterranean countries involved in the Barcelona Process, the national parliaments of the Member States of the European Union and the European Parliament.

2. The participants decided to meet to consider the implications for the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue of the appalling attacks carried out against the cities of New York and Washington on 11 September 2001.

3. Regards the Barcelona Process as a crucial and preferred means of furthering dialogue and cooperation between the EU and the countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean. Relaunching the process will make a vital contribution to the Middle East peace process.

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\* versão on line.

[http://www.europarl.eu.int/conferences/euromed/euromed\\_3/final\\_declarations\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.eu.int/conferences/euromed/euromed_3/final_declarations_en.pdf)

**The Forum:**

4. Expresses its solidarity with the people and government of the United States, the victims of this barbarous act of terrorism, together with all peoples throughout the world who have suffered from the same barbarous act.

**Anti-terrorist cooperation**

5. Condemns unreservedly terrorist acts and in particular those perpetrated on 11 September 2001, which represent a complete negation of the values shared by the societies it represents, and regards the attacks as a crime against humanity. It emphasises the urgent need for the international community as a whole to take a determined stand against terrorism.

6. Emphasises that no State must compromise itself with the terrorists by agreeing, for whatever reasons, to house them on its soil or to give refuge to persons who advocate violence.

7. Considers that all the measures taken to eradicate terrorism must be appropriate and targeted in such a way as to spare innocent civilians; in this connection reaffirms its condemnation of the use of economic embargoes in any country in view of the fact that it may worsen the humanitarian situation there and calls for compliance with United Nations resolutions in this respect. Every effort must be made not to exacerbate the humanitarian, social and food-supply situation of the peoples affected by the war, in particular the Afghan people. It takes the view that the establishment of air or even land corridors could facilitate the provision of humanitarian aid and calls for special aid for neighbouring countries called upon to bear in economic terms the burden of incoming refugees.

8. Expresses its grave concern at the use of chemical and biological weapons as a new form of terrorism and categorically condemns these criminal acts, including the acts of bioterrorism which have recently been perpetrated. It takes the view that the international community must display determination in its efforts to identify the authors of these crimes and the persons who ordered them.

9. Endorses, on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1368 (2001) and 1373 (2001), the determination of the States participating in the Barcelona Process to pursue and bring to justice the authors, organisers and sponsors of terrorist acts; urges the partner countries to conclude the necessary extradition agreements and calls for the setting-up of the International Criminal Tribunal.

10. Takes the view that the fight against terrorism and the funding of terrorism and the eradication of terrorist networks calls for the involvement of all the States making up the international community and calls on States to ratify the relevant international agreements.

11. Recalling the close relationship between international terrorism and other scourges such as organised crime, drugs-trafficking, arms trafficking, money laundering and corruption.

12. Endorses the proposal to convene an International Conference on Terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations.

### **Contribution by the partners to the Middle East peace process**

13. Calls for the resumption, as a matter of urgency and without preconditions, of the negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians on the basis of all the presidency conclusions of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs held on 5 and 6 November 2001 in Brussels, in particular paragraphs 7 and 8 thereof:

- 'wanting to go beyond declarations, the Ministers strongly urge all the parties concerned to resume immediately, without any prerequisites or conditions, negotiations with a view to applying the recommendations contained in the MITCHELL Report and the TENET Plan and to satisfying the legitimate rights and expectations of the peoples of the region for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, which must be achieved on the basis of a faithful application of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, of the principles of the Madrid Conference - including the principle of land for peace - and of the agreements concluded in Oslo and thereafter, agreements which had previously made it possible to register tangible results on the ground and substantial progress in the earlier negotiations'.
- 'the Ministers stressed that negotiations should lead:
  - for the Palestinians, to the establishment of an independent, viable and democratic state and an end to the occupation of their territories;
  - for the Israelis, to live in peace and safety within internationally recognised borders.
- The quest for peace must include all aspects, and in particular a just solution to the matter of refugees.'

14. Rejects any violent action and advocates a constructive policy designed to secure a peaceful and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict.

**Stepping up intercultural dialogue and socio-economic partnership among the Euro-Mediterranean partners**

15. Rejects categorically any attempt to equate Islam with terrorism and reiterates its commitment to strengthening all forms of intercultural dialogue; encourages inter-religious dialogue between the partners so that the peoples can consolidate the mutual understanding and tolerance which are their guiding principles. It is incumbent on all those active in civil society and each and every citizen of the Euro-Mediterranean area to fight against intolerance, discrimination, racism and xenophobia.

16. With a view to fostering this mutual understanding between peoples, calls for particular attention to be paid to the development of school and youth training systems, primarily involving placements and exchanges in the press and media sectors and encourages the participation of civil society organisations committed to peace and democracy.

17. Calls for the arrangements and programmes intended to promote women to be developed substantially. Fully supports the regional plan of action for the integration of women into economic life put before the foreign ministers of the countries participating in the Barcelona Process at the meeting in Brussels on 5 and 6 November 2001.

18. Takes the view further that this dialogue assumes its full significance in the context of a joint effort to achieve the prevention and resolution of regional conflicts, the reduction of the economic and social imbalance between the two banks, and the eradication of poverty.

19. Calls on the European Union and all the countries participating in the Barcelona Process to stress their commitment to the economic and financial partnership objectives restated in the conclusions of the Marseilles Conference and strongly highlighted in the conclusions of the Co-Presidents of the Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers meeting on 5-6 November 2001.

It is necessary to step up cooperation in the process of economic integration and in particular:

- strengthen the link between growth and employment by further developing private foreign investment, for example by setting up a network of national agencies responsible for promoting investment in the Euro-Mediterranean countries;

- slim down drastically the bureaucracy surrounding the MEDA programme so as to strengthen financial cooperation through the new procedures applicable to relations between the EU and Mediterranean countries, including greater decentralisation and a more suitable approach to the use of aid from the MEDA programme, which will contribute to the development of economic and trade relations in the region, provide a means of avoiding the uncontrolled effects of globalisation and thus make it possible to organise trade between us more effectively;
- support those countries engaged in the process of economic integration by developing this sub-regional initiative while remaining open to all other Euro-Mediterranean partners wishing to participate in this process.

20. Urges that all these measures should be supported by the MEDA programme and calls for its financial resources to be marshalled more effectively for that purpose.

In conclusion,

21. Calls on the European Union and all the countries participating in the Barcelona Process to take steps to ensure that Euro-Mediterranean cooperation becomes one of their foreign policy priorities.

22. Draws attention to its decision of 8 February 2001 to set up three working parties whose initial conclusions are expected before the next meeting in Italy during the year 2002; decides that a forthcoming meeting of the Forum will be held in one of the countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean which is involved in the Barcelona process.

23. Calls for links between the parliaments of the Euro-Mediterranean partners, the European Parliament and the national parliaments to be stepped up, as far as possible in cooperation with the representatives of the parliaments of the Balkan countries.

24. Instructs the Co-Presidents of the Forum to forward this declaration to the presidents of the parliaments of the States participating in the Barcelona Process, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the governments of the countries participating in the Barcelona Process.