

## **[5] Resolution adopted by EPP Congress, Rome, 30-31 March 2006**

### **Euro-Mediterranean partnership**

The EU needs a coherent neighbourhood policy in the east of our continent and for the countries of the Mediterranean. European Neighbourhood Policy is an important instrument to promote peace, stability and prosperity to its neighbouring countries.

It has to prevent the creation of new division between the EU and its neighbouring countries, giving them the possibility to participate to different EU activities through political, economical and cultural cooperation and giving them the opportunity to participate to the European common market.

Euro-Mediterranean partnership started with the Conference of Barcelona on 27-28 November 1995. The Declaration adopted at the end of the conference established a working programme on political cooperation and security, economical and financial cooperation, social, cultural and human cooperation.

The main objective was to create in the Mediterranean an area of dialogue, exchange and cooperation, ensuring peace, stability and prosperity. The creation of a Mediterranean free trade zone within 2010 was scheduled.

The instrument adopted for good implementation of the partnership was bilateral agreements of association between Mediterranean countries and EU.

The Barcelona Process is a unique and ambitious initiative, which laid the foundations of a new regional relationship and which represents a turning point in Euro-Mediterranean relations.

Unfortunately, ten years after beginning the process of Barcelona, most of the objectives have not been implemented.

The 27 and 28 of November 2005 a Conference was held in Barcelona to celebrate ten years of the Declaration of Barcelona. The head of State and Government were not able to approve a declaration on a common view.

It is necessary to start again from the objectives of Barcelona, for establishing a common area of peace and stability; building a zone of shared prosperity, establishing a Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area; realize partnership in social, cultural and human affairs, develop human resources, promote understanding between cultures and exchanges between civil societies (especially migration, dialogue between cultures and civilizations, youth).

It should be important to implement the Barcelona process not only through bilateral agreements with the single countries of the other side of the Mediterranean, but with multilateral agreements.

Immigration, especially, has to be faced with multilateral agreements, with a global view of the question, taking into account it is at the same time a problem and an opportunity for Europe.

The Mediterranean sea is the southern border of Europe, and Europe has to recover its role in the Mediterranean, Europe has to recover its policy of the Mediterranean.

A real foreign policy of Europe in the Mediterranean does no more exist now. Europe cannot be indifferent to what happens in the Mediterranean, and has to reappropriate its leading role in the Mediterranean area. Europe has to implement a more cohesive common foreign and security policy, to play again an important role, and therefore it is important for Europe to have a more decisive role in the Mediterranean.

It will be difficult to establish the free-trade area in the Mediterranean within 2010, as scheduled in Barcelona. Besides, we have to take into account what it is necessary, for implementing the free trade area and the objectives of Barcelona, to realize efficient interoperable transport links between the EU and its Mediterranean partners, and among the partners themselves.