

For a renewal of the Barcelona process

Message of the Mediterranean Commission
adopted by the Berlin Central Council (6 June 2008)

The Mediterranean Commission of ELEC, meeting in Brussels on 27 May 2008:

- ◇ **welcomes** the renewed attention given to the development of Mediterranean third countries, following the Sarkozy-Merkel agreement and the Council's mandate, concretized in the recent communication by the Commission entitled "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean";
- ◇ **notes** that after its adoption by the Council in June, this text will serve as a basis for the Euro-Mediterranean Summit convoked for the 13th of July by President Sarkozy, who will chair the European Council from July 1st;
- ◇ **will follow** with interest the initiatives that will result from this Summit;
- ◇ **underlines** the necessity to integrate such initiatives to the Barcelona Process and its three components, a global and multilateral strategy which, without completely realizing the hopes it gave rise to in 1995, has nevertheless produced numerous projects and some concrete achievements;
- ◇ **wishes** nevertheless to foster the realization of complementary new projects which would be favoured by some EU member states and at least one Mediterranean third country, in the framework of enhanced cooperation if this framework is deemed suitable for carrying out such projects;
- ◇ **recalls** its message on "Relaunch of the Barcelona Process" adopted by ELEC's Central Council meeting in Paris on 3 June 2005;
- ◇ **insists** once again on the importance, for the economic, social and political progress of Mediterranean third countries, of:
 - the promotion of private investments;
 - the development of small and middle-sized enterprises;
 - the establishment of appropriate instruments for financing SMEs and guaranteeing their investments;
 - the social dimension (employment and social protection systems) of economic development, essential to make it balanced and sustainable;
- ◇ **announces** its intention to organize in the Spring of 2009 a 9th "Mediterranean Conference" which will focus on the renewal of the Barcelona Process.

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