

ESTRATTO DELLE CONCLUSIONI DELLA RIUNIONE MINISTERIALE EURO-MEDITERRANEA DI CRETA

(26-27 MAGGIO 2003)

43. The Ministers recognised that the dialogue of cultures and civilisations instituted by the Barcelona Process is one of the major contributions to bring peoples closer and promote understanding and improve mutual perceptions. They agreed on guiding principles between cultures and civilisations annexed to these conclusions.

44. The Ministers also made progress towards agreement on the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the dialogue of cultures and civilisations. They agreed on its goals, objectives, activities and establishment, annexed to these conclusions. They invited the Senior Officials to continue work on issues related to its structure, functioning as well as financing with a view to agreement at Barcelona VI. They agreed to take into account the input of the High Level Group set up by the President of the Commission, to establish the Foundation.

ANNEX 1

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN CULTURES AND CIVILISATIONS

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership countries, meeting in Crete, on 26th and 27th May 2003,

1. recalling the very significant contribution which, throughout history, peoples of the Mediterranean basin have made to the mutual enrichment of cultures and civilisations;
2. underlining the importance of the Dialogue between cultures and civilisations, as well as its role as an instrument to promote a culture of peace and to achieve mutual understanding, bring peoples closer, remove the threats to peace and strengthen exchanges among civilisations;
3. underlining their willingness to deepen the Dialogue between cultures and civilisations and convinced that the forthcoming enlargement of the European Union will enrich this Dialogue;
4. reiterating their commitment to the main principles established by the Barcelona Declaration and in particular, those regarding the cultural and human dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean process which constitute a condition for an authentic and balanced partnership, as was underlined by the Conferences of the Ministers of Culture of Bologna (April 1996) and of Rhodes (September 1998) and by the Stockholm Workshop (April 1998) including the need for a better understanding and for mutual respect between cultures and civilisations;
5. reaffirming the importance stressed by the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Valencia of promoting dialogue and cooperation between cultures and civilisations among all members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership considering that the Mediterranean region is the birth place of several great civilisations of the history of the world in which originated the three monotheistic religions;
6. considering that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership provides for an essential dialogue, comprising all the major challenges, of political, economic, social, cultural and human nature, which affect the destiny of the peoples of the region;

7. reaffirming the principles that should govern the dialogue as contained in the Action Programme for the Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations, adopted in Valencia:

- respect for pluralism, diversity and cultural specificities;
- equality and mutual respect;
- avoidance and reduction of prejudices and stereotypes ;
- the Dialogue should aim to achieve, not only a better understanding of "the other", but also solutions for persistent problems;
- the ultimate goal of Dialogue, should not be to change "the other" but, rather, to live peacefully with "the other";

8. considering that each people has its own values, customs, languages and beliefs that make it unique;

9. stressing that the plurality and diversity of cultures is one of the most precious assets of the Mediterranean region to be safeguarded and preserved, as well as all those that constitute the common heritage of humanity;

10. conscious that the values of dialogue, tolerance and respect for the Other, which are common to all religions, constitute an important factor in bringing closer together cultures and civilisations;

11. taking into consideration and acting at all times in accordance with:

- the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which are, inter alia, to settle disputes by peaceful means and to develop friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples;
- the UN resolution entitled "United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilisations", and the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (November 2001) as well as the guidelines on the cultural and historical heritage as defined by the Bologna conference in April 1996;
- the conclusions of the Second Euro-Mediterranean Conference of the Ministers of Culture, held in Rhodes on 25-26 September 1998, which endorsed the conclusions of the 1998 Stockholm workshop, providing general guidelines and principles for the Dialogue between cultures and civilisations;

12. underlining that also regional and local authorities, as well as other relevant national institutions, can make valuable contributions to the dialogue between cultures and civilisations through decentralised cooperation and twinning and need to be closely involved in this work, which is an essential part of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership;

13. acknowledging the contribution of the regional programmes (Euro-med Heritage, Euro-med Audio-visual, Euro-med Youth, Euro-med Tempus) to the Dialogue between cultures and civilisations;

14. sharing the Olympic ideal of building a peaceful and better world by educating the youth of the world, through sport, which requires mutual understanding, promoted by friendship, solidarity and fair play, and re-affirming the idea of the Olympic Truce;
declare that

15. The Dialogue between cultures and civilisations is an appropriate instrument to achieve constructive interaction and effective cooperation among nations; it contributes to mutual understanding; it enriches our common values; it is an efficient means of conflict prevention and requires the active participation of civil society, both by institutions and individuals distinguished in the fields of thought, culture and society.

16. This Dialogue is part of our daily lives and should become an important instrument to fight fanaticism of any kind, extremism, racism and xenophobia.

17. The Dialogue between cultures and civilisations promotes understanding of other models of society, of ways of thinking and ways of acting and to co-exist, and favour interaction in a harmonious framework.

18. The Dialogue between cultures and civilisations is a basis for understanding our common history and opening current avenues of cooperation, so that freedom, peace and justice may prevail.
19. It is for our states and peoples to engage themselves in an authentic dialogue between cultures and civilisations that will foster mutual respect, understanding and trust; efforts to ensure a rapid economic development of the region should be pursued.
agree
20. To promote knowledge, recognition and mutual respect between the cultures, traditions and values which prevail in the partners.
21. To help create, in their respective countries, the respect for each other in a world based on tolerance and acceptance of differences.
22. To encourage, in their respective countries, all relevant institutions to contribute to the Dialogue between cultures and civilisations and in particular to support cooperation, inter alia, in the field of Youth, Education and the Media.
23. To encourage initiatives which aim at promoting dialogue between religions in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
24. To promote at the same time the human dimension of the partnership as well as the consolidation of the rule of law and of basic freedoms in accordance with the guidelines of the regional cooperation programme which was also adopted in this field by the Valencia Conference (April 2002).
25. To underline the decisive role in the implementation of the above mentioned actions of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue of Cultures and Civilisations, the principle of which was agreed in Valencia and whose goals, objectives, and fields of activity were adopted in Crete, while the modalities of its establishment will be submitted at the next Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Naples in December 2003 (Barcelona VI).
26. To underline the vital importance of ensuring that all partners encourage the development and deepening of the cultural and human dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in all its aspects and its various components at bilateral or multilateral level.

ANNEX 2

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN FOUNDATION ON A DIALOGUE OF CULTURES

PREAMBLE

- a) The 1995 Barcelona Declaration states the need, in chapter III, to develop a dialogue of cultures and civilisations within the framework of the Mediterranean societies. The Action Plan adopted at the most recent ministerial meeting at Valencia includes a mandate for the setting up of a Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for a dialogue of cultures and civilisations.
- b) The establishment of this new intergovernmental instrument within the framework of the Barcelona Process is a priority, for the following reasons:
 - in the first place, on account of the need, in this essential sphere, for a dynamic structure, which should contribute decisively to the development of a true sense of joint ownership of the Barcelona Process by its members.

 - the importance of having an instrument that would disseminate the goals of the Barcelona Process and its development amongst the European and Mediterranean societies. Therefore, the implementation of Chapter III of the Barcelona Process requires actions whose

objective is to reach the greatest possible number of citizens, while aspiring to overcome barriers in the way of access to information and to achieve a greater level of mutual knowledge between them;

- the need to set up an institution that, in the cultural field, is able to promote the coherent identification and execution of projects that are relevant to the dialogue of cultures and increased cultural co-operation;
- the need to set up an institution that catalyses and provides an inventory of co-operation between the existing networks of foundations, NGOs and other institutions of civil society, whether public or private, national or international, which operate in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

1. Goals and Objectives

The objectives shall be established as set out in the statutes of the Foundation which will be proposed to the institutions of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The main objectives are:

- to identify, develop and promote areas of cultural convergence between the countries and peoples of the Mediterranean, with the aim in particular of avoiding stereotypes,
- to hold a close and regular dialogue between cultural circles often kept outside the main diplomatic and cultural exchanges,
- to serve as a catalyst for promoting exchanges, co-operation and mobility between people at all levels, targeting in particular the young and activities relevant to young people.

2. Activities

In the framework of these main objectives the activities of the Foundation should take into account existing achievements within and beyond the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, thus avoiding any duplication of effort. The activities should also be in line with the non governmental nature of the Foundation.

The areas of heritage, audio-visual information technology, professional training, to name but a few, are to a large extent already covered by the Euro-Mediterranean regional programmes (Euromed Heritage, Euromed Audiovisuel, Eumedis, Euromed Jeunesse, etc).

Similarly, many government and non-governmental agencies (Associations, Foundations, Cultural Centres, Festivals, etc) are already active in the cultural field. Existing activities or entities should not be duplicated or financed ; instead the Foundation should bring its own added value to activities. In that respect lessons should be learned from the old decentralised co-operation programmes (Med Media, Med Campus, etc) and existing regional programmes (Euromed Heritage, Euromed Audiovisuel).

In this framework the following types of activities should be agreed for the Foundation :

- exchanges between cultural and intellectual circles in the wider sense,
- promoting a continuous cultural debate using in particular multi-media techniques (television, radio, periodical magazine, Internet) in co-operation with important existing media and with the participation of people from both shores including journalists and the young,
- patronage of important events which symbolise mutual understanding (for example, a limited number of concerts, exhibitions, etc on relevant themes), co-financed by large media groups and/or festivals and institutions already active in these areas,

- promoting the activities of the Barcelona Process including through means of the Foundation itself (periodical magazine, Internet site).

In this spirit, an indicative list of possible activities is annexed hereto. It is to be noted that the discussion on the objectives and activities of the Foundation should also take into account the results of the work of the High Level Advisory Group set up by Commission President Romano Prodi.

3. Establishment

- a) The Foundation will be created through a step by step procedure. At least in the initial stage, it will function as a network of networks. There will be a light independent administrative structure which will be responsible for the coordination of the network of national networks.
- b) Each country will identify appropriate institutions and organisms that at national level are working to develop a dialogue of cultures and civilisations within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean societies and will select the institution/organism that will play the role of head of the national network;
- c) The Foundation would play a pivotal role in mobilising the relevant networks existing within the EU and in its Mediterranean partners dealing with the dialogue of cultures and civilisations. It would assist members of the network in securing access to funding, bring people and organisations together, spreading knowledge and sharing best practice with the aim of furthering the dialogue on cultures and civilisations.
- d) Since linkage of the Foundation to the Barcelona Process is essential, the following evolutionary model could be considered:
 - i. The Board of Governors will at an initial stage be the Euromed Committee itself; the Board could be assisted for its decisions by highly qualified personalities.
 - ii. The Director(s) of the Foundation (that is the Director (s) of the co-ordinating body/bodies) will report to the Euromed Committee at regular intervals.
- e) In general terms the funding of the Foundation should be devoted to promoting in the most effective manner possible concrete projects; expenditure on administration and institutional aspects should be kept to an absolute minimum.

Annex to ANNEX 2

INDICATIVE LIST OF ACTIVITIES

- a) Intellectual exchanges: The Foundation would contribute to the debate and elaboration of the third chapter of the Barcelona Declaration and notably the creation of a framework for dialogue and research available to all strata of the academic fraternity, from school teachers to education experts and academics to enable the furthering of the dialogue on cultures, societies and civilisations in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The focus should be on those who can further disseminate the dialogue. Specifically, and as practical examples, the Foundation could be responsible for activities such as:
 - organising seminars and conferences on Euro-Mediterranean relations as a programme of continuous meetings, talks and publications,
 - endowing research scholarships on Euro-Mediterranean relations, the translation of Books,
 - launching cultural exchange programmes, in the event that this were possible financially and operationally –
 - co-ordinating with international organisations such as UNESCO in order to create synergy and avoid unnecessary duplication of projects and programmes,
 - encouraging the production of textbooks on the heritage and values of successive

civilisations that have marked the history of the region,

- encouraging participation in debates, meetings, exhibitions, seminars and workshops of scholars, academics, universities, cultural ministries and institutions, civil societies and universities,
- preparing programmes on cultures and arts of the Mediterranean and encouraging TV channels on both shores of the Mediterranean to broadcast them with subtitled translation,
- inviting Governments to encourage North-to-South and South-to-North youth cultural tourism, with book and heritage exhibitions, and traditional musical and theatre festivals which will be a suitable environment to connect and build friendships,
- promoting the use of videoconferencing and other means of modern technology to supplement mobility programmes,
- instituting an award system to recognise excellence and reward due merit to individuals who have made substantial contributions towards the development of Euro-Mediterranean relations.

b) Cultural and artistic exchanges: The Foundation would, taking into account programmes and projects under MEDA and other donors, promote cultural dialogue through additional programmes and/or projects found to be relevant to a dialogue of cultures in the Mediterranean. It would avoid duplication between existing activities including those under MEDA, and would promote synergies among them. The Foundation will notably support and promote the Action Programme for the Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations, adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the Barcelona Process at their meeting in Valencia on 22-23 April, 2002, and the three themes of the Action Programme: youth, education and the media.

The Foundation should also provide support for the development of cultural and artistic knowledge between the 27 partners, by supporting projects which encourage the mutual knowledge of cultures, intercultural training, exchanges of practices, translations and publications. In this context, the conclusions of the Stockholm workshop (first half of 1998) should be taken into account; in particular, the Foundation could support the following projects:

- The "Euromed Humanities" regional programme establishing cooperation between institutions specialised in the study of and research into Mediterranean societies and civilisations, which was adopted in May 1998 and mentioned in the Valencia Action Plan;
- The project on books and translation, which was also adopted by the Committee in November 1998 and could make a very useful contribution to the dialogue between cultures;
- The organisation of the event "Year of the Mediterranean" destined to promote the cultural, artistic and archeological heritage of the Mediterranean countries.
- Encourage and undertake actions to promote the Mediterranean artisanal heritage.
- The setting-up of Euro Mediterranean networks of museums and of libraries, for possible inclusion in the area of the Foundation's activities devoted to cultural and artistic exchanges.

c) The visibility of the Barcelona Process: The Foundation would aspire to disseminating the ideas of the Barcelona Process, complete information on its activities and projects, and the establishment of a "Euro-med label" as recognition for all those projects in which it has a presence. These activities should be carried out in close co-ordination with the future Euro-med regional programme on Information and Communication called "Euromed Dialogue".