

Chronology of the Barcelona Process

The following chronology is a compilation of the most relevant events which have taken place within the framework of the Barcelona Process from July 2003 to December 2004.

July 2003

30th June and 1st July 2003

Cultural dialogue

Brussels: Third meeting of the group of experts on dialogue between peoples and cultures. The advisory group, made up of 19 intellectuals from both sides of the Mediterranean, deals with the North-South and South-South aspects of the cultural dialogue. Debates include the prospects of the partnership within the new politics of the enlarged Europe.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/prodi/group/spirit_en.htm

7th July 2003

Trade

Palermo: Third Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Trade. The Ministers approve the new draft Protocol on Rules of Origin which allows the inclusion of all Mediterranean partners in the pan-European system of rules of origin. This system will provide a common passport for the trade of goods within the Euro-Mediterranean region, facilitating economic integration. In addition, the Ministers adopt a wide range of measures designed to harmonise, simplify and rationalise customs procedures.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/euomed/tmc_concl_en.htm

8th July 2003

Humanitarian aid

Brussels: The European Commission

announces the granting of 10 million euros in humanitarian aid for the Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon. This amount is designated to meet basic needs of food, health, housing, water and sanitation. The aid will be channelled through the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and will be implemented by the NGOs and the International Red Cross.

9th July 2003

EIB

Brussels: The European Investment Bank (EIB) announces a loan of 14 million euros to Morocco for the improvement of its port infrastructure in the ports of Tangiers, Larache, Al Jadida, Essaouira and Sidi Ifni.

9th July 2003

Association Agreement: Israel

Brussels: Third Meeting of the EU-Israel Association Committee. Matters such as the development of the peace process, the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other regional issues are dealt with within the framework of political dialogue. The economic aspects focus on the agreements made over the previous year, with the renewal of agreements of scientific cooperation and the conclusion of the negotiations for greater liberalisation of agricultural trade. Key issues on the agenda to be focused on over the following months include the facilitation of trade, the environment, social issues, intellectual property and energy.

14th July 2003

Peace process

Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers

appoint Ambassador Marc Otte as EU special representative (EUSR) for the peace process in the Middle East, replacing Miguel Ángel Moratinos. The EUSR mandate is extended until the end of 2003.

16th July 2003

Politics and security

Brussels: Meeting of Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership responsible for Political and Security Issues. The priorities of the Italian Presidency are presented, amongst which are the inclusion of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly with a consultative role. Within the framework of political dialogue, views are exchanged on the Commission communication regarding the Wider Europe. The partner countries express interest in partnership and dialogue with the Arab world, as mentioned in the conclusions of the European Council of Thessalonica. Finally, the need to strengthen the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is stressed.

17th July 2003

Euro-Mediterranean Committee

Brussels: Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee. The Italian presidency presents his priorities on the economic chapters (stressing the FEMIP evaluation) and on the socio-cultural chapters (focussing on the Foundation's project for the dialogue between cultures and civilisations). The aims of the two proposed ministerial meetings (agriculture and investment, infrastructure and energy) are also debated. For its part, the Commission presents the situation of the MEDA programmes directed at reforming the judicial system, the fight against drug trafficking, organized

crime and terrorism, as well as themes related to migration and the social integration of immigrants.

21st July 2003

Association Agreements: Jordan

Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers adopts Jordan's proposal on the creation of sectoral sub-committees to enable the implementation of the Association Agreement. A similar structure has been set in motion within the framework of the EU-Morocco Association Agreement.

25th July 2003

MED Committee

Brussels: Meeting of the MED Committee at which favourable opinions are expressed on diverse topics, including the interim revision of Morocco's National Indicative Programme (NIP). During the meeting, a green light is given to the national financing programmes of five partner countries: Algeria (25 million euros), Egypt (127 million), Jordan (47 million), Lebanon (43 million) and Morocco (213 million).

September 2003

5th September 2003

MEDA

Brussels: The European Commission announces its approval of the MEDA 2003 National Financing Plans for five Mediterranean countries, to which the MED Committee has given the green light at its meeting in July.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/index_en.htm

5th September 2003

The environment

Brussels: The European Commission announces the approval of twelve environmental projects in eight Mediterranean Partner Countries (Algeria, Cyprus, Israel, Malta, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey). They are to receive funding worth 4.2 million euros within the framework of the LIFE programme for third countries.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/project/index.htm>

8th - 9th September 2003

Cultural dialogue

Brussels: Fourth meeting of the group

of experts on dialogue between peoples and cultures. The advisory group, consisting of 19 intellectuals from both sides of the Mediterranean, selects a committee responsible for preparing a draft report by the end of September. The group of experts agree on the basic principles and on the guidelines to convert them into practical projects.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/prodi/group/spirit_en.htm

10th September 2003

EIB

Damascus: The first EIB loan in support of the private sector in Syria is signed during the visit to the country by the Vice President of EIB. The 40 million-euro loan enables the Economic Ministry to set up a fund to manage the credit facilities of EIB and help small and medium-sized enterprises. The entire operation is financed through FEMIP.

<http://eib.org>

17th September 2003

MED Committee

Brussels: Meeting of the MED Committee. The Committee welcomes the project to support Palestinian hospitals in East Jerusalem. The 2003 National Financing Plan for Tunisia is also dealt with whilst views are exchanged on the question of gender in the Mediterranean area, amongst other issues.

17th /21st September 2003

Euromed-Youth

Malta: Representatives of more than 100 youth organizations from the twelve Mediterranean Partner Countries and members of the EU meet in Malta to set in motion the Euromed-Youth platform. The platform, established in Malta, brings together more than 500 organizations from both sides of the Mediterranean with the aim of creating a network of youth organization, exchanging experiences and passing on information.

www.euromedp.org/

24th September 2003

Politics and security

Brussels: Meeting of Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership responsible for Political and Security Issues. The meeting deals with the mul-

tilateral aspects of the recent Commission communication on Human Rights and Democratisation and with the Wider Europe/New European Neighbourhood Policy.

25th September 2003

Euro-Mediterranean Committee

Brussels: Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee. During the meeting, progress is made on discussions concerning the setting up of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations, and on its structure. In addition, the Commission reports on the progress of the MEDA Regional Programmes: Euromed Heritage, Euromed Audiovisual and Euromed Youth, which are considered positive by the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

26th September 2003

Peace process

New York: Ministerial Meeting of the Quartet. The Quartet adopts a declaration in which members express their concern over the situation in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza which has blocked the implementation of the Road Map.

29th September 2003

Association Agreements: Morocco

Brussels: The EU and Morocco reaches a preliminary agreement to revise the bilateral Agricultural Protocols as stipulated in the Association Agreement.

30th September 2003

Association Agreements: Tunisia

Brussels: Fourth meeting of the EU-Tunisia Association Council. Tunisia indicates the progress made in the dismantling of customs tariffs, the overcoming of a difficult economic climate over recent years and its expectations for the National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2005-2006. The Commission throws light on the achievements made in different fields whilst reiterating the importance of the development of political dialogue within the framework of the Wider Europe and the New European Neighbourhood Policy. The Council decides to establish six sectoral sub-committees within the Association Committee.

October 2003

13th October 2003

Wider Europe

Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers adopts the conclusions on the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) -Wider Europe Initiative. The Council emphasises the EU's intention to head for a closer dialogue with all countries concerned and invites the Commission to present detailed proposals on the 2004 Action Plans.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/world/enp/documents/13102003_en.htm

13th /14th October 2003

Intercultural dialogue

Alexandria: Meeting of the group of experts on the dialogue between peoples and cultures. Various proposals are presented and these are to be included in the final report to the Commission President, Romano Prodi. The action proposals focus on three main guidelines: How to make education a central axis for learning about others and respecting diversity, how to promote mobility and exchange, and how to make the media a key tool for promoting equality and mutual knowledge. The report will help identify the initial activities and initiatives of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation.

14th October 2003

Association Agreement: Jordan

Luxembourg: Second meeting of the EU-Jordan Association Council. Jordan presents its priorities for the implementation of its democratic reforms and expresses its interest in cooperating with the EU on these matters. The EU welcomes Jordan's stance on Human Rights and democracy. The implementation of the Association Agreement and the Wider Europe are the central themes of the meeting. In the economic aspects the EU welcomes with satisfaction macroeconomic stability and the achievement of improvements despite the impact of the war in Iraq. The EU representatives encourage the Jordanian Government to carry out the Social and Economic Transformation Plan in order to stimulate private investment, create employment and reduce poverty.

15th October 2003

Commission Communication

Brussels: In view of the forthcoming Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, scheduled for 2nd-3rd December in Naples, the Commission proposes the setting up of a Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, and a Euro-Mediterranean Bank controlled by the EIB or strengthening FE-MIP. In addition, the preparatory communication for the Naples Conference also proposes a series of steps to be taken to complete the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area and greater cooperation to improve democratisation and respect for human rights.

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUri-Serv/site/es/com/2003/com2003_0610es01.pdf

15th /16th October 2003

Association Agreement: EU-Syria

Brussels: Eleventh round of negotiations between the EU and Syria on the Association Agreement. Negotiations appear to be entering its final phase. All outstanding issues are dealt with and considerable progress is made on many matters, although some hurdles remain. These will be dealt with in the next round of negotiations in December.

21st October 2003

Association Agreement: EU-Morocco

Rabat: The EU-Morocco Association Committee holds its third meeting. The meeting is held in an atmosphere of cooperation with numerous agreements concluded in the various sub-committees. Numerous topics linked to the Association Agreement are also dealt with, such as the enlargement of the EU or social, economic and financial cooperation.

22nd October 2003

Politics and security

Rome: Meeting of Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership responsible for Political and Security Issues. Issues addressed are measures of construction of the Partnership, the Commission communication on Human Rights in the Mediterranean and the Wider Europe Initiative directed at the Naples Ministerial Conference. A mee-

ting with the Euromesco Working Group is also held to discuss the experience of Mediterranean dialogue in the Western European Union.

23rd October 2003

Euro-Mediterranean Committee

Rome: Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee. Committee tackles issues such as migration and the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation in view of the forthcoming Ministerial Conference.

23rd October 2003

Higher education

Brussels: The European Commission approves a programme worth 48 million euros to assist the Tunisian Government in the modernisation of the country's higher education system. The four-year programme focuses on strengthening professional orientation of graduates by supporting the setting up or reform of training and resource centres in each university and the promotion of university autonomy.

24th /27th October 2003

Training

Malta: The Fifteenth Information and Training Seminar for Euro-Mediterranean Diplomats. Issues dealt with include the enlargement of the EU, Wider Europe and the European Neighbourhood Policy, as well as the regular sessions dedicated to each of the three chapters of the Barcelona Process. For the second time, diplomats from the acceding countries participate.

www.euromed-seminars.org.mt

25th October 2003

Association Agreement: EU-Morocco

Brussels: Moroccan and EU negotiators reach a final agreement to revise the bilateral Agricultural Protocols of the Association Agreement. Both parties agree to liberalise agricultural trade over the next four years. These agreements, achieved after negotiations started in 2001, are to be sent to the Commission and to the EU Council of Ministers for their formal approval.

28th October 2003

Transport

Brussels: Fourth Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum Issues such as transport cooperation in the MEDA program-

me and plans to define the Euro-Mediterranean transport network are discussed. Prospects for cooperation in maritime security, navigation by satellite and air transport agreements are also dealt with.

November 2003

4th November 2003

Wider Europe

Brussels: The Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament approve a report on Wider Europe. This report outlines three policy groups to be developed with the new neighbours of the European Union.

www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A5-2003-0378+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=3&NAV=S&LSTDOC=and

6th /17th November 2003

Malta: Meeting of economic and social committees and similar institutions in the Mediterranean area. Issues dealt with are the participation of the civil society in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the impact of new technology on employment and Trans-Euro-Mediterranean Energy Networks.

<http://esc.eu.int>

11th November 2003

EIB

Brussels: The EIB announces a loan to Morocco worth 180 million euros to be allocated for investment in road and water infrastructure, as well as for vocational training and micro-credits. That same day, the EIB announces the concession to Tunisia of various credits totalling 90 million euros, to be set aside for investment in the natural gas infrastructure and in the steel industry.

11th November 2003

FEMIP

Naples: Third meeting of the FEMIP Ministerial Committee. The participants assess the first year of operation of FEMIP which has offered more than 1.8 billion euros in new loans and has approved another 1.8 billion euros related to new investment operations. FEMIP's future is examined in view of the proximity

of the European Council's decision.

17th /18th November 2003

Association Agreement: EU-Israel

Brussels: Fourth meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council. Issues tackled include the peace process and the Road Map, the humanitarian situation in Palestine, Iran and Iraq. Israel welcomes the Wider Europe initiative. Among the economic issues highlighted is the rules of origin, on which more comprehensive negotiations are anticipated.

20th November 2003

Energy

Brussels: Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum to prepare the Naples Ministerial Conference on investment, financing of infrastructure and energy security. On-going MEDA projects are also discussed and a report on Euro-Mediterranean energy initiatives is presented.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/international/euromed/doc/conf4/2003_11_20_com_en.pdf

20th November 2003

European Parliament

Strasbourg: The European Parliament approves two resolutions relevant to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The first concerns Euro-Mediterranean relations in view of the Naples Ministerial Conference -for which, amongst other things, requests have been made to change the Euro-Mediterranean Parliament into a Parliamentary Assembly. The second resolution makes reference to the *Wider Europe*-New Neighbourhood Policy.

www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//NONSGML+TA+P5-TA-2003-0518+0+DOC+PDF+V0//ES&L=ES&LEVEL=4&NAV=S&LSTDOC=and

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//NONSGML+TA+P5-TA-2003-0520+0+DOC+PDF+V0//ES&L=ES&LEVEL=4&NAV=S&LSTDOC=and>

24th November 2003

Cultural dialogue

Brussels: The group of experts on dialogue between peoples and cultures submits its report to the President of

the European Commission, Romano Prodi. The report presents 20 concrete proposals which include providing support for comparative teaching on religions and cultures, inspiring local associations, integrating cultural diversity in the training of media professionals and increasing the visibility of the Mediterranean on television. The group of experts considers that the future Euro-Mediterranean Foundation should be independent and be provided with sufficient resources.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/archives/commission_1999_2004/prodi/pdf/spirit_report_en.pdf

25th November 2003

FEMIP

Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers agree on greater development of FEMIP and to strengthen it within the European Investment Bank. The Council takes this decision following reports on FEMIP's work and consultations with the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

27th November 2003

Agriculture

Venice: First Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Agriculture Ministers. The Ministers decide to strengthen agricultural relations between the shoreline countries and to set up a working programme to help deal with different matters such as rural development, the promotion of the quality agricultural products and biological agriculture. The conference also deals with the possibility of setting up a specific regional programme within the framework of the MEDA programme.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/euromed_report69_en.pdf

28th /30th November 2003

Civil society

Naples: The European Commission supports Euromed Civil Forum. With more than 200 participants, the Forum adopts a declaration 'Building bridges, not walls', presented at the Ministerial Conference. The declaration requests for a plan of action for the civil society in the area, a sustainable agricultural policy, rural development as well as for the organization of a Euro-Mediterranean meeting of Employment Ministers.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/conf/naples/decl03_3011_en.pdf

30th November 2003

Local cooperation

Venice: Meeting of mayors of Euro-Mediterranean cities to discuss cooperation between municipalities. One of the issues dealt with at the meeting is the MED'ACT pilot project within the MEDA programme. The mayors request the Ministers meeting in Naples to accept the proposal of a regional programme dedicated to cooperation between local powers.

December 2003

1st /2nd December 2003

Energy

Rome: Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Energy at which an agreement is reached on the principle of a Euro-Mediterranean energy policy for the promotion of the security of supplies, competitiveness market transparency and environmental protection.
http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/international/euromed/doc/conf4/2003_11_20_com_en.pdf

2nd December 2003

Energy

Rome: Signing of an agreement of strategic cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority, with the objective of creating the basis for energetic dialogue between both parties for the identification and promotion of interconnection projects of common interest.

2nd /3rd December 2003

Ministerial Conference

Naples: Sixth Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Barcelona VI). The ministers review the progress made in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the most prominent issue being the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly - granted a consultative role in the Barcelona Process. With regard to FEMIP, the ministers welcome with satisfaction the conclusions of the EU Council of Ministers to strengthen it within the EIB. They also decide to cre-

ate the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation to promote dialogue between cultures and civilisations. In addition, the ministers analyse various political matters such as the peace process in the Middle East, the fight against terrorism, and democratisation and human rights. They review progress made in the three chapters of the partnership.

[www.medobs.net/documents/Docs-Claus/Napoles03\(en\).pdf](http://www.medobs.net/documents/Docs-Claus/Napoles03(en).pdf)

5th /6th December 2003

5+5

Tunisia: Summit of Heads of State and Government of the group of Western Mediterranean countries "5+5" with the participation of the President of the European Commission. The participants welcome the EU Neighbourhood Policy, and, in particular, the implementation of sub-regional integration policies in the Mediterranean backed by the conclusions of the Naples Ministerial Conference.

8th December 2003

Association Agreement: EU-Syria

Damascus: The twelfth round of EU-Syria negotiations for the Association Agreement reaches technical agreement with regard to the outstanding issues. This text should be politically approved by all parties before coming into effect. With this text, the EU concludes Association Agreements with all Mediterranean Partner Countries.

11th December 2003

Humanitarian aid

Brussels: The European Commission announces its decision to offer 13 million euros as supplementary aid to support the most vulnerable populations of the Middle East through the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO). The aid is for the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Iraqi refugees in camps in Jordan.

11th December 2003

FEMIP

Algiers: A loan of 230 million euros from the EIB is signed for the reconstruction of public infrastructure and social housing in the areas affected by the earthquake in May.

22nd December

Science and technology

Brussels: The Council of Ministers approves scientific and technical cooperation agreements with Morocco and Tunisia. These agreements will facilitate the participation of both countries in the activities of the EU's Sixth Framework for Research and Development Programme. Both agreements will come into effect when they have been approved by the Moroccan and Tunisian Parliaments respectively.

January 2004

1st January 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Egypt

Trade provisions of the EU-Egypt Association Agreement come into effect by virtue of an Interim Agreement approved by the Council of Ministers on 19th December.

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/es/archive/2003/l_34520031231es.html

1st January 2004

Agriculture

The agreements on the liberalisation of agricultural trade with Israel and Morocco come into effect, following its approval by the Council of Ministers on 22nd December. These agreements replace the protocols of the respective Association Agreements with respect to reciprocal agricultural trade.

9th January 2004

Humanitarian aid

Brussels: The European Commission announces the provision 5.14 million euros in humanitarian aid for the Saharawi refugees in Algeria. The funds, managed by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and implemented by humanitarian agencies on the ground, are allocated to provide food, healthcare and training.

21st January 2004

Politics and security

Brussels: Meeting of Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership responsible for Political and Security Issues. The Irish Presidency presents its programme. The meeting deals with issues such as the follow-up of the Naples Ministerial Conference, ways to

improve the implementation of the Barcelona Process and relations with the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly.

22nd January 2004

Euro-Mediterranean Committee

Brussels: Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee. The Committee discusses requirements for the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation, including its location and budget. The Irish Presidency presents its programme with respect to the Barcelona Process.

February 2004

10th February 2004

Enlargement

Brussels: The European Council authorises the Commission to open negotiations with the Mediterranean Partner Countries which have concluded Association Agreements. This is an attempt to adapt these agreements to the enlargement of the EU on 1st May. The adaptation mainly affects trade in agricultural products and some customs procedures.

16th /17th February 2004

FEMIP

Marseille: First meeting of the FEMIP Experts Committee. The experts address subjects such as privatisation, with emphasis placed on the importance of establishing an appropriate regulatory environment or access by private companies to various sources of finance. More efforts are to be made in three main areas: the reform of the banking sector, greater transparency in company accounts and the development of new financial products.

17th February 2004

Aviation

Brussels: The European Commission announces that it has asked the European Council for a mandate to negotiate a Euro-Mediterranean Aviation Agreement with Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco. These three countries are the first Mediterranean partners to be selected by the Commission for the setting up of these agreements. The agreements open up markets between the

EU and these countries and promote cooperation in the sector.

19th February 2004

Migration

Brussels: The European Council adopts a Regulation setting up a programme for financial and technical assistance to non-EU countries in the field of migration and asylum. The programme, known as AENEAS, is designed to offer specific solutions to the needs of these countries, including Mediterranean Partner Countries, in their efforts to manage the different aspects of migratory movements.

24th February 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Lebanon

Brussels: Third meeting of the Cooperation Council. The meeting addresses issues such as the Association Agreement, the enlargement of the EU, the implementation of the Interim Agreement and the economic situation in Lebanon. In the meeting, prior to the political dialogue, the situation in Lebanon, the peace process in the Middle East and Iraq are also discussed.

25th February 2004

Agadir Agreement

Agadir: Signing of the agreement of a Mediterranean Arab Free Trade Area between Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The agreement creates a market of more than 100 million people in the four signatory countries which have also signed the Association Agreements with the EU, in an important step towards the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area. This initiative of sub-regional integration has received the support of the EU since the signing of the Agadir Declaration in May 2001. In addition, a MEDA assistance programme of 4 million euros will be provided.

26th February 2004

Humanitarian aid

Brussels: The European Commission approves emergency aid of 975 million euros for the victims of the earthquake in northern Morocco. This aid is channelled through the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and is intended to cover the initial basic needs regarding medical assis-

tance, drinking water, hygiene and shelter.

27th February 2004

Libya-EU

Sirte: A meeting is held between the European Commission President, Romano Prodi and the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, who underlines that Libya is prepared to start working to join the Barcelona Process. To carry out effective monitoring, the Commission will send a multidisciplinary mission and will ask the EIB to plan a similar mission. Furthermore, the Commission will ask Libya to send a group of senior officials in order to familiarise themselves with and learn about EU institutions and the Barcelona Process.

March 2004

4th March 2004

EIB

Ankara: A EIB loan of 205 million euros is granted to Turkey. The funding, as global loans, will be channelled through five Turkish banks to small-scale businesses engaged in industry, services and tourism. Out of the banks through which the loans will be channelled, three are *new* partners of the EIB. These banks will, thus, receive technical assistance from the newly created FEMIP Technical Assistance Fund.

5th March 2004

Humanitarian aid

Brussels: The European Commission announces the provision of 1 million euros in emergency aid for the 13,000 people who have lost their homes over recent months as a result of the Gaza Strip demolitions. Homeless families will receive compensation in cash to pay for alternative housing until their resettlement is possible. The funds, channelled through ECHO, will be sent to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

8th /9th March 2004

MED Committee

Brussels: Meeting of the MED Committee in which the 2005-2006 National Indicative Programmes (NIP) of Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco,

Syria and Tunisia are welcomed. Also considered very positive is the Regional Indicative Programme, including the support of FEMIP and the consolidation of the Euro-Mediterranean Research Networks (EuroMeSCo and FEMISE), MEDA's contribution to the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation, programmes to promote cooperation between cities and local authorities (MEDACT) and the *Euromed Youth* programme, amongst others.

17th March 2004

Energy

Jerusalem: The Fourth EU/Israel/Palestinian Authority Ministerial Meeting on Energy leads to the signing of an agreement on the setting up of a joint Energy Office. The Office will bring together experts from the two sides and the EU to carry out feasibility studies for a joint power station. Plans will be laid down for the rehabilitation and development of the Israeli-Palestinian energy infrastructure of common interest with the aim of improving the security of supply.

17th March 2004

Politics and security

Brussels: Meeting of Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership responsible for Political and Security Issues. During the meeting, they agree to hold an *ad hoc* meeting on terrorism focusing on ways of improving operational joint action starting with measures against the financing of terrorism. They also discuss improvements in their working methods and agree to set up two groups on Partnership building measures and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

18th March 2004

Euro-Mediterranean Committee

Brussels: Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee. Various issues related to the future Euro-Mediterranean Foundation (location, financing and statutes, amongst others) are dealt with. It is decided that agreement should be reached on these matters before the Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting in Dublin.

22nd March 2004

European Council

Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers adopts conclusions on the Strategic

Partnership with the Mediterranean and the Middle East. The conclusions refer to the Interim Report prepared by the EU Presidency, the European Council Secretariat and the European Commission. The document sets objectives and principles for cooperation with the Mediterranean Partners as well as other countries in North Africa and the Middle East, with a view to promoting "the development of a common zone of peace, prosperity and progress." The strategy should be adopted at the European Council in June.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/euromed_report73_en.pdf

22nd /23rd March 2004

Parliamentary Assembly

Athens: Inaugural session of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly. The Assembly is made up of representatives of the European Parliament, of the majority of Parliaments of EU Member Countries and of all the Parliaments of the Mediterranean Partner Countries. It also includes the presence of observers from other countries such as Libya, Mauritania, Romania and certain Balkan countries. The Assembly adopts rules of procedure and elects the members of the governing body and of the various committees.

25th /26th March 2004

The Middle East

Brussels: The European Council adopts conclusions on the peace process in the Middle East in which they express their concern for the situation and the deepening of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The European Council confirms the Road Map as the basis for reaching a peaceful solution, as well as reasserts the need to deal with the crisis in the region from a global perspective. The Strategic Partnership with the Mediterranean and Middle East is also approved.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/euromed_report74_en.pdf

29th /30th March 2004

EuroMeSCo

Barcelona: Annual conference of the Euro-Mediterranean network of International Relations Institutes. The cen-

tral theme of the conference is 'The Mediterranean and the New Strategic Scenario'. Academics, as well as representatives of the European Commission, participate in the conference. www.euromesco.net

April 2004

7th April 2004

Free trade

Ankara: A Free Trade Agreement between Turkey and Morocco is signed, welcomed by the European Commission as a significant stepping stone towards the setting up of a Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area. Amongst other factors, the two countries anticipate using the pan-European rules of origin.

16th April 2004

The Middle East

Tullamore: Informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers. The Ministers approve a statement on the Middle East, in which the EU reaffirms its commitment to a negotiated two-State solution resulting in a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State existing in peace with Israel on the basis of recognised and secure borders.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/euromed_report75_en.pdf

21st April 2004

MED Committee

Brussels: Meeting of the MED Committee in which favourable opinions are given on the National Financing Plans for Algeria (37 million euros), Lebanon (18) and Syria (53), as well as the first part of the MEDA Regional Financing Plan (78).

21st April 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Egypt

Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers adopts the decision to approve the EU-Egypt Association Agreement. With this decision, the final procedures for ratification of the Agreement by Europe are finalised and the Agreement will come into effect on 1st June 2004.

23rd April 2004

MEDA

Brussels: The European Commission

announces the provision of 35 million euros of MEDA funds for Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia. The new funds complement the National Financing Plans 2002 and are earmarked for the implementation of the TEMPUS programme in the Mediterranean countries and for the programme of rehabilitation of areas affected by terrorism in Algeria.

*23rd /26th April 2004
Training*

Malta: The Sixteenth Information and Training Seminar for Euro-Mediterranean Diplomats deals with issues such as the enlargement of the EU, Wider Europe and the New European Neighbourhood Policy, as well as the regular sessions dedicated to each of the three chapters of the Barcelona Process. Diplomats from the acceding countries participate for the second time.

www.euromed-seminars.org.mt

*26th April 2004
The Middle East*

Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers deals with the proposal for disengagement from Gaza for the next Quartet Ministerial Meeting. After the discussion, the Council adopts the declaration of the Presidency, approved at the informal meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers on 16th April.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/euromed_report75_en.pdf

26th April 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Morocco Luxembourg: Fourth meeting of the EU-Morocco Association Council. The meeting deals with the implementation of the Association Agreements and the European Neighbourhood Policy. The political dialogue also addresses issues such as the fight against terrorism, the situation in the Middle East and the EU Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

May 2004

*4th May 2004
MEDA*

Brussels: The European Commission announces the approval of funding of

1.243 billion euros within the framework of the MEDA programme for cooperation with seven of the Mediterranean Partner Countries and for the Regional Programme for the period 2005-2006. The operations are governed under the Regional Indicative Programme 2005-2006 (215 million euros) and the National Indicative Programmes of: Algeria (106 million euros), Egypt (243), Jordan (110), Lebanon (70), Morocco (275), Syria (80) and Tunisia (144).

4th May 2004

Cooperation

Brussels: The European Commission, the European Investment Bank and the World Bank sign a memorandum to increase coordination of donors in the Middle East region and North Africa. This agreement, signed by senior officials of all three institutions, is aimed at avoiding duplication of efforts or competition between institutions and favour institutional and technical coordination and carry out joint projects.

4th May 2004

Peace process

New York: Ministerial meeting of the representatives of the Quartet. A statement is adopted, reaffirming the commitment of the members of the Quartet to a two-State solution with each State living in peace and security.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/mepp/docs/quartet_stat04_4-05.PDF

5th /6th May 2004

Interim Ministerial Conference

Dublin: In the first conference with 35 Partners as members with full rights (25 from the EU and 10 Partner Countries), an agreement is reached on the Euro-Mediterranean Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures with its headquarters in Alexandria. The meeting serves to highlight the common commitment to the Barcelona Process and to tackle matters of common interest such as the EU Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean and the Middle East, the European Neighbourhood Policy, the peace process in the Middle East and the situation in Iraq. The Ministers point out that Europe is the most important actor in the Me-

diterranean region in terms of trade and aid.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/2004/euromed_report_76_rev1en.pdf

13th May 2004

Neighbourhood

Brussels: The European Commission adopts a *Strategy Paper* on the European Neighbourhood Policy. The paper discusses how to extend the benefits of enlargement to the Union's neighbours including the Mediterranean countries. The Commission also adopts situational reports on various countries such as Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The Commission awaits the conclusions of the European Union Council in order to continue discussion with the countries and present the specific draft action plans for each Partner.

13th May 2004

Humanitarian aid

Brussels: The European Commission announces the granting of 28 million euros in humanitarian aid for the more than one million Palestinians in a vulnerable situation in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as for the refugees in Lebanon. The aid, channelled through ECHO to the Union Nations agencies, the Red Cross and various NGOs operating on the ground, is allocated for food, water, healthcare and emergency services, as well as the creation of jobs.

14th May 2004

Fisheries

Brussels: The European Agriculture Commissioner, Franz Fischler, welcomes the creation of a trans-Mediterranean association of fishing organisations as a very important development for sustainable fishing in the region. The Medisamak Association, which receives financial support from the EU, is made up of organisations from eleven countries (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia).

17th May 2004

The Middle East

Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers discusses the peace process in the Middle East and condemns the terrorist

attacks on Israel as well as the demolition of Palestinian houses in Rafah (Gaza).

June 2004

1st June 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Egypt

The EU-Egypt Association Agreement comes into effect. The agreement has been ratified by the Egyptian Parliament, the European Parliament and the Parliaments of the EU Member States. The first meeting of the Association Council is scheduled to take place in mid June.

1st June 2004

EuroMeSCo

Dublin: Meeting of Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership responsible for Political and Security Issues with representatives from the Euro-Mediterranean network of foreign policy institutes (EuroMeSCo). Issues dealt with at the meeting are the future of the partnership, the prospects for cooperation on civil protection and security, governance, human rights and cooperation from the civil society. The meeting is preceded by the EuroMeSCo General Assembly at which several institutes from the new EU Member States are accepted as members.

www.euromesco.net

2nd June 2004

Politics and Security

Dublin: Regular meeting of Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership responsible for Political and Security Issues. The results of the Ministerial Conference in May, the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean and the Middle East, the rights of the child and the situation in the Middle East are some of the issues dealt with.

3rd June 2004

Euro-Mediterranean Committee

Dublin: Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee. At the meeting, the Ministerial Conference in May on the economic and sociocultural chapters of the Barcelona Process is considered positive. The meeting discusses the status of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation

as well as the need to continue with the next phases of its implementation as soon as possible.

7th June 2004

FEMIP

Alexandria: Fourth Ministerial meeting of FEMIP. The achievements of FEMIP during 2003 are viewed favourably. It has loaned 2.1 billion euros to the Mediterranean Partner Countries, with almost half of it earmarked for private sector projects. The future development of FEMIP is also dealt with at the meeting.

8th June 2004

G8

Sea Island: Meeting of the leaders of the most industrialised countries (G8). Leaders present the declaration on 'Partnership for Progress and a Common Future' with the Broader Middle East region and North Africa.

8th June 2004

Transport

Santiago de Compostela: The Ministerial meeting on the *Wider Europe for Transport* decides to set up a high level group to reach an agreement on the expansion of the Trans-European transport networks (TEN) to the EU's neighbours, including Mediterranean Partner Countries.

10th /11th June 2004

Economic transition

Brussels: The eighth Annual Conference of Euro-Mediterranean Experts on Economic Transition takes place under the title 'A legal and regulatory environment for an efficient market economy'. The sessions deal with subjects such as the extension and effectiveness of legal systems, judicial reforms and economic development, and the policies of competition and legal frameworks.

14th June 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Egypt

Luxembourg: First meeting of the EU-Egypt Association Council, after the Association Agreement came into force. The discussions focus on the implementation of the Agreement, the Barcelona Process and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

16th June 2004

MED Committee

Brussels: The Committee members welcome the National Financing Plan 2004 for Jordan (30 million euros) and for the West Bank and Gaza (101.25 million euros). They also discuss the National Financing Plan 2004 for Egypt, the decision on which will be taken in July. An additional programme for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon which forms part of the Regional Financing Plan 2004 is also welcomed.

17th /18th June 2004

European Council

Brussels: The meeting of the European Council adopts conclusions on diverse subjects affecting Mediterranean countries, such as: European Neighbourhood Policy, inviting the Commission to conclude conversations started with Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Israel and Palestine and to prepare action plans with Egypt and Lebanon. The final report on the strategic partnership with the Mediterranean and Middle East is also adopted, directed at Mediterranean Partner Countries such as Libya, Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Yemen, Iraq and Iran. The Council also adopts conclusions on the peace process in the Middle East.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/2004/euromed_report_77_en.pdf

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/2004/euromed_report_78_en.pdf

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/2004/euromed_report_79_en.pdf

21st /22nd June 2004

The environment

Brussels: The Sixth Meeting of Short and Medium-Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) Correspondents. The meeting welcomes the aims of the third phase of SMAP, which stresses on the importance of wide participation and the places priority on protection of coastal areas. In addition, some activities of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on environmental issues such as METAP, Plan Blue or those of the EIB are presented.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/smap/home.htm>

24th June 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Jordan

Amman: The second meeting of the EU-Jordan Association Council decides to activate six thematic sub-committees in relation to the draft Action Plan agreed upon by the EU and Jordan on 23rd June within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. Within the atmosphere of political dialogue, participants deal with the abolition of the death penalty, the peace process in the Middle East, the government reform programme and human rights. There is also an exchange of views on the implementation of the Association Agreement. The Council decides to strengthen cooperation for the promotion of the investment (at home as well as overseas) and to open negotiations to make progress in the trade liberalisation of agricultural products.

25th /26th June 2004

Civil society

Limassol: First extended Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Non-Governmental Platform for the Euromed Civil Forum in which more than 80 representatives of different Euro-Mediterranean networks participate. A charter of common values and of principles for membership to the Platform is adopted at the meeting. The meeting also establishes an action plan, a follow-up committee and a modus operandi for the transition period until the meeting of the Foundation's General Assembly due to take place in May 2005.

July 2004

12th /13th July 2004

The Middle East

The Council of the European Union makes a declaration following the decision of the International Court of Justice in The Hague on the construction of the separation barrier in Palestinian territory. The Presidency of the Council stresses that the political process based on the Road Map is above other considerations.

13th July 2004

GALILEO

Brussels: An agreement is signed in relation to the European satellite navigation programme, GALILEO, between

the EU and Israel. The agreement anticipates cooperation in activities related to satellite navigation in a wide range of sectors, especially in science and technology, but also in industrial production and market development, as well as standardisation, frequencies and certification.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/galileo

14th July 2004

Politics and security

Brussels: Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership responsible for Political and Security Issues. The priorities of the Dutch Presidency are presented whilst working methods of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership are debated.

14th July 2004

MED Committee

Brussels: At the MED Committee Meeting, the National Financing Plan 2004 for Morocco (79 million euros) is viewed favourably. This includes a programme of support for the reform of Public Administration, and the Regional Financing Plan 2004 Part II (19 million euros) which includes the MED-ENEC programme on energy efficiency in the construction sector.

15th July 2004

Euro-Mediterranean Committee

Brussels: The priorities of the Dutch Presidency for the economic and socio-cultural chapters of the Barcelona Process are presented at the Euro-Mediterranean Committee meeting. Other matters dealt with are the different steps which have been taken towards the setting up of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation with the appointment of its executive director, Traugott Schöffthaler, the negotiation of the statute of the Foundation and the proposals on the network of national networks, of which the Foundation is to constitute.

15th July 2004

Transport

Brussels: The European Commission proposes the extension of the European 'Marco Polo' programme to the Mediterranean Partner Countries, designed

to favour the transportation of goods by alternate means other than by road. The conditions of participation of the Mediterranean Partner Countries are to be defined through bilateral relations.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/transport/marcopolo/index_en.htm

16th July 2004

Dutch Presidency

The Meeting of the EU Council of Ministers takes note of the priorities of the Dutch Presidency for the second semester of 2004 with respect to the implementation of the EU Common Strategy in the Mediterranean Area. The Presidency will focus on the Middle East peace process, on reinforcing and deepening the Barcelona Process through the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy, on the setting up of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area and on the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation.

26th July 2004

Humanitarian aid

Brussels: The European Commission decides to earmark 8 million euros in aid to the 158,000 Saharawi refugees in the camps in Tindouf, Algeria. The money, channelled through the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), will be allocated for food aid, access to potable water and hygiene.

August 2004

August 2004

MEDA

Brussels: Throughout the end of July and the month of August 2004 the European Commission approves programmes and operations that make up the MEDA Regional Financing Plan with a value of 92.5 million euros. The plan consists of eight regional programmes in areas ranging from the environment, audiovisual production, transport, energy, and telecommunications to employment training or access of women to the labour market. Funds are also granted to FEMIP and for a European Neighbourhood Policy programme in the energy sector. The Commission also decides to set up a sub-regional programme for the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

11th August 2004

Humanitarian aid

Brussels: The European Commission announces the provision of 1.35 million euros for victims of the demolitions in Rafah, in the Gaza Strip. The funds are aimed at providing accommodation for the more than 10,000 people whose homes were destroyed or damaged during the incursions of the Israeli Army in the months of May and June. Part of the money is earmarked for the repair of shelters and key public infrastructure.

September 2004

6th September 2004

The Middle East

St. Gerlach: In the meeting of the EU Council of Ministers which reviews the development of the Middle East peace process, the importance of the Road Map and the Quartet is reaffirmed. Furthermore, the ministers ratify their support of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's disengagement plan, in accordance with EU conditions.

9th September 2004

The environment

Brussels: The European Commission announces its approval of funding (5 million euros) for 13 new environmental projects in the Mediterranean Partner Countries within the framework of the LIFE programme for third countries in 2004.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/project/index_en.htm

20th September 2004

EIB

Ankara: The European Investment Bank announces a loan of 200 million euros to Turkey for the first fixed rail connection of the Asian and European networks across the Bosphorus by means of a tunnel. This loan is the first of a larger fund (650 million euros) endorsed by the EIB for this tunnel.

22nd September 2004

Road Map

New York: The Quartet Ministerial Meeting adopts a declaration reaffirming its 4th May declaration, and observes that no significant progress has been made

on the Road Map. The Quartet urged Israel and Palestine to cooperate in ensuring clean municipal elections in Palestine as well as to coordinate the preparation and implementation of the withdrawal from Gaza.

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/82023.pdf

24th September 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Egypt

Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers adopts a decision on the signing and provisional application of a protocol to the Association Agreement with Egypt. The agreement must be adapted to take into account the accession of ten new Member States to the EU since 1st May. This is the first of a series of protocols to be signed with all the Mediterranean Partner Countries and with all the countries having signed Association Agreements with the EU.

27th September 2004

Politics and security

Brussels: Meeting of Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership responsible for Political and Security Issues. The Dutch Presidency proposes a meeting to discuss the European Policy on Security and Defence. It is also agreed that the EuroMeSCo network will be responsible for preparing an assessment of the ten years of the Barcelona Process in the same way that FEMISE will do so on subjects relating to the economic capital of the Partnership.

28th September 2004

Euro-Mediterranean Committee

Brussels: The Euro-Mediterranean Committee Meeting focuses, above all, on the Anna Lindh Foundation, whose Director presents his views on its running. The draft of the Foundation Statute, the network of national networks and its financing is also dealt with. The Commission announces the preparation of a meeting of senior officials to discuss the subject of the trade of agricultural products, the preparations for the Caserta Ministerial Conference on Industry and on the report of the conference on trade and services.

29th September 2004

Foreign aid

Brussels: The European Commission

decides to simplify funds of foreign assistance by reducing the number of financial instruments for the distribution of aid. In practice, the Mediterranean countries will be covered by two instruments: The Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument which will substitute the MEDA programme (1995-2006) will cover nine Mediterranean Partner Countries, whilst Turkey, as a candidate country, will be funded by the pre-accession instrument.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/world/enp/index_en.htm

October 2004

3rd /4th October 2004

Industry

Caserta: Fourth Conference of Industry Ministers. The ministers decide to increase cooperation in 2005-2006 in areas such as administrative simplification, management training and financial access. Different MEDA programmes of industrial cooperation are dealt with. At the end of the conference the nine Mediterranean Partner Countries sign the 'Caserta Declaration' and as a result adopt the Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Enterprise, which has to represent the common framework for the development of effective policies for improved competitiveness and support to development of the private sector in the region.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/2004/euromed_report_82_en.pdf

6th October 2004

Accession of Turkey

Brussels: The European Commission recommends starting accession negotiations with Turkey, albeit under certain conditions. The final decisions will be taken in December at the European Council of Heads of State or Heads of Government.

11th October 2004

Libya

The EU Council of Ministers decides to lift the arms embargo against Libya and revoke the sanctions adopted in applying the UN resolutions as part of the policy of compromise with Libya, the final aim being the full integration of Libya in the Barcelona Process.

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/82211.pdf

11th October 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Jordan Luxembourg: Third Meeting of the EU-Jordan Association Council. The meeting discusses the implementation of the Association Agreement, progress on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the Agadir Process, as well as the peace process in the Middle East.

13th October 2004

MED Committee

Brussels: The Committee welcomes the National Financing Plan 2004 of Tunisia (22 million euros), the supplement to the 2004 financing plan for the West Bank and Gaza (23 million euros), the 2005-06 MEDA global commitment (20 million euros) and the indicative programme and the strategy document of the neighbourhood policy for the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

15th October 2004

Energy

Rome: The Meeting of Energy Ministers of the Mediterranean Countries initiates the Rome Euro-Mediterranean Energy Platform, with the aim of increasing Euro-Mediterranean energy cooperation, guaranteeing the implementation of the regional initiatives agreed upon by the Energy Ministers in December 2003.

18th /19th October 2004

Transport

Brussels: First meeting of the high level group on linking Trans-European transport networks with the EU's neighbours, set up by the European Commission after enlargement. Representatives of the Mediterranean Partner Countries and Libya attend the meeting. The participants review the selection criteria of the projects and priority axes and discuss financing and efficient use of the network.

19th October 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Syria

Brussels: The European Commission and Syria formally mark the end of the EU-Syria Association Agreement negotiations. The agreement will be subject to approval by the Syrian authori-

ties and by the European Council before its ratification by the Syrian and European Parliaments and by Member States. It includes clauses on the fight against terrorism and on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/med_ass_agreemnts.htm

25th /26th October 2004

FEMIP

Amsterdam: Second meeting of the FEMIP Committee of Experts. The committee suggests the need for the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean transport network and for the strengthening of public and private associations in the water and transport sectors.

26th October 2004

Euro-Mediterranean Committee

Brussels: Specific meeting of the Committee dedicated exclusively to the Anna Lindh Foundation. The Committee agrees upon the composition of the Advisory Council of the Foundation which will be made up of 12 members, six from the European Union and six from its partner countries. Progress is also made on drafting the statutes of the Foundation –though without fully completing them.

November 2004

4th /5th November 2004

The Middle East

Brussels: The European Council meeting adopts a declaration on the Middle East in which its solidarity with the Palestinian people is expressed (while President Arafat is hospitalised in France). The Council reiterates its commitment to a two-State solution and the Road Map. In addition, following a proposal by the senior representative, Javier Solana, the Commission approves a short-term action programme in the fields of security, reforms, elections and the economy.

10th November 2004

Terrorism and Security

Brussels: Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership responsible for Political and Security Issues hold

two *ad hoc* meetings. The first focuses on terrorism and deals with recent developments in the international forums and the presentation of a policy component of the MEDA programme on governance and the state of law. Views are exchanged on the possibilities of an anti-terrorist cooperation. The other meeting focuses on the Mediterranean aspects of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), the first to be carried out in the Euro-Mediterranean form. The EU presents the Mediterranean Partner Countries with the most recent developments and possibilities for third countries to become a member of ESDP.

11th November 2004

Politics and security

Brussels: The main aim of the regular meeting of Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership responsible for Political and Security Issues is to prepare the Ministerial Conference on Political and Security Issues in The Hague on 29th and 30th November.

11th November 2004

Euro-Mediterranean Committee

Brussels: Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Committee. Aside from preparing the ministerial conference in The Hague on 29th-30th November on economic and sociocultural issues, the draft statutes of the Anna Lindh Foundation are also approved.

11th /12th November 2004

Anna Lindh Foundation

Brussels: A meeting of the 35 representatives of the National Networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Director of the Foundation takes place on the 11th. The results of this meeting are presented to the Euro-Mediterranean Committee on the 12th at a working session on the setting up of the Foundation's networks and participation in them. Representatives of the national networks and the members of the Advisory Council of the Foundation participate.

18th November 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Tunisia

Brussels: Fourth Meeting of the EU-Tunisia Association Committee. Views are exchanged on reinforcing the EU-

Tunisia Association as defined in the European neighbourhood policy. In regard to this policy, Tunisia agrees in principle with the text of the national action plan for Tunisia. The work of the different sub-committees is also dealt with. The EU representatives stress the need to increase political dialogue, whilst the Tunisian representatives confirm that this dialogue will deal with all subjects, including that of Human Rights.

*22nd /23rd November 2004
The Middle East*

Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers adopts conclusions on the peace process in the Middle East. The Council expresses its condolences to the Palestinian people on the death of President Arafat and entrusts the Palestinian authorities the task of ensuring the organisation of a trouble-free transition.

*29th /30th November 2004
Ministerial Conference*

The Hague: The Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Affairs Ministers discuss the future prospects of the Barcelona Process in view of its tenth anniversary in November 2005. The ministers confirm that the Process, enhanced by the Neighbourhood Policy, is the main initiative for the Mediterranean in which the EU and the Mediterranean Partners jointly participate. The ministers decide that 2005 will be the 'Year of the Mediterranean' and reach agreement on the working plan for the Anna Lindh Foundation. The ministers also highlight the considerable improvement in the performance of the MEDA programme.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/2004/euromed_report_84_en.pdf

December 2004

6th December 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Jordan Amman: Third EU-Jordan Economic Dialogue Meeting, the first after the preparation of the Action Plan of Neighbourhood Policy. The implementation of the economic and social priorities established in the action plan are discussed. These priorities include the financial market, banking regulations,

structural reforms, social development and economic aspects of the fight against poverty, amongst others.

*7th December 2004
Technological cooperation*

Brussels: The European Commission proposes to the EU Council the negotiation directives for the achievement of a cooperation agreement with Morocco on its participation in the GALILEO programme.

*8th /9th December 2004
Civil Society*

Rabat: A civil society conference in parallel to the G8 Forum for the Future is held. This meeting includes the participation of the EuroMed civil forum platform entitled of 'Mechanisms stimulate reform in the Arab World'.

*9th December 2004
Neighbourhood*

Brussels: The European Commission approves the first action plans within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy, which includes five Mediterranean Partner Countries (Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia). These plans are the result of negotiations with each country. A working agenda with the EU for the next 3-5 years is defined in each plan. They do not replace the Association Agreements but rather improve on them.

*9th December 2004
FEMIP*

Tunisia: A FEMIP office is opened in Tunisia. The office will be responsible for the coordination of the Tunisian authorities, borrowers and the banking sector and will start operating in January 2005. The opening of the office is preceded by a conference on investment and business opportunities in Tunisia.

*10th December 2004
Transport*

Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers adopts a decision granting the European Commission a mandate to negotiate an agreement on aviation with Morocco. The mandate anticipates a Euro-Mediterranean agreement on aviation with the aim of opening-up the market and creating a framework for all operators.

13th December 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Jordan Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers adopts a decision on the signing and provisional application of a protocol to the Association Agreement with Egypt adapted to take into account the accession of ten new Member States to the EU since 1st May. This is the second of a series of protocols to be signed with all the Mediterranean Partner Countries and with all countries having signed Association Agreements with the EU.

13th December 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Israel Brussels: Fifth Meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council. At the meeting, the Council views favourably, the agreement on the action plan for Israel considered as a platform to deepen bilateral relations and extend the areas of cooperation.

*13th /14th December 2004
Neighbourhood*

Brussels: At the EU Council meeting, the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans for the Mediterranean Partner Countries are approved. The Commission had approved these plans on 9th December.

15th December 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Israel Brussels: The EU-Israel Customs Cooperation Committee gives the green light to the agreement for the identification of goods exported to the Union from the settlements in the Occupied Territories, which the EU consider are not covered by the Association Agreement and, therefore, cannot be given preferential tariff treatment. The agreement is to come into force in February 2005.

*16th /17th December 2004
Turkey*

Brussels: The European Council of Heads of State and Government agrees that the date to open accession negotiations with Turkey will be 3rd October 2005. The Council invited the Commission to prepare a proposal for a framework of negotiations with Turkey. The Heads of State and Government also highlight the progress made within the framework of the new neighbourhood

policy. A declaration on the peace process in the Middle East is adopted, welcoming the efforts made by the Palestinian Authorities to assure a democratic transition.

20th December 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Egypt

Brussels: Signing of the protocol of the EU-Egypt Association Agreement, adapted to the Association Agreement to take into account the enlargement of the EU in May.

21st /22nd December 2004

Transport

Brussels: The Fifth Meeting of the Euro-

Mediterranean Transport Forum deals with the possibility of holding the first Ministerial Conference on Transport at the end of 2005. The meeting reviews activities to be developed in 2005 and assesses ways to coordinate the activities with the work of the High Level Group for the extension of the European transport networks to the new EU neighbours.

22nd December 2004

Association Agreement: EU-Palestine

Brussels: The EU Council of Ministers adopts a decision which amends the interim Association Agreement between the EU and the Palestine Authority. In

this agreement, agricultural trade between the EU and the Palestinian territories is liberalised even more as from 1st January 2005, in a demonstration of the importance the EU attaches to the interim agreement. Some of the Palestinian products which benefit from the decision are flowers, tomatoes, grapes, strawberries and olive oil.