

# Presentation

**Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Spain

The existence of a Euro-Mediterranean project, defined at the Barcelona Conference of 1995, and its development in the years since then, has helped to create a powerful culture of cooperation and dialogue between the European Union and its Mediterranean partners. Despite all the difficulties it has faced and the need to adapt it to new times, today the Barcelona Process is the most effective instrument of concerted action for peace, democracy and development amongst the countries of the area.

The events of recent years make it more important than ever to achieve a more meaningful Mediterranean dialogue and create a new basis for action and mutual knowledge. In this respect, initiatives such as this Mediterranean Yearbook, published by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and the Fundació CIDOB, are very timely, since they provide essential materials for information and analysis to all those involved in the process.

Spain believes that the European Union needs to encourage an active policy on its southern borders, reaching out towards the Mediterranean and the Arab world. The hopes placed in the Barcelona Conference need to be rekindled, and Spain must contribute to relaunching the Barcelona Process with vigour and determination to show that multilateral dialogue is the best way of resolving conflicts, including that of the Near East, which is having such negative repercussions on Euro-Mediterranean politics as a whole.

So I welcome the initiative of publishing a Yearbook such as this, which provides key data for interpreting the principal political, economic, social and cultural processes shaping the area. And I would like to emphasise the valuable contribution made by more than a hundred experts, from a very wide range of political and cultural backgrounds, which has ensured the necessary pluralism in the perception and analysis of such a complex part of the world.

**Pasqual Maragall i Mira**  
President of the Generalitat of Catalonia

Catalonia plays an acknowledged role on the Mediterranean stage and aspires to use it to encourage dialogue and cooperation. This role, which is the product of our history and is a stimulus for facing the challenges of the future, leads us to promote initiatives such as this Yearbook, which will encourage mutual understanding with the other peoples of the Euro-Mediterranean area.

We are a country committed to the objectives of the Barcelona Process: solidarity and the building of a new order based on greater equity, respect for human rights, democratic values and the rule of law. The aim of the Generalitat of Catalonia Mediterranean policy is to promote economic and commercial activity, develop active policies of cooperation and cultural dialogue and reinforce civil society and democratic institutions. Together with our neighbours, we aim to create the structure for a great European region from which to develop relations with the countries of the South and the East of the Mediterranean.

We need to revive the policy initiated at the Barcelona Conference of 1995 with fresh ideas, and contribute to creating an awareness of the links that exist between the Euro-Mediterranean societies. In this respect, it is essential to involve civil society and make everyone more aware of the whole process.

This Mediterranean Yearbook responds to the need to work towards a better understanding of neighbouring societies, and a willingness to undertake joint initiatives. I am proud that two institutions based in Barcelona, the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and the Fundació CIDOB, have joined forces to undertake this project, which encourages analysis and provides information about the challenges ahead for all of us. I am sure that this Yearbook will become a work of reference for all those with an interest in the European and Mediterranean world.