

A 'Community' of the EU with Mediterranean Countries¹.

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The revolutions in the Arab Countries and the resistance in Iran as well as the scarcity, poverty and security agenda's related to food, water, energy are stressing the need for the EU to innovate and scale up.

The '*Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity*'³ with the Southern Mediterranean, as proposed by the Commission, is a preliminary response but not providing the 'vision' and 'goal' needed.

Indeed, the visionary response to the Arab Revolutions by the Europeans should

1. Stress that '**what has been making the difference**' in leading Europe to peace and prosperity has been the setting up of '**Institutions**' to take initiatives (the High Authority and later the Commission), decide (Council and Parliament), secure the enforcement of the rule of law and protect citizens (Court of Justice in Strasburg and Luxemburg).
2. be designed on the basis of the **European and Mediterranean experiences, instruments and lessons of** :
 - Marshall Plan
 - 1948 The Hague Conference followed by the launching of the Council of Europe
 - CECA and its institutions (High Authority, Council, Parliament, Court of Justice) : how to manage resources which are scarce or threatening regional security (water, energy, food)
 - Helsinki process (four baskets system), European Courts of Justice in Strasburg and Luxemburg, the Charter of Fundamental Rights (how to secure common citizens rights on the basis of international declarations and conventions), the UNECE Arhus Convention (how to secure Access to Information, Participation and Justice in the environmental field)
 - Horizon 2020 process for the de-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, Med Solar Plan : how to leapfrog towards a 'green economy' as recommended by UNEP and the OECD.
 - Union for the Mediterranean failure as well as projects : how to design projects.
 - Erasmus and Youth in Move : how to shape a programme with the young generation.

¹ Update of the proposal "Three Seas Alliance".

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³ Com (2011) 200.

The differentiated approach proposed by the 'Partnership for Democracy and Share Prosperity' should be presented as a step towards a '**Community of the EU with Countries of the Mediterranean Region**' committed to peace, human rights and sustainable development (which could expand gradually later to Caspian and Black Seas).

The European Council and the European Parliament should propose a 'Community' based on Institutions inspired i.a. by the CECA and the Helsinki process and which would have **four 'baskets'** to address :

1. **Peace and Human Rights**, access to information, right of expression, participation and justice
2. **Green Economy**⁴, water, energy, food, green and connected cities
3. **Integrated Economic Region**⁵
4. **Youth.**

Preparatory process.

The European Council should invite the Countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, the Arab League, Russia, the United States, China and Japan to a **Diplomatic Conference 2012** to design new institutions.

This Conference should be prepared by :

- **A Civil Society Conference** (inspired by the The Hague 1948 Conference) to shape a roadmap for each basket
- **A Financial Conference**⁶ to get the public and private financial institutions to agree on the financial support to a Marshall Plan⁷ in support to the baskets implementation.

Headquarter and Borders.

The Community would have its headquarter in Istanbul or Jerusalem⁸ and offices in Cairo, Tunis or Barcelona, while the EU would keep its headquarters in Brussels, Luxemburg and Strasbourg.

The borders of the Community and hence of the new 'Olympic ring' would change the conditions that lead to peace or war in the region. We need here too a new vision and agree on new rules.

⁴ Rio +20 Agenda.

⁵ As proposed by the European Roundtable of Industrialists (ERT)

⁶ Prime Minister Papandreou and the EIB hosted by 2011 a similar conference on climate change and the Mediterranean region.

⁷ As suggested by Prime Minister Zapatero.

⁸ Jerusalem should - under specific conditions - be offered to become one of the headquarter of the Community/ Alliance designing new institutional relationship between Countries with the support of Religions Leaders and Businesses.

Institutions.

The Community would have a **High Authority** (three men and three women), a **Senate** and a **Council of Ministers** to deal with “four baskets matters”, while the EU would keep its European Council, its Commission and its European Parliament. A specific **Court of Justice** of the Community would be established in Strasbourg next to and working with the EU and Council of Europe Courts of Justice. The Community would have **Mediators** in the field of armed conflict, water management, human rights and associations’ rights.

It might also have a force for military intervention and pledge assistance to its members.

No initiative to launch a “Community” will be endorsed by the USA and its closer allies within the EU if the USA has not a “special status” within this framework. It is proposed to involve the USA, Russia, China and Japan as countries with at least an “observer status”.

The Community is a mechanism which does not “replace” the process engineered in terms of “EU enlargement negotiations”. It rather acts as a “**fast track**” enabling a quick introduction of tools for a “**new dynamic**” focused on four baskets.

The four baskets

First basket: Peace and Human Rights, Access to Information, Right of Expression, Participation and Justice.

The proposal is inspired by the Helsinki process, the mechanisms of the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and the Aarhus Convention on Access to information, participation and justice. *“There is growing evidence that engaging citizens in democratic processes leads to both a more vibrant society and happier citizens. Promoting open and effective governance nationally and internationally, including the peaceful resolution of conflicts and elimination of systematic corruption, is important for all of us achieving greater well-being in the long term”*⁹. Its agenda would be the proposals made by the UN Commission on Human Security.

Second basket : Green Economy, Energy , Water, Food, Green and Connected cities –

The seeds for today’s and tomorrow’s armed conflicts lie in the field of natural resources, primarily energy, water and food. In the conflict between Israel and Palestine, where the issue of water control also features prominently, as well as

⁹ New Economics Foundation (NEF): *Global Manifesto for a Happier Planet*.

in the case of Iran in the energy field, the very proposal of setting up the Community might open up new vistas. We should draw inspiration from the founding fathers of the ECSC and take up a similar approach in other words tackling energy and water issues as potential sources of conflict, food as basic needs, green and connected cities as major drive of improvement of waste and mobility management ¹⁰.

Third basket: Integrated Economic Region

A distinction should be clearly established in people's minds and in actual fact between the "great single market" and the "European Union", which must not necessarily cover the same area. From this point of view, the stand taken by the European Roundtable of Industrialists (ERT) marks an interesting development . The objective would be to move *"towards an "Integrated Economic Region" (IER) with a step-by-step approach to implementation, allowing individual countries to move at their own speed (...) encouraging the neighbouring countries to gradually integrate into the Single Market, offering them the opportunity to eventually join it as participants if and when they are fit to do so. (...) A stepping stone towards the creation of the IER would hence be the establishment of a free trade area with all IER Countries"*¹¹.

Fourth basket: Youth

As is stated by Nick Mabey , *"the critical political fault line in the future will not be between insiders and outsiders in the labour market, or between labour and capital, but between generations. Future trends place higher costs on the young and give benefits to older citizens. Tightening environmental constraints will need to be managed by a younger generation which has not benefited from the era of cheap fuel and who will bear the direct legacy costs of climate change, water shortages, environmental disasters and biodiversity loss"*. Nick Mabey underlines that this must be accompanied by a *"fair burden sharing of public investment between generations to avoid that the most productive of the younger generation will leave for lower tax countries or a rejection by younger workers of higher public investment in securing Europe's long term future"*¹².

¹⁰ See OECD report on Green growth and UNEP report on Green economy 2011.

¹¹ *ERT's vision of a bigger single market. The position of the European Round Table of Industrialists on the EU's Neighbourhood policy.*

¹² *Europe in the World: Elements of a New Economic Narrative*, Nick Mabey www.e3g.org