



*Euro-Mediterranean Conference  
on Agriculture*

Strasbourg, 14-15 June 2001

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

**Strasbourg 2001**

*Parliamentary Assembly  
of the Council of Europe*

*International Federation of  
Agricultural Producers*

*European  
Parliament*



## *Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Agriculture*

### **Contents**

	Page
Opening session .....	5
<u>Session 1</u> : Mediterranean production in the context of a sustainable and multifunctional agricultural model .....	25
<u>Session 2</u> : Towards sustainable rural development in the Mediterranean basin	35
<u>Session 3</u> : Agricultural trade issues: the challenges posed by enlargement and the WTO .....	45
Closing session .....	57
<u>Appendices</u>	
Programme of the Conference .....	61
Analytical list of participants .....	65
Alphabetical list of participants .....	79



# EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE

THURSDAY 14 JUNE 2001

## OPENING SESSION

*The session was opened at 3 pm.*

**Lord RUSSELL-JOHNSTON, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe** - It falls upon me to welcome you to the Chamber of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and to open this Conference. Mediterranean - the land in the middle of the sea, or the sea in the middle of the land. My Latin is no longer what it used to be in my school days, but, as our French hosts would say, *peu importe*. The Mediterranean is both, the land and the sea, married, since the beginning of mankind, or thereabouts, into something that goes beyond a geographical space, or a climatic condition. From the days of antiquity, and before, the Mediterranean Sea was not a divide, but on the contrary, a catalyst of contacts between peoples on its shores. And it was these contacts, facilitating trade and cultural exchange, which have made the Mediterranean the cradle of our civilisation. Civilisation, in its broadest sense, going beyond geographic, religious, political and other divides. A common cultural DNA to the peoples of the three continents that come together around its coasts, making us all much more alike than we are sometimes willing, or able to accept, or understand.

The Mediterranean is the people, living on land, linked by the sea. Living from the land, living from the sea, and living from the links - the trade with each other. In this part of the world, where, all the beauty aside, the living has always been harsh, people learned that living with each other gave them a better chance than living apart from each other, or against each other. This is how it has been for centuries. Paradoxically, in these enlightened modern times, the shores of the Mediterranean are perhaps farther apart than they have ever been in history.

Yes, there is travel. But, more often than not, this is travel by affluent Europeans, travelling to a warmer climate and the sandy beaches of our neighbours "across the sea", and, in the other direction, a flight of those who, in hope or despair, or both, put themselves at great risk to start a new life, a better life than the one they have known in their country of origin. Or so, they deeply hope.

In facing this, I am outraged. Not because, as, unfortunately many, far too many of my fellow Europeans, I fear that those who are ready to risk everything, and leave everything behind, to come and settle in France, or Germany, or the United Kingdom, are a threat to our affluence, or our culture, that they would bring down and destroy our cosy European paradise, not at all. People have always travelled back and forth across this salty lake, and they always will. What I object to is the despair and the poverty that motivate this exodus. This is not a journey of choice, but a journey prompted by the absence of choice.

We have to change this. Together. We have to create circumstances in which all the people, living in Europe and in its immediate vicinity, stand a decent chance. Have a choice. Are able to live in prosperity, to provide for themselves and for their families. Are able to stay where they are, if they so wish, or to travel, and settle abroad, as their ancestors have been doing for centuries, if this is their ambition.

Building a wall around Europe would not only be morally wrong, it would be plain stupid. It would be useless. It would cut the contacts that existed from the beginning of European civilisation and have in many respects, created it.

On the other hand, to seek to stop the flight of the desperate would ultimately be futile. Throughout history, and not only in this part of the world, we have seen that poverty builds an irresistible force determined to challenge the rules written by those living in prosperity, who seek to be protected from those who do not, and claw, with bloodied hands, at the wall which divides them, until their numbers break it down.

Why am I saying all this at a conference dealing with agriculture? Because, as you will all agree, agriculture in the Mediterranean area, the trade and migration flows it generates, are at the heart of what I have just been talking about. It is at the core of the relations between Europe and its neighbours, its cousins to the south. I will not go into details. But going through your agenda, it is clear that the intention of this meeting is to contribute to the creation of circumstances in which we shall be able, again, to live closely with each other, and not apart from each other. This is no easy feat. It will take time and energy, but, most importantly, it will require from everybody a serious rethink of established attitudes. This is not a zero sum game. Everybody is bound to gain at the end, but, until that time, some, at first glance, will lose, and difficult decisions will have to be made.

On one side, Europe will have to abandon some of its most defensive, occasionally even paranoid trade and immigration policies.

They are often decided by few, to protect even fewer. The fortress of Europe, enjoying its affluence and oblivious to the world is an idea that feeds on fear and caters to prejudice. It is plain nonsense, but it is also a dangerous kind of nonsense. It is an idea espoused of extreme parties in our countries who seek power and try to persuade - sadly sometimes with some success - our own disadvantaged people, that their situation is due not to their neglect of social cohesion, but to the presence of people, who they define as "different" and seek to denigrate and exclude. All people of good will must face up to this problem and find ways to overcome it.

It is, I think, incontrovertible, that the degree of economic progress is determined by the development of democracy and the protection of human rights. Freedom and prosperity go hand in hand. These values, which the Council of Europe was set up to defend more than half a century ago, are universal, and we are ready to help our friends and neighbours in promoting them beyond the geographical borders of Europe.

I therefore wholeheartedly support the initiative to hold this conference, organised jointly by the Parliamentary Assembly, and, more particularly, its Committee on the Environment and Agriculture with its President, Wolfgang Behrendt, to whom I would like to pay special tribute, by our neighbour and friend the European Parliament, and by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP).

I declare the conference open.

**Mr IMBENI, Vice-President of the European Parliament** - Mrs Fontaine, the President of the European Parliament, would have liked to be with us today, but she is attending the important Göteborg summit.

When, in September 2000, Mr Avolio, Chair of the IFAP Mediterranean Committee, proposed that the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament organise this conference, there was a very positive response since it gave practical form to the notion of a joint initiative to identify the problems faced by agriculture in the Mediterranean basin.

In a resolution of 30 March 2000, the European Parliament gave its support for such a conference. This was confirmed on 15 November at the fourth Conference of Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers in Marseilles. The Parliament had called for "a joint process of reflection aimed at a coordination of Mediterranean agricultural policies bearing in mind the reform of the CAP and the multifunctional dimension of the agricultural industry."

The partnership approach that has emerged from the Barcelona process is visionary in concept. Bringing together all those - politicians and representatives of the profession - with an interest in the success of agriculture will serve to strengthen the idea that a common objective can be achieved through co-operation.

Nevertheless, a number of challenges remain:

- the spread of globalisation, with its institutional (negotiations with the WTO) and commercial (abolition of trade preferences, opening of the markets to competitors from outside the region) implications; globalisation is not neutral: without rules, or with rules fixed only by the strongest, it serves to increase injustice and discrimination;
- the opportunities and risks for Mediterranean agriculture created by the enlargement of the European Union and the establishment of a large Arab free trade area;
- the environmental aspects of agriculture, and the need to reconcile competitiveness with respect for the environment in the interests of sustainable development; this also means reducing air pollution, in accordance with the decisions of the Kyoto summit, and paying particular attention to the problems of water management, with its negative consequences of soil erosion and desertification;

- the problem of agriculture's function in society: apart from food production, it must make an increasing contribution to populating the countryside and preserving its social fabric and a form of traditional life sought after by city dwellers.

All these issues will be considered in our three sessions.

The first, devoted to *production*, will look at the future of Mediterranean production in the context of a multifunctional agricultural model. In particular, we will focus on the extent to which European and southern Mediterranean agriculture complement each other, the impact of imports of European products on the southern countries' production and the role of MEDA programmes and of the social partners.

The second session, on *sustainable development* in the Mediterranean basin, will look at production and trade from the standpoints of food safety, sustainable development, natural resource management, combating poverty, structural reforms, biological agriculture and the social partners' role in drawing up sustainable development programmes.

The third session, on *agricultural trade aspects of enlargement and the WTO*, will examine the positions of the European Union, the southern Mediterranean countries and the applicants for EU membership. We will consider the commercial opportunities opened up by the extension of the Common Market to the east, the effects of Mediterranean agricultural integration in the context of a free trade area and the harmonisation of rules and standards, necessary for the expansion of trade.

There is no lack of issues. This conference provides us with an opportunity to exchange opinions as part of the process inaugurated by the 1995 Barcelona Declaration and in the spirit of Europe's founding fathers, who understood that working together to resolve common problems created a sense of solidarity that enabled people to live in closer harmony.

I am well aware that this conference is taking place at a time when the expression "Middle-East peace process" seems to have been expunged from our vocabulary. We are very concerned about this but we hope that this conference will make a modest contribution to dialogue, contact and friendship, without which there will be no future, progress or peace for anyone.

**Mr DOORNBOS, President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers** - I am very pleased to be taking part in this exceptional conference, which for the first time unites members of parliament and farmers in the Barcelona process.

I am President of the IFAP, and of the Dutch farmers' organisation, and grow potatoes, as do many Egyptian, Algerian and Spanish producers.

The IFAP acts a forum to enable farmers across the world to exchange views and experience and encourage joint policies and activities.

This conference is in response to a request from IFAP's Mediterranean Committee to meet members of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly and the European

Parliament to ensure that farmers' concerns are taken into account in the Barcelona process. Members of parliament represent the people, including farmers, and I am therefore pleased that they have responded positively.

Farmers cannot observe the development of agriculture passively: we have to adopt a responsible attitude by seeking answers to our problems and participating in the development of the Euro-Mediterranean area. I know that members of parliament count among our best allies.

The Mediterranean region enjoys great cultural and agricultural diversity, but it is also an area of conflict. We must help to build peace and stability, which is the first objective of the Barcelona process. I am proud of the efforts of the IFAP Mediterranean Committee, which since its inception in 1990 has sought to promote dialogue among farmers. The most striking example - for which we have earned the congratulations of the United Nations Secretary General - is the support we gave to the meetings between Israeli and Palestinian farmers in 1993. Then three years ago, there was a historic meeting in Nicosia, in the UN controlled zone, between Greek and Turkish Cypriot farmers.

We must intensify our efforts to secure peace, at a time when violence in the region is on the rise. As President of the IFAP, I reiterate my support for the peace process in order to end the human suffering and the destruction of farms, which threatens the survival of agriculture. Peace and stability are preconditions for the region's economic development, which is the second objective of the peace process. Farmers can play a major part in this.

Agriculture is present everywhere, particularly in the southern Mediterranean countries, where it represents 20% of GNP. It is not solely a productive activity, but also helps to reduce poverty, guarantees food security, manages natural resources and contributes to the vitality of rural communities.

We hope that governments will grant it the same importance as trade.

One of our other priorities is to develop partnerships in the social and cultural fields. Civil society has a major role to play, and co-operation between all sectors is crucial for the region's peace and development. It is important to create a climate for development and exchanges. The North and the South may not have the same approaches but their objectives are the same, and inextricably linked. We are well aware of this: all the regions of the Mediterranean basin produce the same products. If we fail to seek complementarity and emphasise diversification, competition will continue to be intense. It is also necessary to improve the quality of our products, as a way of increasing their value and thus reducing poverty.

Naturally, there must be adequate water resources; this is a crucial issue. Unless steps are taken, by 2020 the situation will be extremely worrying. At its meeting in Seville in November 2000, the IFAP Mediterranean Committee floated the idea of a single water authority, and the idea was recently repeated in the The Hague Declaration. Legislation would be needed to give it practical effect, and this should be encouraged by the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The reform of the MEDA programmes should also lead to better exchanges between the two shores of the Mediterranean, with particular emphasis

on training and increasing financial resources. I hope the conference will give these matters the attention they deserve.

Finally, a word about the multilateral WTO negotiations. The countries of the South painfully lack the means to apply the rules of international trade without suffering harm. The European Union must increase its aid to them, as the only alternative is a decline in living standards, rural depopulation and increasing impoverishment of these countries' towns and cities. It should be constantly borne in mind that trade must serve sustainable development and peoples' well-being.

On behalf of the IFAP, I wish to thank the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for organising this conference, which I am sure will serve the interests of farmers in the Mediterranean basin.

*Mr Imbeni, Vice-President of the European Parliament, took the chair*

**Mr AVOLIO, rapporteur-general of the Conference and Chair of the IFAP Mediterranean Committee** - I have supported the idea of such a conference for nearly twenty years, so I am pleased that it is now taking place. I am grateful to the European Parliament and the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly for responding positively to the proposal.

Farmers now want to be involved in the decisions that concern them, and to help to shape their own future. They can identify their problems and try to resolve them themselves. The situation around the Mediterranean is a difficult one: the similarity of the products coupled with the diversity of social and working conditions leads to damaging competition from which all suffer. In response, three challenges have to be faced, those of diversification, of quality and local specialisation and of water.

All round the Mediterranean basin, farmers are producing the same things: citrus fruits, olives and other fruits that mature at the same time and are sold in the same markets. The competition between countries and regions is fierce. Product diversification would therefore improve the social and economic conditions in the least favoured regions and allow a more balanced form of development. Tensions would be reduced while at the same time co-operation between peoples and countries would improve.

To meet consumer expectations, farmers must produce healthy products. An emphasis on local specialisation will help production in all the region's countries and make better use of each one's potential.

The water problem is and will continue to be crucial. There is no point in encouraging diversification and local specialisation if there is no long-term water supply. We are asking European and international institutions to give this matter serious thought. Each country should have a single water authority, which could lead to the setting up of a single international authority, responsible for drawing up and imposing common rules for all and for which only the United Nations could provide a home. It could also develop coherent research strategies and identify priorities. The IFAP Mediterranean Committee has continually raised this issue - in Antalya, Malta, Cairo and Cyprus - and has made detailed proposals that now need to be given a wider airing and clarified. The matter is urgent.

Farmers have shown their readiness to accept their responsibilities; they now call on European and international bodies to accept theirs. They want to sign their products and agree to checks, and intend to offer consumers maximum guarantees. They are no longer prepared to sit back passively and let others take decisions on their behalf. They are actively seeking their own solutions. The relevant institutions can rely on their support; they want to make progress and are looking for democratic instruments that can respond to their legitimate demands. In a pluralist and democratic society, representative institutions must offer the same safeguards to all citizens.

Vertical agreements are also essential. The production, processing and distribution sectors must stop fighting each other and learn to co-operate. None can hope to prosper on the ruins of another. Here again, institutions have a role to play, by laying down a framework for co-operation in the interests of all.

This conference must emphasise the urgent need to find solutions to the needs of farmers in both the north and the south of the Mediterranean basin, and to continue the fight to improve living conditions and thereby stem the tide of migrants. Farmers, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe must work together in a spirit of mutual understanding. This same spirit must apply at all levels in order to develop agriculture, meet consumers' expectations and promote balanced development and peace.

I propose that the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament organise a similar conference every three years to review progress in Mediterranean agriculture, in the interests of production, balanced geographical and social development, progress and peace between peoples.

As this conference opens, tragic events are occurring in the region. Clashes are taking place in rural areas, even though there is a potential market and the possibility of co-operation. If the powder keg explodes it will destroy all our hopes for peace. I call on all the parties to renounce violence, resume dialogue and give reason precedence over hatred.

As Chair of the Mediterranean Committee this is what I am asking: give us your hand and we can work together for co-operation and peace. As Martin Luther King said "unless we learn to live together as brothers and sisters, we will die apart as fools".

Our conference must reaffirm the importance of the values of the countryside, send out a message of tolerance and emphasise the need for farmers to co-operate, in the cause of peace, which is the *sine qua non* for pursuing the noble occupation of feeding the world.

**The Chair** - I wish to thank Mr Avolio for his passionate address and his contribution to the organisation of this conference.

**Mr BEHRENDT, Chairman of the Committee on the Environment and Agriculture of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe** - I wish to welcome all those attending the conference. For many countries of the region, agriculture is still a vital sector. For the first time, members of parliament and representatives of agricultural organisations are meeting to exchange views and, I hope, draw up practical proposals.

The conference is the brainchild of the IFAP Mediterranean Committee, and in particular its Chair, Mr Avolio, who had the idea several years ago. It has taken some time to bring it to fruition.

Our Committee has already organised three forums on agriculture, in which members of the Council of Europe and agricultural organisations have taken part. They have considered a number of topics of relevance to the Mediterranean, such as water. The success of these meetings has encouraged us to organise this conference.

The Mediterranean is a unique ecosystem: a hot and dry climate, fairly unproductive soils and a lack of water all affect the agricultural sector. Traditionally, this agriculture was essentially local, or at most national, and concerned with domestic consumption. Large farms, let alone exports, were not among its characteristics. It is only recently that the production of olive oil, wine, citrus and other fruits and vegetables has become significant in certain countries, and the development of an agri-foods industry in the northern Mediterranean countries is an even more recent phenomenon.

The farming infrastructure is less developed and has made trade difficult and relatively unprofitable. Agriculture is less mechanised and industrialised, which may offer the countries concerned the opportunity to avoid the mistakes made in northern Europe.

Social structures in the region are also less developed and are relatively uncompetitive compared with those of more developed countries.

In recent years, changes have occurred, thanks to the establishment of the European Union and the liberalisation of trade. Economies are starting to open up to external markets, new forms of production are being developed (not always suited to the region) and some products have become competitive. However, all this has come about in an anarchic fashion, sometimes at the cost of overexploitation of natural resources, in the interests of short-term profits. The establishment of the European Communities and the Common Agricultural Policy have helped to rationalise and modernise the European agricultural sector and make it more profitable. But for historical, structural, geographical and commercial reasons, Mediterranean agriculture has not yet been consolidated in the same fashion. Conferences such as this therefore need to be encouraged to enable politicians and those working in the industry to make contact. Sub-regional meetings must also be considered, but it appears that each country is seeking to defend itself against the European Union in isolation.

In addition to its association agreements, in 1995 the European Union took the opportune decision to initiate the Barcelona process, whose potential has not yet been fully exploited. In particular, the agricultural sector, which has been forgotten in that process, needs to be given fresh impetus.

However, there is a danger to be avoided: that the agricultural production of non-European Union countries becomes geared more towards the EU rather than towards satisfying their own needs and those of their neighbours in the region. The economy of these countries must not become dependent on Community policies: co-operation and development aid must meet the needs of the peoples of producer countries before satisfying the interests of donor countries.

Agricultural policy has significant environmental and social aspects in a region undergoing profound demographic and socio-economic upheavals. Co-operation programmes in the agricultural field must include measures aimed at securing social stability and environmental protection.

Great efforts are required to overcome the problems of water shortages, soil erosion and desertification. A comprehensive programme is needed, together with financial resources to help countries that cannot resolve these problems themselves.

At a time when Europe is putting more and more stress on safety, quality and traceability, Mediterranean agriculture must take up the quality challenge, while maintaining its traditional products.

One possibility is for the countries concerned to co-operate to avoid competition between identical products and encourage the commercialisation of a varied range of typical products.

Local populations also need education and training to enable them to secure acceptable living conditions and avoid mass exoduses to the cities or abroad. This human aspect must never be forgotten.

This conference comes at a key moment, when the Union is debating the reform of the CAP and is preparing to admit member countries from central and eastern Europe and two more Mediterranean countries: Cyprus and Malta. The southern Mediterranean countries must not be forgotten in all this - they represent interesting markets.

The European Union must strengthen the Barcelona process and I have no doubt that the IFAP, and more particularly its Mediterranean Committee, will also make every effort to speak out on behalf of agriculture and farmers.

The Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly is trying to foster co-operation between national parliaments, including those of the Mediterranean countries, whose representatives have been invited here. We hope that the delegations attending will take the opportunity to develop their relations.

In a globalised world, where economic frontiers are becoming blurred, we must contemplate the establishment of a large Euro-Mediterranean region that will bring political stability and economic development. The European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe have a duty to defend the interests of the Mediterranean peoples but also those of Europeans who are victims of growing instability in the countries of the South.

Let us use this conference to advance Mediterranean agriculture, international co-operation and understanding between peoples.

**Mr GRAEFE ZU BARINGDORF, Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development** - I wish to welcome you and express my pleasure that such an important conference - concerned with agriculture in the Mediterranean basin - has been convened.

The process of reforming the Common Agricultural Policy continues. Just as after a football match people immediately talk about the next one, we never cease to talk about the next reform. The member states have not given sufficient support to the proposals in the Commission's and the European Parliament's Agenda 2000: the reform has been watered down, or even abandoned.

In a new phase of reform, where the emphasis is on integrated rural development, will the Mediterranean countries suffer from the fact that money from the CAP is going to flow more towards the countries of the east? I think that they will also be beneficiaries, since the focus will be on rural areas and on quality products.

It is wrong to speak of a fortress Europe. Europe is the main importer of agricultural products. I would also issue a warning against unregulated *laissez-faire*. The Mediterranean countries that are not members of the European Union have no interest in launching a price war since the Union, which needs external protection, offers them a fixed quota at a set price, which is more interesting than competition that would be ruinous for everyone.

A word finally on the co-decision procedure: if it had existed the decisions of the Berlin summit would not have been taken. We will do all in our power to ensure that in 2005-06, parliaments will be involved in a co-decision process, since we want to have our say on the reform.

The European Parliament is taking decisions that affect the whole continent, and is striving to promote a genuinely Europhile policy.

**Mrs REDONDO JIMENEZ, Vice-Chairperson of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development** - I wish to thank the organisers of this conference, which brings together citizens of both shores of the Mediterranean, whereas farmers in the South are often forgotten.

The Barcelona process, whose purpose is to establish a free trade area by 2010, includes agriculture, albeit somewhat timidly in view of its sensitive nature.

This process needs to be reinforced, and the Spanish government plans to give it fresh impetus during its Presidency, in the first half of 2002.

Mediterranean agriculture will have to face a triple challenge: demographic, economic and climatic.

Certain countries have strong population growth and a large rural manpower base, whereas others are experiencing population decline and a reduction in agricultural activity. The former must secure high growth rates in the agricultural sector, or diversify their activities, to retain their young population and offer them a better quality of life. If not, they will be tempted to move to urban areas or emigrate, sometimes illegally, at the risk of their lives.

The abundance of manpower also affects the cost of labour. Production costs are three to four times less in the South than in the North. For the latter group of countries the problem is rather one of rural depopulation, with consequent labour shortages and the need to bring in immigrants, with all the problems of integration that this entails.

The situations differ but agriculture is always a necessary component of local areas' vitality and balanced development. The issue that affects agriculture in the countries of the European Union, those of the South and those applying for membership is that of multifunctionality. This shared challenge must be faced in the next reform of the CAP, in WTO negotiations and in the Barcelona process.

There are those who think that enlargement to the east and the Euro-Mediterranean initiative are incompatible. I do not agree. In many respects they complement each other and enlargement offers new outlets for Mediterranean products, provided, of course, that appropriate steps are taken to regulate the opening up of markets, to take account of the requirements of multifunctionality. It is also important to refine our structural instruments, to which the MEDA programmes can contribute. Otherwise the entire rural world on both Mediterranean shores will be substantially weakened.

Climatic problems affect both North and South, and water is becoming increasingly scarce. If Mediterranean farmers opt for intensive methods and forget the multifunctional nature of their activity, water will disappear and its absence will lead to serious conflicts between users. Not to mention environmental consequences such as accelerated soil erosion, desertification and threats to biodiversity.

The politicians and farmers meeting here have decided to take up these challenges and explain to the public what is at stake. Agenda 2000 and the MEDA programmes are a first step in the right direction. Another is needed. I congratulate the organisers of this conference and hope that the results will match the expectations.

**Mr FISCHLER, member of the European Commission** - Many speakers have pointed out that little has been done in the five years since the Barcelona Declaration. The European Commission has carried out an assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, which has revealed a certain amount of unexploited potential. This document has served as a basis for recent discussions of ministers for foreign affairs, who have adopted a strategic document that comes out in favour of strengthening the Barcelona process.

We seek stability and we want to encourage the development of trade, facilitate understanding between cultures and strive for the well-being of all the citizens of the Mediterranean basin by establishing a free trade area by 2010. So far, co-operation has largely taken the form of bilateral agreements. Such agreements have been reached with Israel, Morocco, the Palestinian National Authority and Tunisia. The agreement with Jordan is currently undergoing ratification, the one with Egypt will be signed in July, negotiations are currently under way with Algeria, Lebanon and Syria, while Cyprus, Malta and Turkey are candidates for European Union membership.

Special conditions apply to agricultural trade, but the experience of the past years has shown that protectionism is not the answer. Based on this principle, the European

Union has started a reform process that dispenses with market supports. The first results are promising and member countries' agriculture has become more responsive. The same direction needs to be taken by the WTO and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. However, agriculture is a sensitive sector of the economy and of society, and markets must be opened up only with caution. Trade cannot be liberalised from one day to the next.

Changes in trade between European Union and Mediterranean countries show that the potential of association agreements has not been fully exploited. Between 1995 and 2000, the Union's agricultural exports increased by 31%, but those to the Mediterranean basin only by 20%. Imports to the EU increased by 16% overall, as compared with 12% for those from the Mediterranean basin. The new generation of agreements takes account of these deficits. The liberalisation process will be undertaken cautiously, particularly for the most sensitive products such as oranges, olive oil and tomatoes. Quotas have therefore been introduced, and will be gradually raised between now and 2010.

The Euro-Mediterranean partnership also needs to be developed on a broader basis. Regional trade outside the European Union is still at an embryonic stage. The countries of the southern Mediterranean basin must open their markets and their borders to their neighbours as a matter of urgency. In this regard, a welcome must be given to the decision taken on 9 May in Agadir by Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan to establish a free trade area. The European Commission supports this initiative and hopes that other countries will join it. It is also concerned with the harmonisation of rules defining products' origins, a very complex problem on which a working group has been asked to report before the end of the year.

The European Commission also supports structural modernisation and reforms, without which liberalisation would have a destructive effect. Since 1985, it has allocated nearly € 3.5 billion to other economic sectors under the aegis of MEDA programmes for infrastructure, education and training. The same is now required for agriculture. Between now and 2006, the new MEDA programme will allocate € 5.3 billion for this purpose, divided into four headings: quality, diversification, aid with structural changes and improving marketing arrangements.

Some believe that the European Union's customs barriers are too high for southern products, but there are many other factors that inhibit trade, such as the absence of marketing arrangements, the inadequacy of health regulations or indifference towards European consumers' quality requirements. The new MEDA programmes must help to reduce these obstacles and enable the partner countries to modernise their organisational structures. With their practical knowledge, members of IFAP can make a key contribution to this process. I invite them to be active participants in the MEDA programmes.

The Euro-Mediterranean partnership has had significant successes since 1995. This conference can contribute to a better use of the available tools, by which I mean the new programmes and the new partnership agreements. What is essential, as the Austrian psychologist Erwin Ringel has rightly pointed out, is receptiveness, readiness to listen and dialogue.

**The CHAIR** - I wish to thank Mr Fischler for describing the Commission's policies.

**Mr GIVA, President of the Chamber of Agriculture of Aude (France)** - I wish to thank the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for supporting this IFAP initiative.

Between now and 2006, the European Union faces a number of important challenges. It must prepare for the most complex enlargement of its history, draw the lessons of recent crises in relations between society and agriculture and reflect on its political future. But Europe must also reassess its relations with the countries of the southern Mediterranean basin as part of the Barcelona process. Euro-Mediterranean co-operation needs fresh impetus.

What co-operation? Not only between governments and public institutions but also within the agricultural world and related professions. And how should it be achieved? By building confidence between farmers and business, establishing economic and technical partnerships and agreeing on certain rules.

Who should benefit? Co-operation must enable farmers to prepare for the future and concerns the entire rural sector in the Mediterranean countries. It thereby helps to maintain the social fabric and develop rural employment. Rural development therefore needs to occupy an important place in MEDA programmes.

You can count on agricultural organisations to take up the challenge and revive the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

**Mr PEREZ LAPAZARAN, Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture (Spain)** - I would like to thank the organisers of this conference for their invitation, which enables us to look beyond our own parliaments and national debates.

The conference will be an opportunity to discuss our common problems and seek common solutions. We have the same type of agriculture, we grow the same products and we encounter the same difficulties. We must use all the opportunities for mutual co-operation. The Mediterranean basin needs to be developed, and not just from the standpoint of production. We must open up to the countries of northern Europe, which produce what we do not produce, and develop joint strategies to avoid suicidal competition among ourselves, and we must regulate trade, since too rapid an opening up of markets could pose a threat to southern farmers. Let us draw up joint strategies in the form of bilateral and multilateral plans; we will all be the winners.

On behalf of Spain, I propose to the North African countries, to which we are so close - we have had an Arab and Jewish culture - to collaborate in the process of peace and development in the Middle East.

**Mr DINE, Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee (Algeria)** - This conference is concerned with all the problems of Mediterranean agriculture and I wish to take the opportunity to describe the state of Algerian agriculture.

Algeria has taken a number of decisive steps on the path to international co-operation with the European Union, and will be a member of the economic area uniting the two Mediterranean shores. The northern shore is industrial, developed, rich and dominant, whereas the southern one has all the features of under-development: traditional agriculture, poverty and so on, despite the remarkable economic achievements of the past decade.

In general, the countries of North Africa look outside for both their supplies and their outlets, and face a series of difficulties: low productivity, declining living standards, high foreign debt, unemployment, low investment and rapidly rising populations.

The European Union represents a considerable economic force and dominates half the global market. The countries of the southern Mediterranean shore, particularly Algeria, have many expectations: help in protecting its productive capacity, modernisation of its agriculture, partnerships, debt relief and so on. They support sustainable development policies that will increase the well-being of hundreds of millions of inhabitants of the Mediterranean basin. This will enable them to exploit their agricultural potential to the full.

**Mr IDRIS, Secretary General, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (Egypt)** - I wish to thank the organisers of this conference, which coincides with the signing of the partnership agreement between Egypt and the European Union, which is a model of equality. We hope to make further progress along this path. Multilateral negotiations affecting agriculture are also about to open.

This conference is an opportunity for dialogue. I wish to thank the previous speakers, who have reminded us that the conflicts and lack of stability in the Mediterranean region have an impact on Europe.

In Egypt, agriculture takes a form that you would describe as multifunctional. It must have peace to be able to progress, which is not the case today with the massacres of Palestinians, which are a crime against humanity.

Mr Imbeni and Mr Doornbos referred to the problem of water: some analysts predict that the next conflict in the Mediterranean region will be the result of changes linked to water supply, in particular alterations to the courses of certain rivers. We hope that the European Union will act firmly to prevent such a water war.

Increasing food resources is not enough, we must also improve farmers' living standards, through co-operation based on equality. It is regrettable that current development models do not put sufficient emphasis on this aspect of social development in the southern Mediterranean.

**Mr MORALEDA QUILEZ, Union of Small Farmers (Spain)** - I wish to thank the European Parliament and the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly for supporting the IFAP initiative. We hope that such meetings will take place at regular intervals and that practical steps will be taken to develop this beautiful region.

The European Union is actively debating its future. On the eve of its enlargement to the east and the reform of the CAP, and as the WTO negotiations are getting under way, there is a danger that the south will be marginalised. The conference therefore comes at an ideal moment.

Like all the countries of southern Europe, Spain wants to co-operate with its neighbours. We defend the notion of multifunctionality, which is so suited to Mediterranean agriculture, a form of agriculture that is inseparable from the countryside. We defend the principle of co-operation between the different sectors, because if competition is not regulated, farmers and consumers will be the losers.

The aim is not just to produce more, but to improve quality of life in the areas where people produce and consume. Co-operation in this sense will be more credible because everyone will be involved. We must give it the necessary impetus, and take the necessary decisions. Agriculture brings us together and the region's instability concerns us greatly. There can be no progress without peace.

**Mr BEDIN, Senator, Italy** - One word has been frequently mentioned this afternoon, that of peace. The price of peace can no longer continue to be paid solely by farmers on Europe's southern flank.

The European public are asking whether the Union should continue to devote a significant part of its budget to the CAP. We must explain to them that the support for agricultural policies in southern Europe will also help to bring peace.

The creation of a free trade area in the Euro-Mediterranean region by 2010 will eventually offer a chance for peace but many problems will arise in the transition period. A study undertaken by the Italian Senate shows that Italian - and probably also Spanish - agriculture will suffer. We must be aware of this and take the necessary steps at national and European levels.

Competition and diversification affect the whole of the Mediterranean basin. Enlargement will create problems for the countries of the Union, which have launched themselves into unrestrained competition. At the same time, the opening up of markets will create an area of stability in the region; it is simply necessary to co-operate to avoid suicidal competition.

At the institutional level, the European Parliament has revived the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum. We must make sure that the various initiatives do not overlap.

**Mr BACHA, President of the Tunisian Agriculture and Fishery Union** - I warmly thank the organisers of this meeting and welcome the exceptionally balanced nature of the contributions. I see this as a very positive sign for the future of agriculture in the Mediterranean basin.

I see a conflict between the requirements of sustainable development and the lack of resources in certain countries, not to mention unbridled competition, the absence of co-operation between the countries of the South and the fact that their products are at a disadvantage in European Union markets. I am particularly surprised by what Mr Graefe zu Baringdorf had to say on the subject.

I generally agree with what has been said about the need for a gradual liberalisation of agricultural trade, on the role that MEDA programmes can play and the consequences of the opening up of the Union to the east and south. As Mr Avolio said, there must be an end to the violence in the Middle East, so that all Mediterranean farmers can prosper. I fully agree with Mr Idris on the subject of Palestinian agriculture.

**Mr LAVARRA, Vice-Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development** - Today's gathering is very important and I hope that it will be only the first of a long series.

The liberalisation of agricultural markets carries risks but also opportunities. The market determines prices and conditions of purchase by putting Mediterranean producers and processors into competition with each other, but the requirements of safety, quality, hygiene and nutritional balance - in brief, all that typifies Mediterranean production - may offer a great opportunity, provided that emphasis is placed on complementarity, and the right instruments are created to diversify production, co-ordinate agricultural policies and monitor demand. This is a job for the relevant institutions and professional organisations working together.

In relations between the European Union and the countries of the South, the compensatory approach has rightly been abandoned, since it was only justified and effective in the short term. Henceforth, it will be necessary to anticipate, and introduce measures to support access to markets. For example, if we encourage producers to organise themselves by branch, there will be no competition between olive oil producers in the Mediterranean basin. We have to promote products whose qualities are recognised, even if this means initially supporting them. More generally, this implies seeking recognition in the WTO negotiations for the specific nature and qualities of Mediterranean products.

However, the reforms must not be confined to farmers. Consumers and tax payers must give due recognition to the importance of the sector and its multifunctional nature. If all these ideas come to fruition, Mediterranean farmers will at last have the place they deserve.

**Mr ROSSETTO, COLDIRETTI (Italy)** - Italian farmers hope that the Barcelona process will continue in a balanced fashion, for the benefit of both shores of the Mediterranean and in accordance with eco-compatible standards and practices.

The development of quality products may have calming and positive effects on competition. It is therefore important for the WTO to establish an effective multilateral system for protecting origin labels. Fraud must be eliminated.

**Mr BOUHADJAR, President of the National Chamber of Agriculture (Algeria)** - I congratulate the organisers of this conference. Until now, the Euro-Mediterranean

partnership has not given agriculture the place it deserves, even though this sector, which is undoubtedly complex, is vital for the region. A major national agricultural development plan has been introduced in Algeria, in anticipation of membership of the WTO and the association agreement with the European Union. In particular, it should lead to more rational management of water resources, the modernisation of the irrigation system and large-scale development of tree planting, using local species, and viticulture, as part of a diversification policy, a satisfactory level of food safety, the re-establishment of types of production in their natural areas and finally the reclassification of land uses.

Today's conference augurs well for a reinforced Euro-Mediterranean partnership. I wish it every success.

**Mr GENC, TZOB, Union of Chambers of Agriculture (Turkey)** - At this stage I simply want to thank the organisers of this conference, particularly Mr Avolio, who has been very active in the IFAP Mediterranean Committee. I will speak at greater length tomorrow.

**Mr TRATAKIS, Member of Parliament (Greece)** - I think we all agree with Mr Avolio on the need to hold such meetings every three years, to contribute to the prosperity of farmers in the Mediterranean basin.

Practical solutions to the problems faced by the Mediterranean peoples will not come simply from repeating "we must, we must". The European Union has certain contradictory positions: it is reforming the CAP to renationalise aid while at the same time calling for joint action. If it persists, its negotiations with the WTO will be destined to fail.

In the case of water, investment is needed, particularly to fight the battle against water scarcity in southern Europe, but the European Union wants savings and then more savings. That is another contradiction. Yet the quality of our products is at stake.

I agree with all those who have spoken about peace, and it is right that this question should be raised. But I wish to remind you that in Cyprus, for example, Greek Cypriot farmers and their Turkish Cypriot counterparts have never preached separation. It is the politicians who have opted for it.

**Mr HOBEIKA, President of the Agricultural Committee of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (Lebanon)** - One of the many merits of this conference is that it combines the desire to meet with a sense of commitment to action. I am grateful to the IFAP, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly for organising it. The Barcelona process is an opportunity for the countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean, and assists the region's integration into the global economy.

After seventeen years of war, Lebanon, which has always been at the junction of east and west, hopes to rediscover its place and influence. It can play a critical part in regional co-operation, based on shared prosperity. Agricultural questions are sensitive, and it is necessary to consider new forms of development capable of meeting the challenges of the modern economy. Like other Mediterranean basin countries, Lebanon

suffers from structural problems; it needs to renew its orchards, encourage substitution crops for those that are illegal or prohibited and modernise its practices. It is ready to help draw up rural development projects on a regional scale. It wants to take up the challenge of co-operation and integration.

**Mr NAUDI, President of the Malta Agriculture Lobby (Malta)** - It is an honour for me to take part in this historic conference.

Members of parliament rarely show a great interest in agricultural affairs. We are calling on them, as well as on governments and professional organisations, to be more active, and exercise a greater influence on the European Union's policy. We must make our voices more clearly heard within a Euro-Mediterranean partnership and we have the means.

I would also plead for peace and prosperity and pay tribute to farmers - all farmers - who are the hardest workers in the world.

**Mr ABUHELALEH, Farmers' Union (Jordan)** - on behalf of Jordanian farmers I thank you for your invitation.

In Jordan we believe in the virtues of dialogue between Arabs and with Europeans to identify new values and common interests.

We are confident that the European Union will correct the errors of the past, strengthen our commercial alliance and create a climate of rapprochement, conducive to peace.

Jordan is a victim of the economic crisis, particularly in the agricultural sector. I have myself survived as the director of a newspaper. Since the Israeli occupation forced the Palestinians into exile in Jordan, the Hachemite Kingdom has had to pay close attention to defence. The military budget is a heavy burden and this has greatly affected the lives of Jordanians, starting with farmers, not to mention the problem of the waters of the Jordan.

The peace agreement with Israel has made farmers' situation worse, since our Arab brothers consider that our products are Israeli, and the number of commercial outlets has declined.

Add to this the fall in prices and the negotiations to join the WTO and it is easy to see why rural depopulation has accelerated.

We are counting on the partnership with the European Union to deal with these problems, bearing in mind their demographic and environmental aspects.

Other problems - non-political this time - have hindered the development of agriculture, in particular climate change.

We are relying on this conference to establish firm relations with our northern Mediterranean partners, so that our farmers can enjoy acceptable living conditions and to improve the quality of our products.

**The CHAIR** - I will now call on Mr Chioccioli, who has given us a great deal of help in preparing this conference.

**Mr CHIOCCIOLI, Secretary General of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (ICAMAS)**- Mr Avolio, whose idea this conference was, has every reason to feel satisfied today, and I wish to pay tribute to the European Parliament and the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly for their support.

The Centre was asked to produce a document for participants at this conference, whose purpose is to promote dialogue between the countries that are parties to the Barcelona process and strengthen agricultural co-operation between the two Mediterranean shores. This is also the objective of our Centre, which is a forum for dialogue and exchanges of views used by the ministers of agriculture of the Mediterranean countries. They did so in Rome in May 1999, Rabat in March 2000 and Athens on 1 June. They will meet for the fourth time in Lebanon in 2002 and their fifth meeting will be in France in 2003. These ministerial meetings seek to identify guidelines that are consistent with the Barcelona process.

In Athens, the ministers looked at agricultural relations in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, Mediterranean co-operation on sustainable agriculture and a higher status for Mediterranean food products, the introduction of a programme of pilot activities and the establishment, by the Centre, of a Mediterranean Observatory.

This conference will seek to establish common ground for a joint approach to multilateral negotiations.

Now that Europe is starting to talk about multifunctionality in agriculture, the Centre, in which all the European and southern Mediterranean countries are represented, is an ideal forum for debate. The establishment of a free trade area must be accompanied by aid from the developed countries to the developing ones, whose agricultural sectors are unstable. A Euro-Mediterranean partnership therefore has to be created.

Caution must be exercised in opening up markets, whereas much more determined action is called for to complete structural reforms. The ministers agreed in Athens to establish a Mediterranean LEADER programme for rural development, as part of the MEDA programmes.

The ministers also agree on the need to raise the status of Mediterranean food products. Measures to encourage a form of sustainable agriculture include raising the quality and certifying the origins of products, research and training.

I am convinced that this conference will give a decisive impetus to the dialogue between the two Mediterranean shores, so that the proposed Euro-Mediterranean partnership to which we are all committed will become credible to our farmers.

*The session ended at 6.30 pm*



## SESSION OF FRIDAY 15 JUNE 2001

*The session was opened at 9.15 am, with Mr BEHRENDT, Chairman of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Committee on the Environment and Agriculture, in the chair*

### **Session 1: Mediterranean production in the context of a sustainable and multifunctional agricultural model**

**Mr BOULARD, rapporteur, IFAP, National Federation of Farmers' Unions (FNSEA), (France)** - Is Mediterranean production based on a sustainable and multifunctional agricultural model? The answer is certainly yes, although this does not mean that particular Mediterranean regions or countries will not have their own characteristics. However, the Mediterranean model is a fragile one.

Similar produce and species are found all around the Mediterranean: fruit, vegetables, cereals, olive oil, milk, meat. Competition between producers may result in conflict. Other common features include product quality, farms that are largely family-based, traditions and skills handed down from generation to generation, exceptionally strong links between flavour and nutritional and health benefits, and multifunctionality, not to mention the physical agricultural conditions: water scarcity, soil fragility, and the harshness of the very unusual climate.

More specifically, the southern Mediterranean model is characterised by family-based farms, attachment to the land and the fact that the food produced is destined mainly for the farming families themselves and the local community. These are prerequisites for preserving a fragile social balance. Demographic factors exacerbate the food issue in this region: farmers must be guaranteed decent income levels, which means high prices, yet low-income populations must have sufficient food, which means low prices. This implies substantial state funding for agriculture. At the same time, there is pressure from international financial institutions to implement conventional economic policies, which generate considerable social tensions.

Preserving the Mediterranean model requires unswerving political will. The Mediterranean countries must show solidarity in international negotiations, particularly since the use of derogations or exemptions for countries where agriculture plays an important social role has been universally accepted. Such solidarity should also exist between the countries themselves, which implies that they should organise their farming industries better and guarantee farmers economic power themselves, rather than leaving them to the mercies of the global agri-food industry. It is also important to optimise production, win new markets and adopt policies geared to high-quality food bearing quality seals.

Dialogue should become the only means of resolving disputes. It should enable joint strategies to be drawn up, production schedules to be adapted as necessary and agreements to be reached on quotas and pricing policies. This is essential for the Mediterranean model's future. In this context, trade associations ought to be given a

role and participate directly in MEDA programmes. Finally, we must reiterate the need for strong agricultural policies to regulate and alleviate the effects of opening up markets.

Only if these conditions are met can the Mediterranean agricultural model become genuinely sustainable and multifunctional.

**The CHAIR** - Thank you for your pertinent remarks.

We are all fully aware of the difficulties and violence in this region, both in the Middle East and in Algeria. However, I would invite the speakers not to use this platform for political purposes. If you will, let us focus on agriculture.

**Mr AVIGNO, ASAJA (Spain)** - The Mediterranean model will have a future if it can ensure a decent income for farmers. Yet Mediterranean production has always been the CAP's poor relation, whether in terms of joint organisation of the market, agreements with third countries or preferential agreements. Everyone agrees that imports have an impact on EU markets, and the exporting countries must agree to comply with certain constraints, particularly environmental ones. This was the rationale behind the 1995 proposal in Valencia to set up a Euro-Mediterranean observatory to monitor developments in infrastructure, employment, trade and migration flows, and provide information to all Mediterranean states.

Protecting multifunctional agriculture means helping to improve the quality of its products, creating jobs and protecting the environment; in particular, it means helping young people set up on their own, so as to prevent desertification and preserve the rural fabric.

**Mr BEDIN (Italy)** - The future of Mediterranean agriculture will be determined by logistics. The countries in the Mediterranean basin are far away from the markets, and it is essential to create a suitable infrastructure for conserving and transporting products rapidly from producing regions to consumers. Following the 1998 Capri forum, a number of projects for this purpose were submitted to the European Commission on Italy's initiative; no reply has yet been received. This conference should now pass on the request.

**Mr AGIUS, member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Committee on the Environment and Agriculture (Malta)** - This conference has been eagerly awaited, and I am pleased and honoured to address it.

The Council of Europe's task is to defend and protect human rights. In the field we are examining today, this primarily means the right to life, to a decent standard of living and to a protected environment. Malta, a member of the Council of Europe and a candidate for EU membership, is playing a part in achieving these goals: my country has always worked for peace between the Mediterranean peoples.

Agriculture's role is not simply to produce: agriculture also helps to preserve the social fabric. Population density on Malta is one of the highest in the world, and agricultural land is scarce: human resources are Malta's greatest asset. Accordingly, Malta urges that knowledge and experience be shared, so that people, and especially the young, can be trained and bilateral and multilateral co-operation strengthened.

Access to water as and where necessary is a major problem, for which the solution can only be political. The Council of Europe has already examined the matter on several occasions and published valuable studies on the subject. The introduction of marketing systems is another essential question.

We will not be discouraged: we are all working towards the same goal, that of improving our populations' quality of life. Uncontrolled capitalism victimises too many people: centralised planning has resulted only in disillusion. A middle way exists, that of common sense and genuine solidarity.

The Barcelona Process should be revived as a matter of urgency, and I would suggest that a conference like this one be held every three years.

**Mr DINE (Algeria)** - Algerian agriculture employs 25% of the working population and accounts for 12% of GDP.

There is still a wide gulf between production and consumption of basic food products (cereals, oil, milk), which are mostly imported. Our vulnerability is illustrated by the cost of food imports (\$2.2 billion per year) and imports intended for agricultural input (\$550 million). Our country is the world's leading importer of durum wheat and one of the ten leading importers of food. At the same time, meat, fruit and vegetables are produced in Algeria.

Our exports represent only 3% of the value of our imports.

Production has increased by an average of 5% over the past decade.

Of an area of 238 million hectares, 47 are used for agriculture: 8 million hectares of useable agricultural land, 32 million hectares of steppe and 7 million hectares of forest.

The agricultural policy implemented since independence has not produced the expected results: there are discrepancies between agricultural policy and food and agri-food policies; there is substantial state intervention in the management of the agricultural sector, along with trade regulation, constant changes in management approaches and land-register problems. These are all major hurdles.

Agriculture is currently faced with two structural constraints: the lack of organisation of the agricultural sector, and the heavy demand for food imports.

However, the transition to a market economy has brought about far-reaching changes. A new strategy for agricultural development is beginning to take shape: the regions' agricultural focus is to be revived, their competitiveness increased, and agricultural land is to be re-organised to attract investment and make it easier to set up farms and food-

processing firms. As part of this strategy, various development programmes have been devised:

- developing production for mass consumption: adapting crops to the natural conditions (conversion); afforestation for economic purposes; steppe development and protection; promoting organic farming; planning and integrated development in mountain areas.

This is expected to produce ecological benefits (preservation of the eco-system), economic results (diversification of production and increase in yield) and social benefits (creation of 650,000 jobs in four years).

We require help and finance to consolidate implementation of these programmes: transfer of knowledge and know-how to modernise agriculture, help in bringing legislation up to standard with a view to membership of the WTO and the establishment of a free trade zone, and foreign investment in the context of active partnerships (particularly for developing the Saharan area).

**Mr IDRIS (Egypt)** - At their last meeting, the Agriculture Ministers of the ICAMAS member states concluded that there were more areas of agreement than of disagreement between the countries on the two shores of the Mediterranean.

For example, there is the co-operation between Egypt, France and Italy as regards production of a very high-yield variety of durum wheat, already grown in the United States and used to make pasta, semolina, and high-quality flour.

ICAMAS has emphasised the need for training to improve productivity. Why not set up an Institute in a southern Mediterranean country such as Egypt?

Agriculture, a sensitive sector for Mediterranean countries, will only prosper if there is peace. Accordingly, the massacres in the Israeli-occupied territories must stop. I would remind you that 45,000 olive trees have been uprooted in occupied Palestine. This shows the extent to which agriculture is suffering on account of the conflict.

**Mr GENÇ (Turkey)** - The Mediterranean, the cradle of our civilisation, enjoys a climate that favours agriculture. This conference has brought together countries from its shores with eastern and central European states.

Turkey, which has a population of about 60 million and a substantial land surface, has been forging ties with the European Communities since 1963, and signed a partnership agreement in 1966. We suffered as a result, because the exchange was unfair. Our agriculture went through a difficult period. Turkey was self-sufficient, and indeed an exporting country: today exports and imports are balanced, but we have high inflation and our economy is unstable.

Turkey is sufficiently rich in natural resources, but we need massive investment to exploit its hydraulic potential, which is chiefly located in the mountains. Of 8 million hectares of arable land, only 3.5 million are irrigated.

Irrigation would greatly increase our agricultural productivity. We have close links to Mediterranean countries with identical production structures. We are competitive on the international markets, and our production is diversified: figs, dried fruit, apricots, cotton, grapes, etc.

We participate in numerous regional and international forums.

We are involved in the Barcelona Process, which will increase understanding between Mediterranean countries and with other states.

**Mr PEREZ LAPAZARAN (Spain)** - The Mediterranean countries need an agricultural model that corresponds to their situation and will provide them with produce for export while ensuring that the whole area is covered. In this respect multifunctionality is essential, whatever a country's level of development: there must be rural areas where agriculture can develop and, in developed countries, dynamic rural areas.

With multifunctionality, agriculture becomes sustainable: it helps combat desertification and manage basic natural resources such as water. All possible measures must be taken to prevent rural exodus and environmental damage. We must work together to defend local products, ensure traceability and strengthen co-operation as a means of exchanging ideas and sharing experience in both the north-south and the east-west directions.

I hope that this conference will produce a strong Euro-Mediterranean bloc that will defend the model of multifunctional agriculture in all international forums, beginning with the WTO.

**Mr CHERIF, Member of Parliament, Rapporteur for the Agriculture Committee (Tunisia)** - I hope that this conference will move Euro-Mediterranean dialogue forward and enable agriculture to take its rightful place in discussions, as inadequate attention is devoted to it in the various regional and international agreements.

Agriculture is a sector of fundamental importance for Tunisia's development and its fragile ecological balance (threatened as it is by desertification). It employs 22% of the labour force but is experiencing a water shortage after years of drought. Accordingly, we have adopted a policy on water use which regulates consumption.

Co-operation between countries on the two shores of the Mediterranean should take the form of a partnership based on mutual concerns: nations have no choice but to enter into dialogue, despite social and cultural differences.

The Mediterranean area is threatened by globalisation: it is like a bird, needing both wings to fly, and the southern wing should be strengthened. Tunisia has signed a partnership agreement with the European Union, appended to which is a protocol on agriculture.

We intend to ensure that the Mediterranean is a living environment that guarantees development and prosperity for its peoples.

**Mr CONSTANTINIDES, Secretary General of the Union of Cypriot farmers (Cyprus)** - Our era is characterised by globalisation of trade. In this context, and in

view of the European Union's prospective enlargement, Cyprus is attempting to diversify its agricultural production and bring it into line with EU norms. This is expensive, since serious structural problems must be resolved - small farm size, debt, lack of marketing facilities, insufficient finance - and at the same time its farmers must enjoy a decent standard of living. Accordingly, Cyprus has adopted a policy of providing financial support for agriculture and promoting product quality and research.

As pointed out in Barcelona and on numerous instances at this conference, the precondition for development remains peace and dialogue between peoples. I call for such dialogue in all the region's occupied territories, particularly Palestine.

**Mr FIORI, member of the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Italy)** - Today's meeting is an excellent opportunity to make progress. Just as we are all trying to identify new prospects for our farming industries, EU policy is suffering from a singular lack of vision. Former markets no longer exist, and competition is increasingly fierce. Certain questions need urgent attention, such as the future role of farming enterprises, market regulation, the management of resources and regional development. Not to mention the fact that enlarging to the east should not mean losing interest in the south.

I believe that policies can be found that will result in peace, prosperity, co-operation between nations and control of migration. I hope that the guidelines from this conference will inspire European governments and the European Commission.

**Mr PACETTI, President of the Italian Confederation of Farmers (CIA) (Italy)** - Mediterranean agriculture, to which the CAP has given very little attention in the past, should now set itself several objectives. Farmers' incomes and a sustainable and multifunctional agricultural model can only be defended if agriculture is highly productive. We are farmers, not gardeners. Without strong agriculture and a sufficient number of farmers, there will be no planning, no regional balance and no development! A balance should therefore be re-established between the European Union's different regions, especially between the north and south.

Mediterranean agriculture, with its own specific features and potential, the quality of its products, eco-tourism and the care that it puts into food safety, can be the basis of a multifunctional agricultural model; more generally, it can help to support the European development model. This topic should be re-examined by the European Union with a view to setting up a Mediterranean free trade area, with the co-operation of trade associations from the southern countries.

**Mr FRANZ, Member of Parliament (Italy)** - Strong agriculture cannot exist in the south so long as peace and stability are absent. Europe should be more active in this area.

The Mediterranean has a remarkable agriculture that can serve as a model and a reference, although there are still problems to be resolved. In any event, the new rules should be clear, specific and applicable everywhere: I am referring to the safety, production and quality standards. This is not protectionism, since consumers' health depends on such measures. A market without rules will not function properly. At the same time, the current practice of establishing quotas for certain products is in complete contradiction with the principle of free movement.

**Mr COHEN, Member of Parliament (Israel)** - I have devoted 29 years of my life to farming, in an Israeli kibbutz, and ten years to the search for peace with our neighbours and stability. I believe we can all contribute to consolidating the cease-fire and to an end to violence. We will achieve our objectives as genuine agricultural activists by working for co-operation between nations.

Israel is already co-operating with Jordan and Egypt, and with many other countries, as far away as Australia. We believe that co-operation throughout the Mediterranean basin can be strengthened - indeed, this is what was happening until the latest Intifada began.

Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Syria: we are all short of water. We are headed for catastrophe if we do not act together, with Europeans and others: the region will suffer and agriculture will be threatened.

We need European political help on the path to peace and stability, and we need Europe's co-operation in the agricultural field.

**Mr GRAEFE ZU BARINGDORF (Germany)** - We are all agreed that we want peace. Why do we not have it? We want solidarity in agriculture as in other fields. Why do we not have it? Because in discussing solidarity we often mean solidarity on the part of others! What is Israel doing for peace? What are the Palestinians doing for peace? What are we doing ourselves? Every year, the European Union's agricultural policy leads to the destruction of 500,000 jobs: if it is applied to the south and to the central and eastern European countries, how many jobs will be lost?

How are markets to be regulated? What criteria should be used in distributing public money? For example, if the old-style CAP's streamlining methods were imposed in Poland, where 20% of the population depends on farming, millions of people would lose their jobs! What about the free movement of people, in particular workers? Should a transitional period be introduced, as Germany has suggested?

The European Union subsidises exports: this is distorting competition. However, there is no common yardstick to production conditions in the southern countries and our own - another source of unfair competition. Not to mention the competition between the Union's member states. I grow potatoes in Westphalia, and every spring I pray that the weather in Italy or Spain won't be too good and that the new potatoes won't come on the market too early.

In the European Parliament, we are trying to defend the rural environment, to lose the old rationalisation reflexes - producing more at lower cost - and to focus on product quality, the environment, regional planning and health.

**Mr BASCOU, Member of Parliament (France)** - The French Parliament is pleased to be associated with this renewal of the Barcelona Process for Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

In order to be sustainable, Mediterranean agriculture must take into account the problems of water management and desertification. The Barcelona Process and opening up trade for the purpose of creating a free trade area in 2010 are moves towards economic development and political stability, but involve products that are subject to very strong competition: the consequences for producers should be borne in mind. Trade should not be developed to the detriment of research into food safety and national independence. Methods should be sought of ensuring product complementarity and harmonising standards.

The specific properties of Mediterranean produce should be affirmed, and referred to via an indication of their geographical origin or the quality seal used in France: these protective measures add value to products, while responding to consumers' demands for authenticity and traceability. Such products have added value and create employment. In this age of market globalisation, they should be defended. IFAP seeks to do this. I would like to see a forum set up for exchanging information and sharing experience in research and training, and the inclusion of agriculture in the MEDA programmes with a view to the promotion of regional projects, the transfer of know-how and the establishment of common standards and rules.

However, economic co-operation will only be possible if peace and stability return to the Mediterranean region. I can only echo the sentiments already expressed regarding the resumption of the peace process involving Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

**Mr PENHA PEREIRA, Member of Parliament (Portugal)** - The Portuguese delegation is pleased that this conference has been organised with a view to seeking joint solutions for sustainable agricultural development and rural planning.

I hope that all these good intentions will be transformed into action. We must build bridges between peoples. In the Mediterranean region, agriculture and the environment are complementary, and two disturbing problems demand attention: management of water resources and increasing desertification following the rise in average global temperature. Reforestation is needed, and fallow land should be brought back into use. All agricultural policies should focus on restoring the Mediterranean forest, which plays an important role in the water cycle.

I wish this conference success, and hope for strengthened co-operation between the peoples of the Mediterranean basin.

**Mr FARRUGIA, Member of Parliament (Malta)** - I would like, in a few words, to outline the position as regards Maltese agriculture. In ten years, the rural population has fallen by 80%. There are now only 1000 full-time farmers, but there are as many civil servants in the Ministry of Agriculture! We have no agriculture policy: we are in a micro-economic context, with extremely fragmented property that is protected by ancient laws.

Our task is to save agriculture in Malta: we are not over-producing and are not likely to flood markets - rather, our markets are in danger of being swamped. The opening up of markets, allegedly so profitable, is liable to destroy Maltese agriculture for the sake of free trade.

Our farmers supply the population with fruit and vegetables, but produce nothing else because of the lack of land: there are only ten thousand hectares of arable land; the rest is meant for construction.

I call on all European farmers to examine this question with us: without help, Maltese agriculture will have disappeared in ten years' time.

**Mr SHAKHAMBEH, Union of Jordanian Farmers (Jordan)** - We expect Europe to assist the Arab countries in a partnership context. Peace is necessary if agriculture is to prosper; opening up to the east should be accompanied by a parallel opening up to the south.

Co-operation with Europe will help Jordan develop its agriculture and provide market outlets that will eventually raise farmers' standard of living. Jordan is not without assets: quality products are grown in the region between the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers.

The Mediterranean is a bridgehead between Arab countries; we have a rich heritage in terms of irrigation. We need European assistance, in the form of training and investment, in order to develop our agriculture in a sustainable way. We have developed programmes to combat illiteracy and poverty.

We support the European position on combating the greenhouse effect, which is detrimental to agriculture: five years of drought have ruined our cereal production.

We hope that the leading countries will assume their responsibilities in combating these problems.

**Mr PROCACCI, member of the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Italy)** - The Barcelona Process is losing momentum: a major global policy initiative is required if a free trade zone is to be set up by 2010.

It is provocation to suggest that Israel join the European Union: the same thing could be suggested to all the neighbouring countries.

The European Union has not given the same attention to the South as to eastern Europe. We hope that this situation will change.

Yesterday, Mr Fischler argued in favour of prudence, via the introduction of quotas. This does not rule out better co-ordination of the Mediterranean countries' trade policies.

Take the example of olive oil: low labour costs mean that some countries' production is competitive. Why should there be fighting between peoples? Why not co-ordinate the activities of the world's only olive oil producers so that their product is available internationally? Let us pool our efforts rather than fighting each other. Exporting to Asia

or America requires an integrated transport system. Specialisation is required, and national and regional production on the two shores of the Mediterranean should be made complementary.

The MEDA programmes are badly implemented: some of the money made available is not used. Information and support measures should be improved, as was done successfully in the Balkans.

I hope that this kind of conference becomes a permanent fixture, so that we can build a Euro-Mediterranean policy together.

**Mr BOULARD (France)** - Many of the speakers have emphasised this conference's importance as a forum for exchange, dialogue and identifying common goals. Like several others, I would ask that a conference be held regularly to assess progress.

A unanimous desire for peace has also been expressed, as a precondition for agricultural prosperity.

How is multifunctionality to be defined? Agriculture remains an economic activity, but that does not stop us promoting its products' quality and authenticity. The price must also be remunerative for the producer. Multifunctionality is Mediterranean agriculture's strength, but sometimes also its weakness: its producers compete against each other (take the example of new potatoes). It is barely protected by the CAP and frequently used as a bargaining tool in international agreements. Its fragility will be further increased by the EU's eastward expansion.

Its multifunctionality has meant that Mediterranean agriculture, in which the objectives are not merely commercial, has been sacrificed somewhat on the altar of an exclusively commercial globalisation.

Everyone agrees that we must move forward and find a sustainable partnership-based solution: technical co-operation (durum wheat), diversification (forestry) and training. A Euro-Mediterranean observatory has been suggested, together with the founding of an ICAMAS Institute in a southern country.

All these measures would help farmers understand each other better.

The commercial aspects should be re-examined: communication and regulation should be improved in partnership, so that competition does not become a negative phenomenon.

If everyone is to benefit from development, the goal of free trade must be maintained so that the Mediterranean basin eventually becomes an open market where real solidarity is used to combat one-sided selfishness.

*Mr HATZIDAKIS, Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism, took the chair*

**Session 2: Towards sustainable rural development in the Mediterranean basin**

**The CHAIR:** All the speakers have referred to the same issues: this is no coincidence, since the problems are shared by all farmers in the Mediterranean basin. With a view to the creation of a free trade zone in 2010, measures should be taken to make the transition easier, help diversify production, develop agricultural multifunctionality, create jobs and, most important of all, encourage young people to set up as farmers; in short, to preserve the rural world's fragile balance.

The European Union's agricultural policy has for many years focused on markets, subsidies and assistance. But farmers are not just entrepreneurs: they contribute to development, regional planning, environmental protection and social cohesion at national and international level. Agenda 2000 made progress in recognising these new functions. The MEDA II programmes will be a move in the right direction, as they are primarily concerned with hydraulic resources, the organisation of agriculture and infrastructure.

Let's be imaginative and look for ways of remunerating farmers in ways other than product price. Let's consider how to rationalise the use of scarce resources, help farmers master market processes, forestall tensions in the Mediterranean, combat poverty and co-operate across the Mediterranean. May this conference provide answers to these questions!

**Mr BESOSTRI, Rapporteur, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Environment and Agriculture, Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly -** Globalisation has positive and negative aspects. In this context, Europe, which wishes to become a leading player on the international stage, has recognised its historical and spiritual responsibilities, especially with regard to the countries in the Mediterranean basin. This is particularly the case as regards agriculture, which provides an income for millions of people and a supply of good-quality, safe food. In our extremely health-conscious world, practices were developed that have resulted in "mad cow disease", foot-and-mouth disease, and who knows what else. It is essential to restore consumer and public confidence.

For many years, emphasis was placed on growth and GDP, but are these really the essential issues? Has the time not come to think about sustainable development? Agriculture is very sensitive to climatic fluctuations: isn't it time to face up to global warming? Economic, social and environmental problems are closely linked in our regions: it is important to have a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to agriculture. How can we envisage sustainable development if imbalances persist between regions and between countries?

In the rich countries, certain sections of society do not wish to know about co-operation and solidarity: the same people plan to settle immigration issues through police

measures. Yet immigration is the child of despair. In some countries, a little extra confidence would be enough to end a situation that often resembles trafficking in human beings. It is in Europe's interest that agriculture should be developed in the southern countries, even if this entails certain sacrifices: it must invest for future generations. If competition is balanced, it can contribute to development - but this is not currently the case: one need only think about subsidies on the one hand, and production conditions on the other. These imbalances should be corrected. Diversification of production is a good idea, but difficult to put into practice. Production and consumption of local produce should be promoted, as well as complementary activities such as agro-tourism.

The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament have adopted numerous resolutions and made at least as many proposals about the future of Euro-Mediterranean agriculture. What is currently missing is the political will to move forward and promote the necessary co-operation. A bilateral approach is inappropriate, since agricultural questions concern everyone. Contrary to the assertions made by ideologists supporting unrestrained free trade, development also involves political will and the balance of power.

**Mr CARO, ASAJA (Spain)** - Sustainable development is in fact only the beginning. If Mediterranean agriculture is to maintain its competitiveness in the globalisation process, it needs structural reform, admittedly, but also a stable policy and regulatory framework. Equally, particular attention must be given to the question of water provision, especially in view of the long period of drought experienced by certain countries. Another key area is helping young people to set up on their own, so as to ensure the rural world's future. Greater attention must be given to food safety, the environment and regional planning. In short, we must defend this agricultural model, of which we are proud and which farmers all want to improve further.

**Mr BEDIN (Italy)** - Sustainable development will come about through joint efforts, not some miraculous market process. Desertification isn't just an image - remember our Maltese colleague's comments, and the 1000 remaining farmers on the island. Producers must try to organise themselves, so as to ensure better access to markets and to resolve logistical and transport problems. For their part, parliamentarians should enable producers to be heard: so long as the European Union treats large multi-nationals and farmers' organisations in the same way, we'll get no further than fine speeches.

Producers must come together, and also join forces with consumers, as represented by their members of parliament.

Finally, we must pay the utmost attention to food safety and promoting local produce.

**Mr LAKIR, Member of Parliament (Morocco)** - Agriculture creates wealth and maintains populations in rural areas, thus helping to prevent all the disadvantages of emigration to rich northern countries.

We have a rural development programme, based on increasing the irrigated area by constructing dams (one per year from 1970 to 2000, when the five-year plan began, and three per year since then).

We still have progress to make in terms of saving water through rational use. One irrigated hectare represents five permanent jobs.

In line with UN recommendations on the environment, we have decided on a national forest programme that includes forests in the rural development process. The national programme for enhancing drove routes is intended to improve vegetation cover and provide watering points for livestock.

We have a programme for basic infrastructure, to help the development of rural areas. Like the electrification programme, the drinking water programme will benefit three and a half million people over the next five years. The road programme provides for the building of 3000 km of road per year, compared with 1000 km previously. The social and educational programme is designed to provide universal education for children, to combat illiteracy among farmers and provide training for them, and to improve medical care and health services.

All the programmes are supported by the World Bank and implemented with the help of NGOs.

Other programmes are intended to reduce the gulf between the countryside and the towns.

The programme for diversifying economic activity in rural areas is intended to develop specialised crops, especially in mountain areas. A standing inter-ministerial committee for development is responsible for evaluating, co-ordinating and integrating activities and for mobilising human and financial resources. Since public finance is limited, the available resources must be allocated more effectively: part of the revenue from privatisation is being invested in rural areas. The public can participate in financing projects that interest them: for example, their investment may be as high as 5% in programmes to provide drinking water, or 10-30% for road-building programmes; financial resources are raised through partnerships between the rural municipalities, NGOs and international organisations.

Morocco needs funding for all the development programmes I have mentioned. I invite our European partners to invest in Morocco, to support its long-term development plan and contribute to the country's progress towards human rights and democracy.

**Mr KABAĞCI, President of the Union of Turkish Cypriot Farmers (Cyprus)** - I would like to thank the organisers for inviting us to this conference, which should become a regular event.

The difficulties encountered in the Mediterranean region call for co-ordinated action: drought is preventing development. An insurance system should be developed, so that farmers need not fear loss of income.

International opinion is poorly informed about the Cypriot conflict's impact on agriculture. The Union of Turkish Cypriot Farmers, set up in 1953, has 17,000 members in the north of the island. For years, our exports were blocked on account of the embargo imposed by the Court of Justice. This unfair decision caused us many

difficulties. Ten years ago, we were exporting 50,000 tons of potatoes; today we import them.

I do not wish to politicise this conference excessively, but I would like to point out that only international pressure can put an end to this injustice. We are not asking for any special treatment: we simply want to be able to work like other farmers.

Mr Constantinides has claimed that the north of Cyprus is occupied in the same way as Palestine. That is not true: the north has been at peace for 27 years, in contrast to the pre-1974 situation. We want this peace to continue, nothing more.

**The CHAIR** - At this conference devoted to co-operation, we will hear all points of view, but we should emphasise the need for solidarity between countries. Let us hope that the Cypriot problem will be settled and that the country's farmers' lot will improve when the island as a whole becomes part of the European Union.

**Mr GENC (Turkey)** - Turkey is seeking to develop its agriculture, not an easy proposition given the state of its infrastructure.

The country is facing structural problems: population density, the fact that the land is divided up into small plots, and water scarcity.

Changing the Inheritance Act, which will make agriculture more competitive, will not be enough to improve farmers' standard of living. The government should provide greater assistance.

IFAP studies have clearly shown that sustainable development in the Mediterranean basin is inextricably linked with development of the agricultural sector.

Turkey has 4 million farmers and 25 million rural residents; farms are small, and farmers have hardly any welfare protection. The country has too few roads, SMEs, etc.

The population in the countryside remains high because agriculture provides employment.

The European Union's rural development policy could be implemented in the Mediterranean countries. The various aspects of Agenda 2000 are of interest to Turkey.

A consolidation policy for small and medium-sized farms should be drawn up in the context of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation.

All countries in the region should join forces to develop irrigation and prevent soil erosion and deforestation, in the context of peaceful international co-operation.

**Ms RODRIGUEZ RAMOS, member of the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Spain)** - The rural development policy pursued to date has been based on an economic approach that led to urbanisation. This trend was exacerbated in the Mediterranean countries, where huge sections of the population moved to the towns or emigrated.

Economic policy should now focus on rural development. Agriculture plays a key role here, since it is still the principal source of income in rural areas. The consequences of its collapse would be catastrophic.

The policy pursued to date should be amended: forty years of the CAP have not prevented rural exodus. The rural development policy, of which Agenda 2000 is a part, presupposes national and regional participation, and is thus subject to regional and national priorities. This leads to the paradox that rural regions are treated less well than other regions.

We must rethink the whole process in order to find an effective policy that will improve citizens' living standards.

**Mr DINE (Algeria)** - Agriculture plays a crucial role in sustainable development, in responding to public expectations and opening up to external markets.

The fundamental disparities between the Mediterranean countries are due to the deadlock in the agricultural policies implemented in the South. The MEDA programmes should include an agricultural/rural section.

**Mr KALLIO, the European Union's Economic and Social Committee (Finland)** - The Economic and Social Committee is collaborating with the Mediterranean countries. With reference to co-operation, we should include agriculture in sustainable rural development. However, it is difficult to develop trade rapidly, since conditions vary from country to country. Naturally, each country tends to defend its own producers.

I have difficulty in understanding exactly what is meant by "sustainable rural development". The experts are not in agreement and each has his or her own definition.

However, we ought to work together to improve rural development in the Mediterranean countries. Agriculture plays an essential role from an environmental perspective. Several references have been made to scarce water resources and deforestation, problems to which the European Union has not paid sufficient attention, despite the fact that they play a decisive role in sustainable development in Europe as a whole, and the Mediterranean region in particular.

I welcome the fact that this conference, with its emphasis on co-operation, is being held, and regret the low attendance by northern European countries, since we are poorly informed about the situation in the southern countries.

Electronics have made communication easy, but nothing can replace direct dialogue, and I am very pleased to hear so many languages being spoken at this conference.

**Mr BASIAKOS, Member of Parliament (Greece)** - It's a good idea to institutionalise Euro-Mediterranean dialogue, peace and regional stability being the obvious prerequisites. Pursuing the enlargement process eastward and southward will only succeed if courageous political decisions are taken to alleviate the impact of market liberalisation. Greece is experiencing many problems in this connection: differences in development between countries and regions, water scarcity, and the high proportion of people employed in agriculture.

Given the European Union's resources, those member states receiving financial support will have to share it with the new members. Clear questions should be asked about agricultural living standards, which are currently very low, balanced regional development, employment, product outlets, relations between the European Union's centre and outlying regions. The resources currently allocated to rural areas are inversely proportional to the urgency of the problems they face!

In the future, we ought to concern ourselves primarily with environmental questions such as water shortages, desertification, which is gaining ground, fire prevention, the protection of ecosystems, and the misuse of pesticides.

**Mr MACIAS, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee (Spain)** - I am very pleased that this successful conference is being held. Agricultural development is an essential objective for the Euro-Mediterranean basin: of course, it requires peace and stability, but also widespread co-operation at all levels, so as to overcome the dangers of competition that is all too often suicidal. If we all work together, we will be able to find solutions.

I am aware of the sacrifices made by farmers in the Canaries in order to earn a living from the land, and of the problems they face, such as access to new technologies or the scarcity and cost of water. Island status should be given greater consideration. I have taken a close interest in sustainable development, and I would ask that agriculture's multifunctionality be taken into account in the globalisation process.

The development of civilisations has always been linked to agriculture, especially in our countries. At a time when the European Union is enlarging, it cannot and should not forget the Mediterranean basin.

**Mr IDRIS (Egypt)** - Egyptian agriculture has had greater freedom for making improvements since the 1980s. Farmers have supported a policy based on bringing additional land into use, diversifying the top-down structures and developing livestock rearing, fish-farming and poultry-farming. Mention should also be made of rationalisation of the use of water resources, the reduction of pesticide use, improvements in product quality, protection of the environment, the promotion of exports, agronomic research, measures to combat rural poverty, help for NGOs, support for young people starting out and direct investment.

**Mr FARRUGIA (Malta)** - Malta is a small country, with one of the highest population densities in the world and mass tourism. Imports account for 90% of consumption. The opposition is against joining the European Union and in favour of strengthening bilateral and multilateral relations, in line with the Swiss model.

For its part, the Government has already increased the taxes on agricultural produce from countries outside the European Union. EU membership will mean that we lose exclusive use of our fishing zones. Malta is threatened by social and economic instability: the price of foodstuffs and services will rise, production and fishing will decline and the competitiveness of our products will be affected. We must introduce a conservation plan to promote organic farming and preservation of our fish stocks, assist diversification and protect the environment. This is important for a multi-cultural

society, typical of the Mediterranean basin.

**Ms LOURENÇO, Member of Parliament (Portugal)** - I congratulate the conference organisers and wish them every success.

Environmental protection, product diversification and food safety are among the conditions for sustainable agricultural development in the region. Portugal has been heavily involved in the WTO negotiations and the EU's enlargement process, believing that although Europe needs competitive agriculture, it must not forget that rural areas are part of its heritage. Tariff questions are important, but multifunctionality is very important too. Reform of the CAP must take account of factors such as respect for the environment, quality of life, food safety, animal protection and the defence of labels designating the origin of produce.

Of course, compromises will be required, but they must not hinder economic development. Portugal will play its part. It believes that co-operation between the Mediterranean countries is an absolute priority.

**Mr MOUISSET, Member of Parliament (Morocco)** - I am speaking in my role as a member of parliament but also as a fruit and vegetable exporter. I hope that this conference will help reduce the conflicts of interest between the two shores of the Mediterranean.

Rural development has been a priority in Morocco for the past twenty years. New dams have enabled a million additional hectares to be irrigated. Large-scale investment has been made to improve the infrastructure. For their part, farmers have undertaken the task of modernising their farms, adapting logistics and production tools and improving the quality of their produce so as to conform with EU market standards. They have made very considerable efforts to diversify and find new outlets despite the European Union's unfair competition and export subsidies, to protect the environment, a source of pride, and to control the use of plant protection products. Despite these efforts, exports to our traditional European markets have plummeted. We hope that access to these markets will be made easier.

This conference is an excellent opportunity to discuss decisive strategic issues for the region's future. Morocco actively supports ICAMAS's initiatives.

**Mr BACHA (Tunisia)** - Sustainable development derives from well thought-out policies that mobilise national resources for the benefit of future generations: farmers should therefore be involved in the process.

What is the cost of sustainable development? In many ways, it restricts farmers' incomes by limiting the use of natural resources. Since government assistance is insufficient, agriculture ought to be included in the MEDA programmes.

Product marketing, without which nothing is possible, must be reconsidered. Action must be taken to combat poverty, which pushes people to emigrate. We have set up a development fund in Tunisia, to which the most well-off citizens contribute, in order to improve the population's living conditions (providing districts with a water supply, electricity, etc). Why does this conference not call on the international community to set up a solidarity fund for this purpose?

We know that farmers on the north and south of the Mediterranean have different opinions; this conference can help to bring their perspectives closer, with a view to genuine co-operation that will be to everyone's benefit.

**Mr PIPERGIAS, Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Production and Trade (Greece)** - I congratulate the organisers of this conference, and share the view that peace and stability must be ensured in this region, not only in the Middle East, but also in the Balkans, with the problem of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. We hope that Europe will succeed in finding a solution. Words are not enough; action must be taken to establish peace and ensure respect for international institutions.

The international community cannot impose its decisions by force in one area and remain inactive in another when the territory of a UN member state is under military occupation. I call on Turkey to respect international decisions.

People do not emigrate only because they dream of a better life in another country, but because they feel insecure. Conflicts should be settled peacefully.

Although our country is not currently benefiting from the rules in force, we agree with opening up markets as part of a regional approach, and that the European Union and Mediterranean countries should take a joint stand in the context of WTO negotiations.

With regard to environmental questions, we are aware that the greenhouse effect will lead to desertification and drought in certain regions: America's refusal to ratify the Kyoto protocol can only be regretted. While we cannot change the world overnight, we can seek to improve it gradually by a series of measures.

I agree that a LEADER programme should include agriculture and tourism.

The Mediterranean diet's beneficial health effects are now known: this is an encouragement to grow local produce - we will have a chance to sample some at the buffet shortly - and ensure that it is distributed throughout the world.

**Mr BESOSTRI (Italy)** - This conference has been deemed important by everyone: farmers and national and European parliamentarians need to get together to avoid national insularity.

Sustainable development in agriculture is not only a technical problem: it has social, environmental and other aspects. Claims that it is expensive to maintain the rural population are poor arithmetic. What does abandoned countryside cost? In Italy, we have seen that the decline of hill farming has led to catastrophes with a much higher cost!

I would like to thank Mr Kallio, the only representative from a northern country: reforestation is indeed an economic and environmental challenge.

**Mr GUYAU, *Association permanente des chambres d'agriculture (France)*** - I am happy to address you here in Strasbourg, a very symbolic European city, as a representative of France, which belongs both to the north and to the south. I thank my friend Avolio for inviting me to this conference: I know that he has been working for years to bring about greater contact between farmers from the north and south, as a genuine contribution to peace.

More than ever, we need to listen to each other, to discuss things and to strengthen our partnership.

We must alert politicians: agriculture should be given its place in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, in the context of a rekindled Barcelona Process and the MEDA programmes.

For French, European and southern farmers, it is essential to give new impetus to co-operation.

Agriculture plays a key role: how can the southern countries envisage long-term social and economic stability without encouraging agriculture, when farmers account for 35% of the population?

Acknowledging multifunctionality and promoting the European agricultural model will enable regional identities to be respected.

The Mediterranean countries have their own challenges to face: modernisation, water supply, agricultural and food policy.

How can increases in farm size and investment be promoted without harming the social fabric? What is the best way of managing irrigation and water scarcity? How is coherence to be preserved between food policies linked to urbanisation and agricultural policies aimed at improving farmers' incomes?

We must bring the positions of the northern and southern Mediterranean further into line with each other, so that we can embark on the WTO negotiations without being crushed by ultra-liberal policy that is incompatible with sustainable agriculture.

On behalf of the chambers of agriculture, I greet all the participants at this conference and, on behalf of IFAP, I invite you all to make your way to the buffet, where you will have the opportunity to sample Mediterranean produce, which is a source of life and good health.

***The session was suspended at 1 pm and resumed at 3 pm.***



*In the chair: Mr BOUHADJAR, President of the Algerian National Chamber of Agriculture*

**Session 3: Agricultural trade issues: the challenges posed by enlargement and the WTO**

**The CHAIR** – As I open this session, I would like to pay tribute to Mr Avolio, who has worked tirelessly so that this event could finally take place.

**Mrs RODRIGUEZ RAMOS, rapporteur, member of the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (Spain)** – In the second half of 2000, under the Portuguese Presidency, the desire to strengthen the Euro-Mediterranean dimension of the European Union resulted in new measures liberalising trade in agricultural produce, based on the principles of a progressive approach and reciprocity and complying with the guidelines laid down by the Barcelona Declaration and the WTO.

The European Union faces two challenges: WTO negotiations and enlargement. Regret was expressed in some quarters over the binding commitments entered into in Marrakech in connection with the liberalisation of agricultural trade, be it regarding access to markets or export subsidies. Since the dismantling of trade barriers is an irreversible process, other questions are now the focus of debate, such as the role to be played by public authorities in softening the negative impact of liberalisation, or the possible creation of an international democratic institution responsible for laying down social, environmental or product quality standards.

Given the sensitive and fragile nature of the sector, especially in the Mediterranean basin, specific measures are required. The European Union must adopt a coherent position and hold up, both within the community and outside it, a single agricultural model, combining economics, environmental protection, food safety and regional planning - in a word, a model that is multifunctional. That is the only way for agriculture to get a fair deal in the WTO negotiations. And this applies particularly to Mediterranean agriculture which in essence is multifunctional. Europeans must form a united front to uphold regulations which are straightforward and flexible enough to allow all countries to pursue policies based on concerns that are other than commercial. For its part, the European Union must be capable of making its partners realise that its insistence on multifunctionality is not just a pretext for maintaining the old-style CAP. After all, Agenda 2000 clearly points the way forward and the United States are hardly in a position to give lessons: their direct aid to producers has risen from 2,000 to 12,000 dollars in the space of 15 years.

The concept of multifunctionality is a means of at last reconciling productivity and environmental protection. There could be provision for specifically targeted aid. And the convergence of European and world prices must be negotiated on a product by product basis, with the most sensitive sectors receiving special treatment.

Within the European Union enlargement process, the candidate countries are making substantial efforts to adapt their agriculture to the community *acquis*. The debate

continues over health issues, direct aid and quotas. Whatever happens, these countries must be given serious guarantees, as the percentage of their working population engaged in agriculture is far higher than the Union average.

There are differing views on the consequences of enlargement for Euro-Mediterranean trade. The new member states will represent 44% of the surface area of the new Union and 30% of its agricultural production. Many fear that very sizeable shares of the most sensitive sectors will be snapped up by third countries in the Mediterranean. But at the same time, enlargement will open up new markets; there will undeniably be new opportunities to seize.

The European Parliament has made proposals on all these issues. As far as Euro-Mediterranean partnership is concerned, it suggests replacing association agreements with a single multilateral agreement, fostering stronger integration between the countries of the south and encouraging them to enter into free-trade agreements.

Conferences, such as this one, could prove useful, as would a Euro-Mediterranean conference of agricultural ministers.

The MEDA programmes must be used to support the structural reform of farming operations, with a view to creating a free-trade area: a specific budget heading would avoid all the funding going elsewhere than the agriculture sector.

The countries of the Mediterranean and the European Union are allies, not competitors, in the defence of European agriculture within the WTO. The Mediterranean countries must think in terms of diversity, not competition: diversity goes with multifunctionality.

The employment and development prospects offered by trade are undeniable but the opening up of markets must benefit all the countries. The liberalisation of trade, where the Mediterranean area is concerned, will require compensation and reconversion measures for entire regions in the European Union.

Enlargement is not a threat to co-operation but a challenge; it opens up substantial prospects for co-operation and development for Mediterranean farming.

**Mrs BURBIENE, member of the Committee on the Environment and Agriculture of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (Lithuania)** – Lithuania is a small Baltic country and a candidate for European Union membership. The world is becoming a smaller place; we can talk to each other here, without understanding one another's languages.

We buy Moroccan oranges, to name one commodity, at prices which suit our consumers: do they suit the producers? We do not compete with Mediterranean produce; it is the Mediterranean states, such as Spain and Morocco, which compete on our market. We might be a small country with a population of 3.5 million, but our market is an arena for economic competition.

Agriculture requires a lot of investment to develop; in the poorly developed countries, farmers work in tough conditions for a low income.

I have heard talk of the specific problems in the Mediterranean basin, such as drought and desertification. We have our own problems: it still freezes sometimes in May and June when the apple trees are in blossom, and we have a short summer with little sunshine.

As regards the WTO, I deplore the discrimination practised against the countries which joined the negotiations after the Uruguay Round and can no longer grant subsidies to their producers. We negotiated for six years and we have just ratified the agreement: is that fair?

When we want to export our produce to the European Union, we come up against highly restrictive quality standards, although we use neither fertilisers nor chemicals nor preservatives. I imagine that the Mediterranean countries must run into the same difficulties.

We all have our own problems, but agriculture remains, for all of us, a part of rural life, a cultural heritage, a way of life – often a poor one. A solution must be found for the rural population, through sustainable development which protects both producers and consumers, slows the intensification of agriculture and reduces use of chemicals, so that we can narrow the gap between developed and developing countries and maintain co-operation between our peoples.

**Mr SERRA CARRACIOLO, Italian Confederation of Farmers** – I am pleased to be participating in this conference, which is highly topical. Last May Commissioner Pascal Lamy convened the 27 Euro-Mediterranean trade ministers, with surprising haste, to discuss the process of trade liberalisation in the region: whether he did it because he heard that this conference was coming up, I do not know, but it was clear that the process is lagging behind compared with eastern Europe and even Latin America.

At European level, the results are none too satisfying: new forms of discrimination must be avoided, but the stumbling block for the negotiations in Seattle was not agriculture but the distinction to be drawn, among developing countries, between the net exporters and net importers of agricultural produce: negotiations are to resume on this subject.

Export restrictions are a bone of contention with the countries which are net exporters to the European Union, even though the restrictions are not very substantial in terms of absolute value: let us not create any further discrimination where this produce is concerned.

The Treaty of Maastricht, in Title II, mentions research, training, environmental protection, the building of infrastructure and so on – all fundamental activities for developing agriculture in the countries of the south. Unfortunately, not one of those countries will have enough money to carry them out. The MEDA programmes will not be sufficient.

A new cycle of WTO negotiations will shortly begin: the European Union and the Mediterranean countries will have to stand together and uphold the principles of reciprocal development. A free-trade area with Latin America will be established from 2005 onwards. We are not in favour of unbridled liberalism but we do want freedom to

produce. At the WTO, we will have to adopt a firm, concerted position and a united front and ensure that it is not undermined by interests other than agricultural interests.

We will have to make a stand on geographical origin, diversity, traceability and labelling in order to guarantee producer incomes and consumer health. The fate of Mediterranean agriculture depends on it.

**Mr BEDIN (Italy)** – I thank Mrs Rodriguez Ramos: I will study her proposals with a view to the forthcoming international meetings. I think that the main focus in Göteborg will be on the consequences of the Irish referendum. I am in favour of enlarging towards the east on condition that the member countries assume the consequences – both risks and advantages. The accession of Cyprus and Malta would enable us to quickly put into practice the suggestions concerning Mediterranean agricultural policy: it would provide an opportunity to test them out.

In agricultural terms, enlargement reinforces the European bloc. Mrs Burbiene and Mr Kallio have pointed out that a new seaboard region (the Baltic Sea) will be included, with problems concerning forestry and fishing. These will be new challenges to take up, like those facing the Mediterranean countries.

The structural funds that currently benefit Italy, Portugal and Spain will certainly be reduced but we could ask that funding be redirected to Euro-Mediterranean agricultural policy as a whole.

We must be united in the new phases of negotiations. In Seattle, Europe succeeded in speaking with one voice and winning the day on certain issues!

**Mr JELEC, Association of Farmers' Organisations in Bosnia-Herzegovina** - I represent the farmers of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which, being close to the Mediterranean Sea, is a Mediterranean country. We have been through a terrible war, following 40 years of totalitarianism which warped people's minds. The conflicts laid villages and countryside to waste: many of the survivors left for the town.

We are now in a period of transition to democracy and the market economy. We will not be able to rebuild everything without outside help. We have already received 80 million Deutschmarks in aid without a tangible result. Production has dropped and we import two-thirds of our foodstuffs at the cost of one billion Deutschmarks. Our farmers, who receive no subsidies, are up against competition from subsidised agriculture; the international community prohibits us from imposing protective tariffs on imported products and forces us to open up our market. Since we import powdered milk subsidised in Europe, our own dairy herd is steadily dwindling.

You have to realise that we are being reduced to the state of a colony. The Mediterranean countries differ greatly in terms of their economic development: we are in the rearguard. We have a Ministry of Agriculture but no agriculture budget or policy.

We need international solidarity: Bosnia-Herzegovina, in this transitional phase, is not a threat to European Union agriculture. There is no free market in the world but universal protectionism, and the fact that we are forced to open up our market puts us at a great disadvantage.

**Mr MOUISSET (Morocco)** - I salute the organisers of this conference and I thank the IFAP for taking this initiative.

The CAP was the starting point for the development of the rural world in countries on the northern shores of the Mediterranean: this undeniable success has brought prosperity to farmers and communities. We must now focus on the future of peoples in Mediterranean countries which still suffer from under-development and backwardness in their agriculture.

Since the Barcelona Conference, the countries of the south have been waiting for an agricultural and rural policy based on straight dialogue aimed at forging co-operation founded on complementarity, reciprocal access to markets and non-discrimination.

As president of the association of fruit and vegetable export producers, I am aware of their difficulties: drought, lack of government support and strengthened protection measures in Europe to keep them out of its markets.

For half a century, Morocco was the prime supplier of European markets, particularly the French market, thanks to the quality of its produce, regular supply and compliance with plant health standards. But for ten years now, our farmers' incomes have not risen and our sales have fallen.

The agreement signed by Morocco with the European Union in November 1995 is proving none too easy to put into practice: it provides for the ultimate establishment of a free-trade area for all agricultural produce. Article 18 contains a clause for establishing the liberalisation measures to be applied from this year onwards, yet no objective evaluation has taken place.

Article 1 provides for "promoting trade and the expansion of harmonious economic and social relations between the Parties so as to foster the development and prosperity of Morocco and its people".

That had already been the aim of the agreement of 1976. So what results have we seen?

Since European enlargement in 1986, our trade flows have undergone massive upheaval, particularly for fruit and vegetables.

The additional protocol of 1988 locked us into a logic of stagnation: all it mentioned was maintaining the traditional flow of trade.

The single market, in 1993, removed import barriers for the new members, which penalised Morocco. The GATT agreement of 1994 consolidated European ad valorem customs tariffs. The joining of Sweden, Finland and Austria in 1995 resulted in the application of community protection mechanisms for exports to those countries, which were traditional markets for Moroccan small fruit.

The signature of the 1996 Euro-Mediterranean association agreement, which provided for the introduction of a free-trade area in the industrial sector within twelve years, confirmed the current status of agriculture.

Finally, following the changes in the east, agreements have been signed with Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Romania, all with the ramifications that we can imagine for agricultural exports from third Mediterranean countries, including Morocco.

Over the last ten years, the European Union has constantly reiterated its desire to ensure that the principle of community preference is complied with. If we take the noteworthy example of the tomato, agreements with Morocco have done nothing but reinforce tariff protection and reduce quotas. And this is not to mention the highly restrictive export calendar or the entry price introduced by the 1995 agreement, which was far higher than the reference price applicable up to then. Moreover, all the fruit and vegetables covered by the common organisation of the markets are now subject to the complex import licensing procedure. And that is not all! The whole system is made watertight by special protective clauses.

At the end of the day, the political will expressed by the European Union has never resulted in any measures likely to promote our exports. On the contrary, they have fallen. And the prospects offered by the 2000-2001 talks are hardly any better. Those are the results of 30 years of partnership, in which Morocco has always been the most diligent and well-disciplined pupil. If we have managed to export despite all this, it is because we have succeeded in diversifying our outlets and modernising our systems of production, logistics and sales.

Moroccan farmers are looking for a strong signal from their neighbours in the north and the abolition of a diabolical protection system that hampers rural development in their country, discourages young people from setting up in the sector and leaves them vulnerable to unemployment and the temptation to emigrate. Is that the kind of Mediterranean we want? The answer lies in the hands of the inhabitants of our region, the cradle of the world's great civilisations.

**Mr MORALEDA QUILEZ (Spain)** – I congratulate Mrs Rodriguez Ramos for her highly comprehensive report. The European Union must translate into action what is for the time being only a declaration of intent, namely its commitment to multifunctionality, if this concept, without doubt of value in the WTO negotiations, is not to remain theoretical and untried. A framework, financial instruments and tools are needed to transform the CAP. The European Union must draw inspiration from what is being done in the Mediterranean basin countries.

**Mr PEREZ LAPAZARAN, replacing Mr MADERO, member of Parliament (Spain)** - The WTO negotiations and enlargement are two very important questions requiring a united front on the part of the Mediterranean basin countries. We have an opportunity to promote the multifunctional agricultural model, with adequate financial instruments, a model which is also the European model. The European Parliament and our national parliaments must focus on these issues.

Today's conference may be useful in helping us decide on our objectives and strategies. There is much talk of trade liberalisation but we must not overlook the fact that we are dealing with fragile markets which could easily have their balance upset by brutal measures. Let us have broad debate and go about this cautiously.

**Mr EL BEALY, replacing Mr EL BASEL, Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Irrigation (Egypt)** - I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, the European Parliament and the Mediterranean committee of the IFAP for organising this conference.

Agriculture is stability. How can there be stability, how can there be peace when Israeli bulldozers uproot olive trees in Palestine and demolish houses by the dozen?

Funding and marketing are the key problems faced by Egyptian agriculture. Up to now, assistance from the European Union in these areas has not been very substantial. I must also raise the question of water in the Nile basin and elsewhere. If this major issue is not settled at international level we are heading for very serious problems.

**Mr TLILI, Tunisian Farming and Fishing Union (Tunisia)** – Have you heard the story of the young farmer who advertised for a bride in the newspaper, saying: "Young farmer, 34, seeks young woman with tractor for marriage. If interested, send photo of tractor."? Farmers are down-to-earth people!

The challenges of agriculture are not only commercial. They concern society, security and the environment. Enlargement and the WTO negotiations will increase agricultural trade and incomes, even if views differ as to allocations between produce and countries. The question for us is whether the southern Mediterranean countries will benefit. It is clear that the rules of healthy and fair competition are not respected at present: the subsidies paid by developed countries to their producers are beyond all comparison with the ones allowed by the WTO, and health protection measures are all non-tariff barriers, each one a sword of Damocles over our heads. It is time that they were harmonised in a food safety code.

Enlargement to the east could exacerbate existing imbalances and cancel out the precarious gains of recent years. Europe already imports only 0.6% of its agricultural and food needs from Tunisia. What will that figure be tomorrow? Agriculture is a sensitive issue in Europe. In our country it is vital. Suffice it to say that agriculture employs 5% of Europe's workforce as opposed to 24% in Tunisia. We appreciate that some countries in the north feel threatened by certain produce from the south, but our countries are their customers and the trade balance is very much in their favour. Tunisia exports between 3,000 and 4,000 tonnes of potatoes a year but imports 20,000 tonnes! It exports 50,000 tonnes of olive oil but imports over 100,000 tonnes of seed-oil. The commercial ramifications are far more serious for us than for most European countries.

I am pleased to see that most of the speakers have promoted the idea of co-development and favoured Euro-Mediterranean partnership: this is the only way not to destabilise the region and to draw benefits from production complementarity. We would also like to see the creation of a European fund for modernisation and for providing incentives for product enhancement. We actively endorse the Barcelona Declaration, particularly points 7 and 8 regarding the follow-up of the Barcelona process and support for countries in the south.

**Mr KRAMBERGER, Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Food (Slovenia)** - The Republic of Slovenia is involved in the proceedings of the WTO and backs greater liberalisation of trade in agricultural produce on a progressive basis and the drawing up of rules and principles guaranteeing, among other things, transparency in world commerce. It acknowledges the need for more favourable treatment for developing countries but asks that the countries in transition, of which it is one, are also regarded as a special category. The shift to a market economy makes them extremely vulnerable. The Republic of Slovenia is delighted that the members of the WTO, and particularly the European Union states, have a positive assessment of its efforts so far; in the forthcoming negotiations, we will strive to secure more flexible rules particularly as regards customs tariffs and public subsidies.

The issues of a non-commercial nature are essential for the safeguard of the European multifunctional model of agriculture and crucial for many countries, including Slovenia. This model guarantees the development of the rural world while protecting environment and ensuring food safety; ultimately it preserves cultural diversity. Consequently, recognising multifunctionality and identifying adequate means for implementing it will be major points of the coming negotiations. Slovenia asks that solutions be well-targeted and transparent and distort competition as little as possible.

A review of the first round completed last March shows the great diversity of subjects covered and at the same time the strong desire of WTO members to continue the process of reforming world agri-trade. The European Union and the candidate countries have a common aim in this connection: the swift accession of those candidate countries. Slovenia believes, therefore, that co-operation and dialogue are necessary, in the interests of all, to achieve that objective.

**Mr TORCHI, member of Parliament (Algeria)** – Algeria is having to make major efforts in its transition to the market economy. Its joining of the WTO, which entails a certain liberalisation of trade, must be a gentle process or its economy and particularly its agriculture will be rendered fragile for some years to come. Indeed, this is the case for many countries. The negotiations under way must cater for the need to reduce a food bill evaluated at over 2 billion dollars, the participation of Algeria in the MEDA programmes and the development of specific co-operation between producers on the two shores of the Mediterranean. Algeria asks for the support of the member states represented at this conference.

**Mr LOPEZ GARCIA-ASENJO, ASAJA (Spain)** – Enlargement will increase the farming land in the European Union by 50% and double the number of workers in that sector. We fear that the balance in Europe will tilt towards the east, to the detriment of our countries, since we would become comparatively prosperous countries and lose a sizeable part of the structural funds.

But enlargement also has its positive aspects. The development of the countries of central and eastern Europe and the resulting increase in purchasing power will open up new markets for our products, products which are well regarded and renowned for their nutritional value.

Within the WTO negotiations, liberalisation must not be seen as an end in itself; it is merely a means of achieving our true goal – the economic and social development of all regions of the world.

Liberalisation must be accompanied by clear and transparent regulations ensuring that competition is fair.

Where subsidies are concerned, the United States have increased them so much in the last three years that an American farmer now receives twice as much on average than his European counterpart.

Under the Marrakech agreements, the European Union has cut its export subsidies and cut production; the United States have put pressure on the world market to lower prices, which hampers the development of the least advanced countries. The producers cannot make a living from the knock-down prices applied to their exports.

As regards market access, it must not be forgotten that the European Union is the leading importer of agricultural produce, much of which comes from developing countries: our trade balance reveals a deficit of 600 billion dollars on this count, while the United States enjoy a surplus of 200 billion!

Under its "Everything but Arms" initiative, the European Union is opening its doors to the products of the planet's 48 poorest countries.

Euro-Mediterranean agriculture must present a united front at the WTO negotiations and not be sacrificed for external considerations.

Association agreements must be aimed at the development of the most disadvantaged areas, to improve working conditions and welfare while respecting the environment.

Convergence and competition are the two means of achieving economic and social development and stability in the region.

**Mr SANTIAGO, IFAP (Portugal)** – Portugal is on the Atlantic seaboard but it has strong interests in the Mediterranean. Bilateral and multilateral agreements to liberalise trade are an opportunity for our sensitive produce.

We must co-operate more, stand up for our farmers and agree on a common position as regards the WTO.

The quality of our produce must be kept at the highest possible level.

We must reinforce multifunctionality and take account of the environmental and social aspects together with the specific characteristics of agriculture in each country.

**Mrs AIT ALI SLIMANE, IFAP (Algeria)** – We live within a system undergoing constant reform: the developing countries must transform their economy and adapt to trade liberalisation. Algeria has joined the WTO and signed an association agreement with the European Union. Within the WTO framework, Algeria is going to have to adapt to the progressive opening of the market while continuing its development and protecting the incomes of its farmers.

Agriculture represents 12% of Algeria's GDP and employs 20% of the population: it needs time to gear up for a multilateral trade system.

In a short space of time, we will have to increase our production while making rational use of natural resources and strive to preserve our comparative advantages and harmonise our regulations with international regulations, in a context of drought. All that will have a cost.

Our agriculture needs support to realise its full potential. It has suffered from budget cuts resulting from structural adjustment programmes which have reduced aid for farming development. Our agriculture needs aid for harmonising health standards and developing its export capability.

But Algeria has not been idle. We have a national farming development plan, aimed in particular at restoring regions' agricultural vocation and increasing production to meet consumer needs.

The National Chamber of Agriculture is helping farmers to help themselves. It intends to create administrative centres and producer groups to promote and sell their produce. The profession is not standing around; it is preparing itself for the challenge ahead.

WTO membership will provide agriculture with negotiated protection during a transitional period; association with the European Union caters for the problems of each country in connection with the liberalisation of trade.

Multifunctionality – defined on a concerted basis – will be taken into account in the partnership agreements with the European Union. The free-trade area, which applies to an entire region, can have its own dynamics and extend beyond the trade dimension to ensure a fair and gradual regional integration process.

The WTO is an evolving system managed by all the countries: there must be globalisation of state law in order to achieve a multilateral rule of law.

**Mr EL MELIGY, Member of Parliament (Egypt)** – This conference is very promising: it proves that the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, the European Parliament, national Parliaments and the Mediterranean committee of the IFAP are all pursuing the same objective.

We want to forge informal but constructive dialogue, to enable us to take measures in the agricultural and rural spheres and to take up the Euro-Mediterranean challenge.

In Egypt we have created new structures which have increased agricultural production. Parliament is preparing to ratify a Euro-Mediterranean agreement.

I thank the organisers and all the participants and express the wish that peace may soon come to the Middle East.

**Mr ABUHELALEH (Jordan)** – I thank Mrs Burbiene for her very pertinent comments.

As a farmer I would have liked to express my views on the WTO negotiations; as a journalist, I draw the attention of the public to their consequences; the political party of which I am a member also has a point of view on the subject.

It may be said that the WTO agreement has had drastic consequences for Jordan's agriculture: imports – including powdered milk! – have shot up. Our debt has been driven sky-high because we import everything, even water and electricity. Monopolies have taken hold and impose their prices, and there has also been a rise in the costs of intellectual property. If we add to this the consequences of the Gulf crisis and climatic change, it is clear that our produce is no longer competitive, yet the World Bank and the WTO prohibit any subsidies. Only complementarity between the Arab countries and Europe in the agricultural sphere can soften the blow.

It must be hoped that the European Union takes action so that our farmers are compensated.

**Mrs RIBERA, COPA-COGECA** – Thank you for your invitation. Bringing farmers and parliamentarians together to co-ordinate their action is a very good move.

The Mediterranean countries stand to gain a great deal from enlargement because the European market will be enlarged.

As regards the WTO, they can share the concerns of the European Union countries and form a united front: agriculture must not be treated as just another economic sector; farmers are reliant on the environment, the climate and other factors.

Food is a vital necessity; all governments must guarantee stable food supplies for their population; they cannot rely solely on the market.

Price fluctuations, climatic variations and also strategic considerations make an agricultural policy necessary. Agriculture provides society with basic services: employment in rural areas, environmental protection and so on.

The WTO must take these non-commercial considerations into account. The positive contribution made by agriculture to environmental protection, preservation of the landscape and so on must be remunerated within the framework of the "green box". Special treatment must be reserved for developing countries. The European Union gives them commercial preference and is the prime market for their produce. The WTO must also give them different treatment. It is all about consolidating agricultural communities and guaranteeing food security.

**Mrs RODRIGUEZ RAMOS** – It is difficult to sum up after such a wealth of contributions. Peace is an absolute priority for the development of peoples and

therefore of agriculture. The functions of agriculture reach beyond the food aspect, and this non-commercial dimension must be taken into account.

Trade regulations must be clear, transparent and flexible enough to allow each country to frame its agricultural policy. There are as many agricultural policies as there are countries.

## CLOSING SESSION

*In the chair: Mr BEHRENDT, Chairman of the Committee on Environment and Agriculture of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly*

**The CHAIR** – We will now conclude our work. You are asked to excuse Mr Graefe zu Baringdorf who has had to leave us.

**Mr AVOLIO (Italy)** – It is with some emotion that I speak to you today: the proposal for which I have fought tooth and nail for so long has become a reality. Thank you to the European Parliament and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

I am delighted with the success of this first conference on Euro-Mediterranean agriculture. It was necessary for us to be able to work together to build an agriculture that ensures a fair income for the producers, allows regional development worthy of the name and guarantees progress and peace in the region. We have had a hundred or so speakers raising key issues and reiterating the fundamental values which unite us.

The fact that one of our sessions, in this prestigious arena, was chaired by a farmer from Algeria is worth emphasising. It is hard proof that we have taken the right path, the all-important path of co-operation. We are seeing exchange and co-ordination between social and institutional forces representing peoples and farmers: this is very satisfying, and I hope that today's conference will not be the last.

Multifunctionality has frequently been mentioned; it is a key concept, even though the prime function of agriculture is still food production. Over and above their individual situations, circumstances and problems, the countries of the Mediterranean basin must pull together and, at the next international talks, present joint proposals and a united front. The enlargement of the European Union may be an opportunity, but we will have to try hard to break with the past and find new legal and technical solutions that will truly facilitate access to the new markets for Mediterranean produce. In this connection, I was delighted to hear Mr Fischler confirm our initiative, although I regret that he was not as specific as we would have wished.

We have to set ourselves three future objectives, as I outlined in my preliminary remarks: diversified production, improved quality and local specialisation, and finally security of water supplies.

French, Moroccan, Italian, Spanish and Turkish farmers all grow tomatoes, vine-fruit and olives. Diversification is a necessity if we are to avoid the same produce arriving on the market at the same time. And that is for the farmers themselves to decide, with the help of trade associations, governments and the European Union. Is it possible? Yes, I believe it is. We have done it in Italy with kiwifruit, and we have become the world's leading producer. That does not mean all our problems are settled, particularly as regards citrus fruit, but at least we have looked for solutions and found some. Even so, we must not end up having one specialisation per country.

Quality must be the producer's prime objective. High health standards are a prerequisite, local specialisation is a plus. Farmers must sign their produce, like Versace and Armani. Why not *Avolio* peaches or *Imbeni* kiwifruit? And here I am talking about verifiable undertakings made by producers.

The problem of water supplies has always worried us. Obviously, it is a priority issue that is very difficult to deal with. For years now, I have been calling for the setting up of a single authority which would be responsible, in each country, for research, distribution and procedures for water use – and why not a single authority for the entire Mediterranean basin? I call on the European Parliament and the Council of Europe to back a proposal which has already garnered some support in the Hague.

I will borrow my conclusion from the Roman poet Ovid, who wrote in his *Metamorphoses*: "For the true man, the essential problem is not being but becoming." This rings very true for farmers and those in the Mediterranean basin in particular, who must fight to keep their own identity. The trade associations and institutions of all kinds must back their efforts and enable them to make enlightened choices. For this purpose, I suggest that the organisers of this conference, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the Mediterranean committee of the IFAP, set up a standing advisory committee to monitor initiatives in the different countries and prepare a meeting on the lines of today's event every three years.

I hope that our work will help to pave the way for better co-operation between our states and peoples. We are each of us proud of our history and identity but we all aspire to peace and life in harmony around the Mediterranean.

**Mr IMBENI, Vice-President of the European Parliament** – My thanks to all those who have helped make this conference a success and all the speakers who have orchestrated a real exchange of ideas.

Symbolically, we have passed from one Assembly Chamber to the other. One of the speakers from Morocco mentioned the danger of contradictions between wealthy and less wealthy countries. The hemicycle of the European Parliament reflects the idea of a Europe of prosperity, while the Council of Europe's assembly chamber evokes a concern to put an end to conflict. In one of them, for 50 years now, from a European nucleus that has broadened since the 1990s, steady progress has been made along the path of peace and development; in the other, human rights have been defended from the very beginning, in an effort that has so far brought together 43 states throughout the continent. In Europe, economic progress and human rights clearly go together.

The European Parliament is in the institutional vanguard, with the direct election of representatives from 15 countries – soon to be 27 or 28 – speaking 11 languages. It is an assembly which wields power: it votes the budget, it can approve or condemn the actions of the Commission (which it has already done once), it makes the law.

Our work has been pioneering. Our institutions light the way forward.

That is how we wish this conference to be seen: agriculture too must look to the future. It is far from a residual activity doomed to extinction. We see agriculture as an enterprise, as an activity ensuring social cohesion and local authority development while maintaining time-honoured traditions.

We have had a great variety of contributions. Mr Graefe zu Baringdorf spoke to us about the maturing of potatoes, one of the Maltese representatives talked about the 1,000 farmers in his country and one of our Tunisian colleagues analysed equal opportunities with some humour. The consequences of globalisation were a frequent concern.

It is true that there has been a regrettable lack of media coverage of the conference, but the objective over these two days has not been to take decisions; and the agricultural organisations, if I may say so, are very clever at grabbing the headlines when they want to...

Several speakers have asked that this conference be held every three years. I would remind you that there is already a Euro-Mediterranean parliamentary forum which has met twice since the Barcelona Conference and which will certainly soon be held for the third time in Rome. I suggest that we use this framework, every two or three years, to debate agriculture and its future development, or otherwise hold more frequent meetings of the agricultural organisations. Decision-making would certainly be more straightforward within the forum than in such heavyweight institutions as the European Parliament and the Council of Europe.

Where the WTO is concerned, the recent agreement between the United States and China implies that the latter will join the process in the near future. Negotiations have also begun with the Russian Federation and may go on for ten years or so. The ICAMAS might usefully enlighten us on the short- and medium-term consequences of these two countries' involvement. The European Parliament and the Council of Europe have also called for the setting up of a WTO consultative assembly; this proposal could strengthen links between parliamentarians, agricultural organisations and consumers.

The Spanish initiative, scheduled for the first half of 2002, which aims to relaunch the Barcelona process and strengthen North-South relations may prove successful.

Mr Graefe zu Baringdorf was insistent that co-decision in agriculture be incorporated into the Union Treaty. While the European Parliament is consulted on the CAP, it has no power of co-decision: it would be in everyone's interest for the Parliament to be vested with that power in 2004, as it is the institution which is closest to our citizens.

I agree that a section on agriculture and rural development should be included in the MEDA programmes.

There is one problem that has only been touched upon: that of the human capital, and training, without which desertification might well come about not because of climatic change but because of lack of investment in this asset.

The research programme run by the European Union will be completed at the end of 2002: at the initiative of Mr Busquin, new prospects will be opened up. A research programme for agriculture will have to be included.

**The CHAIR** – Many issues have been raised and many proposals made.

This conference has enabled all the participants, whatever their background or political persuasion, to engage in constructive dialogue. The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, like the European Parliament, will strive to capitalise on it.

We have symbolically passed from one assembly chamber to another, and it is their special aura that has fostered such a cordial atmosphere.

The European Union has enjoyed the longest ever period of peace; the Council of Europe has fought for human rights. It is important that these two great organisations give impetus to activities in the agricultural sphere. It is clear that the northern Mediterranean states must seek to work with those in the south.

We have been able to appreciate the quality of Mediterranean produce at our lunchtime buffet, a good opportunity for a tangible experience if ever there was one. Thank you to all those who participated in this meeting and to all those who made it possible.

*The session rose at 6 pm.*

## Appendices

### PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

#### **Thursday, 14 June 2001**

*Hemicycle of the Council of Europe*

#### **3 p.m.**

##### Opening session

Lord Russell-Johnston, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Mr Renzo Imbeni, Vice-President of the European Parliament

Mr Gerard Doornbos, President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)

\* \* \*

In the chair: Mr Renzo Imbeni, Vice-President of the European Parliament

##### Introduction by:

Mr Giuseppe Avolio, rapporteur-general for the Conference, chairman of the IFAP Mediterranean Committee

Mr Wolfgang Behrendt, chairperson of the Committee on the Environment and Agriculture of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Mr Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Mr Franz Fischler, Member of the European Commission

##### Exchange of views

#### **6.30 p.m.**

End of opening session

#### **6.30 p.m.**

Reception given by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament (*Restaurant of the Council of Europe*)

**Friday, 15 June 2001**

*Chamber of the European Parliament*

**9 a.m.**

Session 1

Subject: **Mediterranean production in the context of a sustainable and multifunctional agricultural model**

In the chair: Mr Wolfgang Behrendt, chairperson of the Committee on the Environment and Agriculture of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Rapporteur: Mr André Boulard, IFAP, National Federation of Farmers' Unions (FNSEA), France

Exchange of views

**11 a.m.**

Session 2

Subject: **Towards sustainable rural development in the Mediterranean basin**

In the chair: Mr Konstantinos Hatzidakis, chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism

Rapporteur: Mr Felice Carlo Besostri, vice-chairperson of the Committee on the Environment and Agriculture of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Exchange of views

**1 p.m.**

Presentation - buffet of Mediterranean agriculture produce, organised by IFAP

**3 p.m.**

Session 3

Subject: **Agricultural trade issues: the challenges posed by enlargement and the WTO**

In the chair: Mr Mohamed Bouhadjar, IFAP, President of the Algerian National Chamber of Agriculture

Rapporteur : Mr Carlos Westendorp y Cabeza, chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy

Exchange of views

**5 p.m.**

Closing session

Co-chairs:

Mr Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Mr Wolfgang Behrendt, chairperson of the Committee on the Environment and Agriculture of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Conclusions by:

Mr Giuseppe Avolio, rapporteur-general for the Conference, chairman of the IFAP Mediterranean Committee

Mr Renzo Imbeni, Vice-President of the European Parliament

**6.30 p.m.**

Reception given by the Mayor and the President of the Urban Community of Strasbourg (*Hôtel de Ville place Broglie*)



**ANALYTICAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe / Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe</b>				
	<b>NOM / NAME</b>	<b>PAYS/ COUNTRY</b>	<b>COMMISSION / COMMITTEE</b>	<b>FONCTION / POSITION</b>
Lord	RUSSELL-JOHNSTON			President of the Parliamentary Assembly
			<i>Committee on the Environment and Agriculture</i>	
Mr	BEHRENDT Wolfgang	Germany		Chairman
M.	BESOSTRI Felice Carlo	Italie		Vice-Président
M.	HOEFFEL Daniel	France		Vice-Président
M.	AGIUS Francis	Malta		
Mme	AGUDO Cristina	Espagne		
M.	BRIANE Jean	France		
Mr	BURBIENE Sigita	Lithuania		
M.	COSARCIUC Valeriu	Moldova		
Mr	ESCH, von der, Björn	Sweden		
Mr	ETHERINGTON Bill	United Kingdom		
M.	GONZALEZ DE TXABARRI José Juan	Espagne		
M.	KEUSCHNIGG Georg	Autriche		
Mr	KOLESNIKOV Victor	Russia		
Mr	LIBICKI Marcin	Poland		
Mr	MANUKYAN Yuri	Armenia		
M.	MARIOT Jean Paul	France		
M.	MARTINEZ CASAN Guillermo	Espagne		
Mr	MEALE Alan	United Kingdom		
M.	ROBOL Alberto	Italie		
M.	RODEGHIERO Flavio	Italie		
M.	SCHMIED Walter	Suisse		
Mr	SZINYEI András	Hungary		
Mr	TAYLOR John D.	United Kingdom		

## Parlement européen / European Parliament

	NOM / NAME	COUNTRY	COMMISSION / COMMITTEE	FONCTION
M.	IMBENI Renzo	Italie		Vice-Président du Parlement européen
			<i>Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development</i>	
Mr	GRAEFE ZU BARINGDORF Friedrich-Wilhelm	Germany		Chairman
M.	LAVARRA Vincenzo	Italie		Vice-Président
Mme	REDONDO JIMENEZ Encarnacion	Espagne		Vice-Présidente
Mme	AURIO Danielle	France		
M.	FIORI Francesco	Italie		
M.	GAROT Georges	France		
Mr	GOEPEL Lutz	Germany		
M.	KOULOURIANOS Dimitrios	Grèce		
M.	PROCACCI Giovanni	Italie		
Mme	RODRIGUEZ RAMOS Maria	Espagne		
M.	BAKOPOULOS Emmanouil	Grèce	<i>Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumers Policy</i>	
			<i>Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities</i>	
Ms	GRÖNER Lissy	Germany		
Ms	KLASS Christa	Germany		
Ms	KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi	Greece		
Mr	HATZIDAKIS Konstantinos	Greece	<i>Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism</i>	Chairman

<b>Parlements nationaux / National Parliaments</b>				
	<b>NOM / NAME</b>	<b>PAYS / COUNTRY</b>	<b>ORGANE/ORGAN</b>	<b>FONCTION/POSITION</b>
<b>Etats membres (Conseil de l'Europe et Union européenne) / Member States (Council of Europe and European Union)</b>				
		<u>Belgium/Belgique</u>		
M.	CAMPSTEIN Léon		Chambre des Représentants	Député
		<u>France</u>		
M.	BASCOU Jacques		Assemblée Nationale	Député, membre de la Commission de la production et des échanges
Mme	BOYON Cécile		Sénat	Conseiller, Service des affaires européennes
M.	ROUX Philippe		Sénat	Sénateur
		<u>Greece/Grèce</u>		
Mr	BASIAKOS Evangelos		Hellenic Parliament	MP
Mr	PIPERGIAS Dimitrios		Hellenic Parliament	Chairman of the Standing Committee on Production and Trade
Mr	STRATAKIS Emmanouil		Hellenic Parliament	MP
		<u>Italy/Italie</u>		
M.	BEDIN Tino		Sénat	Sénateur
M.	BEITAMIO Gianpaolo		Sénat	Sénateur
Mme	DI PANCRAZIO Elena		Sénat	Administratrice
M.	BOVA Domenico		Chambre des Députés	Député
M.	FRANZ Daniele		Chambre des Députés	Député
M.	FIUME GARELLI Sebastiano		Chambre des Députés	Fonctionnaire
Mme	POLESE Elisabette		Chambre des Députés	Fonctionnaire
		<u>Malta/Malte</u>		
Mr	FARRUGIA Noël		House of Representatives	MP
		<u>Portugal</u>		
Mme	LOURENCO Maria Do Céu		Assemblée de la République	Députée
M.	LOPEZ PENHA PEREIRA Fernando Manuel		Assemblée de la République	Député

## Parlements nationaux / National Parliaments

	NOM / NAME	PAYS / COUNTRY	ORGANE/ORGAN	FONCTION/POSITION
		<u>Romania/Roumanie</u>		
M.	CODREANU Dumitru		Sénat	Vice-Président de la Commission pour l'agriculture, l'industrie alimentaire et la sylviculture
M.	NICOLESCU Mihai		Chambre des Députés	Député
M.	PRIBEANU Gheorghe		Chambre des Députés	Député
		<u>Russia/Russie</u>		
Mr	AGALOV Vladimir		Council of Federation	Member of the Committee on Rural Policy
Mr	BIRIUKOV Mikhail		Council of Federation	Deputy Director of the Department of the International Relations
Mr	ODINTSOV Mikhail		Council of Federation	Member of the Committee on Rural Policy
		<u>Slovenia/Slovenie</u>		
Mr	KRAMBERGER Janez		National Assembly	Chairman, Committee for Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Mr	DZUBAN Geza		National Assembly	Deputy Chairman, Committee for Agriculture Forestry and Food
Ms	CULJKOVIC Dragana		National Assembly	Secretary, Committee for Agriculture, Forestry and Food
		<u>Spain/Espagne</u>		
M.	MACIAS José		Sénat	Président, Commission de l'agriculture
M.	RODRIGUEZ Pedro		Sénat	Sénateur, membre de la Commission de l'agriculture
M.	CUENCA MIRANDA Alfonso		Sénat	Fonctionnaire
M.	MADERO José		Congrès des Députés	Député
M.	PEREZ LAPAZARAN José Cruz		Congrès des Députés	Président de la Commission de l'Agriculture
		<u>Sweden/Suède</u>		
Mr	CARLSSON Kurt Inge		Swedish Riksdag	Member of the Committee on the Environment and Agriculture

*Etats non membres / Non-member States*

<i>Etats non membres / Non-member States</i>				
		<u>Algeria/Algérie</u>		
M.	DINE Smaïl		Assemblée Populaire Nationale	Président de la Commission des Finances et du Budget
M.	TORCHI Mohamed Larbi		Assemblée Populaire Nationale	Député
M.	BENSLAMA Mohamed		Conseil de la Nation	Député
M.	FEKHAR Brahim		Conseil de la Nation	Député
		<u>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</u>		
Mr	LOZANCIC Ivo		Parliament	MP
		<u>Egypt/Egypte</u>		
Mr	ELBASEL Abou Bakr		People's Assembly	Chairman of the Agriculture and Irrigation Committee
Mr	ELBEALY Fathi Elsaeed		People's Assembly	MP
Mr	ELMELIGY Bahaa ElDin		People's Assembly	MP
		<u>Federal Republic of Yugoslavia</u>		
Mr	FILIPOVIC Ratko		Federal Assembly	MP, Head of Delegation
Mr	LAZIC Dusan		Federal Assembly	Secretary of Delegation
Mr	SIMIC Aleksandar		Federal Assembly	MP
Ms	ZIKIC Sanja		Federal Assembly	Interpreter
		<u>Israel/Israël</u>		
Mr	COHEN Ran		Knesset	MP
		<u>Morocco/Maroc</u>		
M.	KAYOUH Abdessamad		Chambre des Représentants	Député
M.	KRAFSI Mohamed		Chambre des Représentants	Député
M.	LAKIR Ahmed		Chambre des Représentants	Député
M.	MOUISSET Abderrazak		Chambre des Représentants	Député
		<u>Tunisia/Tunisie</u>		
M.	CHERIF Mongi		Chambre des Députés	Rapporteur de la Commission de l'agriculture de l'industrie et du commerce, Chef de la Délégation nationale
M.	TOUMI Hédi		Chambre des Députés	Député

## Organisations agricoles / Agricultural Organisations

	NOM / NAME	PAYS / COUNTRY	ORGANE	FONCTION
			<i>Fédération Internationale des Producteurs Agricoles (FIPA) / International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)</i>	
M.	DOORNBOS Gerard	<u>Netherlands/ Pays Bas</u>	Federatie van Land-en Tuinbouworganisaties (LTO)	President of IFAP
M.	AVOLIO Giuseppe	<u>Italy/Italie</u>	Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori (CIA)	Président du Comité méditerranéen de la FIPA
		<u>Algeria/Algérie</u>		
M.	BOUHADJAR Mohamed		Chambre Nationale de l'Agriculture	Président
Mme	AIT ALI SLIMANE Behra		Chambre Nationale de l'Agriculture	Chef du Département Economie
		<u>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</u>		
Mr	JELEC Sead		The Association of Farmers Organisations in FBIH	Chairman of the Boarding Committee
		<u>Cyprus/Chypre</u>		
Mr	CONSTANTINIDES Costakis		Union of Cypriot Farmers (EKA)	Secretary General
Mr	PAPACHRISTOFOROU Koulis		Panagrotikos Farmers Union (PANAGRO)	Secretary General
Mr	KABAKCI Alican		Union of Turkish Cypriot Farmers	Chairman
Mr	OGUZ CEYDA Ahmet		Union of Turkish Cypriot Farmers	Secretary General
		<u>Egypt/Egypte</u>		
Mr	IDRIS Mohamed		Central Agricultural Co-operative Union (CACU)	Secretary General
		<u>France</u>		
M.	GUYAU Luc		Assemblée Permanente des Chambres d'Agriculture	Président
M.	BIGOU Daniel		Assemblée Permanente des Chambres d'Agriculture	Sous-Directeur des Affaires Internationales
M.	GIVA Guy		Assemblée Permanente des Chambres d'Agriculture	Président de la CA de l'Aude
M.	BOULARD André		Fédération Nationale des syndicats d'exploitants agricoles (FNSEA)	Président de la CA de la région PACA
M.	BASTIAN Jean-Paul		FDSEA – Bas Rhin	

## Organisations agricoles / Agricultural Organisations

	NOM / NAME	PAYS / COUNTRY	ORGANE	FONCTION
		<u>Italy/Italie</u>		
M.	PACETTI Massimo		Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori (CIA)	Président
M.	LO MONACO Vito		CIA	Présidence
M.	SERRA CARRACIOLO Francesco		CIA	Présidence
M.	DI ROLLO Claudio		CIA	Chef du Bureau de Bruxelles
M.	BERNARDINI Alfredo		CIA	Chef de Presse
M.	BENDIA Piero		CIA	Trésorier
M.	ROSSETTO Federico		<i>Confederazione Nazionale Coltivatori Diretti (COLDIRETTI)</i>	Délégué
		<u>Jordan/Jordanie</u>		
Mr	ABUHELALEH Samir		Jordan Farmers Union	Member
Mr	ALURAN Hazem		Jordan Farmers Union	Member
Mr	SHAKHAMBEH Shrary		Jordan Farmers Union	Member
		<u>Lebanon/Liban</u>		
M.	HOBEIKA Camille		Fédération des Chambres de Commerce, de l'Industrie et de l'Agriculture du Liban (FCCIAL)	Membre du Conseil, Président Du Comité Agricole
M.	EDRISS Rachid		FCCIAL	Conseiller Agricole
		<u>Malta/Malte</u>		
Mr	NAUDI Louie		Malta Agriculture Lobby	Chairman
Mr	FARRUGIA Joseph		Malta Agriculture Lobby	Deputy Chairman
		<u>Portugal</u>		
M.	SANTIAGO Diogo		CAP	Délégué permanent à Bruxelles
		<u>Spain/Espagne</u>		
M.	MORALEDA QUILEZ Fernando		Union de los Pequeños Agricultores	Secrétaire Général
M.	AVIGNO Genaro		ASAJA	
M.	CARO Antonio		ASAJA	
M.	LOPEZ GARCIA-ASENJO Ignacio		ASAJA	Directeur du Département International
M.	VARGAS Alfonso		ASAJA	
		<u>Tunisia/Tunisie</u>		
M.	BACHA Abdelbaki		Union Tunisienne de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche (UTAP)	Président

## Organisations agricoles / Agricultural Organisations

	NOM / NAME	PAYS / COUNTRY	ORGANE	FONCTION
M.	MAHJOUB Shabi		UTAP	Membre du Bureau Exécutif
M.	TLILI Adel		UTAP	Membre du Bureau Exécutif
		<u>Turkey/Turquie</u>		
Mr	YUCEL Faruk		Union of Turkish Chambers of Agriculture (TZOB)	Chairman
Mr	GENC Bekir		TZOB	Member of the Executive Committee
		<u>United Kingdom/ Royaume Uni</u>		
Mr	BENNETT Tim		National Farmers' Union	Deputy President

<b>Conseil de l'Europe / Council of Europe</b>				
	<b>NOM / NAME</b>	<b>PAYS / COUNTRY</b>	<b>AUTRES ORGANES / OTHER ORGANS</b>	<b>FONCTION / POSITION</b>
			<i>Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe/ Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe</i>	
M.	KIRKPATRICK Guillermo	Espagne		Représentant Permanent, Président du Groupe de travail sur la coopération dans le bassin méditerranéen
M.	LATELLA Sergio	Italie		Représentant Permanent Adjoint
Mr	LICARI Joseph	Malta		Représentant Permanent

## Union européenne / European Union

	NOM / NAME	PAYS / COUNTRY	AUTRES ORGANES / OTHER ORGANS	FONCTION / POSITION
Mr	FISCHLER Franz	Austria	Commission européenne / European Commission	Commissioner, responsible for Agriculture, rural development and Fisheries
Mr	KALLIO Seppo	Finland	Comité économique et social / Economic and Social Committee	Member of the Committee, Director for International Affairs of the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners
Mme	LOPEZ ALMENDARIZ Margarita	Espagne	Comité économique et social/ Economic and Social Committee	Membre du Comité, membre du Conseil de Direction de la CEOE (Confédération Espagnole des entreprises)
Mme	AUBERT Nicette	France	Comité des Régions / Committee of Regions	Conseiller régional de Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
Mme	RIBERA Marie-Christine		COPA/COGECA	
M.	GUICHART Bruno		Confédération des industries agro-alimentaires (CIAA)	

## Autres participants / Other participants

	NOM / NAME	PAYS/COUNTRY	ORGANE / ORGAN	FONCTION / POSITION
M.	ALLAYA Mahmoud	Tunisie	Centre international des Hautes Etudes agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM)	Professeur à l'Institut agronomique Méditerranéen de Montpellier
M.	BENAMAR Abdellah	Maroc	Consulat Général à Strasbourg	Vice Consul
M.	BENSAID Khaled	Tunisie	Consulat Général à Strasbourg	Vice Consul
M.	CAPONE Roberto	Italie	CIHEAM	Administrateur principal
M.	CHIOCCIOLI Enzo	Italie	CIHEAM	Secrétaire Général
Ms	COLLION Marie-Helen	USA	World Bank	Senior Agricultural Services Specialist
Mr	DJUKIC Nicola	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	First Secretary
M.	DRIDI Héchmi	Tunisie	Consulat de Tunisie à Strasbourg	Vice-Consul
M.	ELHIMDI Jaouad	Maroc	Consulat Général à Strasbourg	Consul Général
M.	GABAY Ayré H.	Israël	Représentation auprès de l'UNESCO	Ambassadeur, Chargé des relations avec le Conseil de l'Europe
M.	HOUMY Abderrahim	Maroc	Mission du Royaume du Maroc auprès des Communautés européennes	Conseiller agricole
Mr	LATINOVIC Rajko	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Government of the Republic of Srpska	Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Water supply
Ms	LAZAREVIC Branka	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Government of the Republic of Srpska	Interpreter
M.	LINDAU Manfred		Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	Directeur du Bureau de liaison avec l'UE et la Belgique
M.	MOKRANI Ali	Algérie		Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. à Bruxelles
Mr	OZKAN Nurrullah	Turkey	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the European Community	Agricultural Counselor
M.	SMAAL Omar	Maroc	Consulat à Strasbourg	Conseiller
Mlle	TRINQUELLE Isabelle	Germany	International Council of Environmental Law	Council's representative
Mme	ZETER Catherine	France		Attachée parlementaire de M. Joseph DAUL, membre du PE

## Secrétariat/Secretariat

	NOM / NAME	FONCTION / POSITION
<b><i>Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe/Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe</i></b>		
Mr	SAWICKI Wojciech	Director
Mr	STEGEN Joern	Head of Unit, Relations with Parliaments and NGOs
Mme	CAGNOLATI Antonella	Chef du Secrétariat de la Commission de l'Environnement et de l'Agriculture
M.	SIXTO Alfred	Secrétaire de la Commission de l'Environnement et de l'Agriculture
M.	CHEVTCHENKO Pavel	Co-secrétaire de la Commission de l'Environnement et de l'Agriculture
Ms	BASTIER Hazel	Assistant
Mme	KOPEC Eliza	Assistante
M.	GRUDEN Matjaz	Cabinet du Président
Mr	MACDONALD Angus	Press attaché
M.	FERRER Francesc	Unité de communication
<b><i>Parlement européen/European Parliament</i></b>		
M.	OLIVARES Ismael	Director
M.	FRANJULIEN Armand	Chef de la Division, Commission de l'agriculture et du développement rural
Mme	DEMPSEY Cliodhna	Chef de division, Coordination générale
M.	MASSOT MARTI Albert	Administrateur, Commission de l'agriculture et du développement rural
M.	GRESCH Norbert	Administrateur, Commission des affaires étrangères, des droits de l'homme, de la sécurité commune et de la politique de défense
M.	GOMEZ MARTOS Francisco	Administrateur, Relations avec les Parlements nationaux
M.	HERDIES Raymond	Assistant, Délégations Europe
Ms	BRAZIER Mary	Administrator ,Press service
Mme	FLORQUIN Françoise	Secrétariat
Mme	FERNANDEZ FRANCIA Maria	Secrétariat
Mme	GOESSLING Elke	Secrétariat
Mme	DE RUYVER Patricia	Secrétariat
Mme	DE SENA Patrizia	Secrétariat
Mme	VENDE Valérie	Secrétariat

<b>Secrétariat/Secretariat</b>		
	<b>NOM / NAME</b>	<b>FONCTION / POSITION</b>
M.	THONE Denis	Logistique
Mr	FONSECA José	Adviser
<b><i>FIPA/IFAP</i></b>		
Mr	KING David L.J.	Secretary General of the Secretariat
Mme	OURABAH Nora	Responsable du Comité Méditerranéen de la FIPA
Mme	GAY-PEILLER Michèle	Directeur de l' Administration et des Finances



### Alphabetic list of participants

1.	Mr	ABUHELALEH Samir	Jordan
2.	Mr	AGALOV Vladimir	Russia
3.	M.	AGIUS Francis	Malta
4.	Mme	AGUDO Cristina	Espagne
5.	Me	AIT ALI SLIMANE Bechra	Algeria
6.	M.	ALLAYA Mahmoud	Tunisie
7.	Mr	ALURAN Hazem	Jordan
8.	Mme	AUBERT Nicette	France
9.	Mme	AUROI Danielle	France
10.	M.	AVIGNO Genaro	Spain
11.	M.	AVOLIO Giuseppe	Italy
12.	M.	BACHA Abdelbaki	Tunisia
13.	M.	BAKOPOULOS Emmanouil	Grèce
14.	M.	BASCOU Jacques	France
15.	Mr	BASIAKOS Evangelos	Greece
16.	M.	BASTIAN Jean-Paul	France
17.	M.	BEDIN Tino	Italy
18.	Mr	BEHRENDT Wolfgang	Germany
19.	M.	BEITAMIO Gianpaolo	Italy
20.	M.	BENAMAR Abdellah	Maroc
21.	M.	BENDIA Piero	Italy
22.	Mr	BENNETT Tim	United Kingdom
23.	M.	BENSAID Khaled	Tunisie
24.	M.	BENSLAMA Mohamed	Algeria
25.	M.	BERNARDINI Alfredo	Italy
26.	M.	BESOSTRI Felice Carlo	Italie
27.	M.	BIGOU Daniel	France
28.	Mr	BIRIUKOV Mikhail	Russia
29.	M.	BOUHADJAR Mohamed	Algeria
30.	M.	BOULARD André	France
31.	M.	BOVA Domenico	Italy
32.	Mme	BOYON Cécile	France
33.	M.	BRIANE Jean	France
34.	Mr	BURBIENE Sigita	Lithuania
35.	M.	CAMPSTEIN Léon	Belgique
36.	M.	CAPONE Roberto	Italie
37.	Mr	CARLSSON Kurt Inge	Sweden
38.	M.	CARO Antonio	Spain
39.	M.	CHERIF Mongi	Tunisia
40.	M.	CHIOCCIOLI Enzo	Italie
41.	M.	CODREANU Dumitru	Romania
42.	Mr	COHEN Ran	Israel
43.	Ms	COLLION Marie-Helen	USA
44.	Mr	CONSTANTINIDES Costakis	Cyprus
45.	M.	COSARCIUC Valeriu	Moldova
46.	M.	CUENCA MIRANDA Aflonso	Espagne

47.	Ms	CULJKOVIC Dragana	Slovenia
48.	Mme	DI PANCAZIO Elena	Italy
49.	M.	DI ROLLO Claudio	Italy
50.	M.	DINE Smaïl	Algeria
51.	Mr	DJUKIC Nicola	Bosnia & Herzegovina
52.	M.	DOORNBOS Gerard	Netherlands
53.	M.	DRIDI Héchmi	Tunisie
54.	Mr	DZUBAN Geza	Slovenia
55.	M.	EDRISS Rachid	Lebanon
56.	Mr	ELBASEL Abou Bakr	Egypt
57.	Mr	ELBEALY Fathi Elsaeed	Egypt
58.	M.	ELHIMDI Jaouad	Maroc
59.	Mr	ELMELIGY H. Bahaa EIDin	Egypt
60.	Mr	ESCH, von der, Björn	Sweden
61.	Mr	ETHERINGTON Bill	United Kingdom
62.	Mr	FARRUGIA Joseph	Malta
63.	Mr	FARRUGIA Noël	Malta
64.	M.	FEKHAR Brahim	Algeria
65.	Mr	FILIPOVIC Ratko	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
66.	M.	FIORI Francesco	Italie
67.	Mr	FISCHLER Franz	Austria
68.	M.	FIUME GARELLI Sebastiano	Italy
69.	M.	FRANZ Daniele	Italy
70.	M.	GABAY Ayré H.	Israël
71.	M.	GAROT Georges	France
72.	Mr	GENC Bekir	Turkey
73.	M.	GIVA Guy	France
74.	Mr	GOEPEL Lutz	Germany
75.	M.	GONZALEZ DE TXABARRI José	Espagne
76.	Mr	GRAEFE zu BARINGDORF Friedrich-Wilhelm	Germany
77.	Ms	GRÖNER Lissy	Germany
78.	Mr	GUICHART Bruno	France
79.	M.	GUYAU Luc	France
80.	Mr	HATZIDAKIS Konstantinos	Greece
81.	M.	HOBEIKA Camille	Lebanon
82.	M.	HOEFFEL Daniel	France
83.	M.	HOUMY Abderrahim	Maroc
84.	Mr	IDRIS Mohamed	Egypt
85.	M.	IMBENI Renzo	Italie
86.	Mr	JELEC Sead	Bosnia & Herzegovina
87.	Mr	KABAKCI Alican	Cyprus
88.	Mr	KALLIO Seppo	Finland
89.	Mr	KAYOUH Abdessamad	Morocco
90.	M.	KEUSCHNIGG Georg	Autriche
91.	M.	KIRKPATRICK Guillermo	Espagne
92.	Ms	KLASS Christa	Germany

93.	Mr	KOLESNIKOV Victor	Russia
94.	M.	KOULOURIANOS Dimitrios	Grèce
95.	M.	KRAFSI Mohamed	Morocco
96.	Mr	KRAMBERGER Janez	Slovenia
97.	Ms	KRATSA TSAGAROPOULO Rodi	Greece
98.	Mr	LAKIR Ahmed	Morocco
99.	M.	LATELLA Sergio	Italie
100.	Mr	LATINOVIC Rajko	Bosnia &Herzegovina
101.	M.	LAVARRA Vincenzo	Italie
102.	Ms	LAZAREVIC Branka	Bosnia &Herzegovina
103.	Mr	LAZIC Dusan	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
104.	Mr	LIBICKI Marcin	Poland
105.	Mr	LICARI Joseph	Malta
106.	M.	LINDAU Manfred	Belgique
107.	M.	LO MONACO Vito	Italy
108.	Mme	LOPEZ ALMENDARIZ Margarita	Espagne
109.	M.	LOPEZ GARCIA-ASENJO Ignacio	Spain
110.	M.	LOPEZ PENHA PEREIRA Fernando Manuel	Portugal
111.	Mme	LOURENCO Maria Do Céu	Portugal
112.	Mr	LOZANČIĆ Ivo	Bosnia & Herzegovina
113.	M.	MACIAS José	Spain
114.	M.	MADERO José	Spain
115.	M.	MAHJOUB Shabi	Spain
116.	Mr	MANUKYAN Yuri	Armenia
117.	M.	MARIOT Jean Paul	France
118.	M.	MARTINEZ CASAN Guillermo	Espagne
119.	Mr	MEALE Alan	United Kingdom
120.	M.	MOKRANI Ali	Algérie
121.	M.	MORALEDA QUILEZ Fernando	Spain
122.	M.	MOUISSET Abderrazak	Morocco
123.	Mr	NAUDI Louie	Malta
124.	M.	NICOLESCU Mihai	Romania
125.	Mr	ODINTSOV Mikhail	Russia
126.	Mr	OGUZ CEYDA Ahmet	Cyprus
127.	Mr	OZCAN Nurullah	Turkey
128.	M.	PACETTI Massimo	Italy
129.	Mr	PAPACHRISTOFOROU Koulis	Cyprus
130.	M.	PEREZ LAPAZARAN José Cruz	Spain
131.	Mr	PIPERGIAS Dimitrios	Greece
132.	Mme	POLESE Elisabeth	Italie
133.	M.	PRIBEANU Gheorghe	Roumanie
134.	M.	PROCACCI Giovanni	Italie
135.	Mme	REDONDO JIMENEZ Encarnacion	Espagne
136.	Mme	RIBERA Marie-Christine	France
137.	M.	ROBOL Alberto	Italie
138.	M.	RODEGHIERO Flavio	Italie

139.	M.	RODRIGUEZ Pedro	Spain
140.	Mme	RODRIGUEZ RAMOS Maria	Espagne
141.	M.	ROSSETTO Federico	Italie
142.	M.	ROUX Philippe	France
143.	Lord	RUSSELL-JOHNSTON	United Kingdom
144.	M.	SANTIAGO Diogo	Portugal
145.	M.	SCHMIED Walter	Suisse
146.	M.	SERRA CARRACIOLO Francesco	Italy
147.	Mr	SHAKHAMBEH Shrary	Jordan
148.	Mr	SIMIC Aleksandar	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
149.	M.	SMAAL Omar	Maroc
150.	Mr	STRATAKIS Emmanouil	Greece
151.	Mr	SZINYEI Andràs	Hungary
152.	Mr	TAYLOR John D.	United Kingdom
153.	M.	TLILI Adel	Spain
154.	M.	TORCHI Mohamed Larbi	Algeria
155.	M.	TOUMI Hédi	Tunisia
156.	Mlle	TRINQUELLE Isabelle	Germany
157.	M.	VARGAS Alfonso	Espagne
158.	Mr	YUCEL Faruk	Turkey
159.	Mme	ZETER Catherine	France
160.	Ms	ZIKIC Sanja	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

