

## **Abstract**

### **The Barcelona Declaration ten years on: A critical evaluation of its results**

This thesis deals with the Barcelona Declaration involving the EU states and their Mediterranean non-member partners and offers a critical evaluation of results obtained thusfar.

What cannot be denied is that the partnership, the Declaration established had a strong effect on the discourse concerning the Mediterranean region, one going well beyond the immediate area and affecting regional and global relationships.

It is also a case study of the ongoing relationship between Europe and the Middle East, focusing on the various aspects of the relationship, political, economic and social, and the bearing of the this experiment on matters of security, prosperity and prospects for development.

One of the main problems confronting the implementation of the program offered in 1995 in Barcelona has been the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict, with its implications for the Arab world and the Middle East.

Politically speaking, the situation has stagnated, largely because of the accentuation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict (for which Europe's rival, the United States of America, bears a great deal of responsibility).

On the economic front, things have gone somewhat better; as for the social and cultural aspects, more time is needed to deal with issues such as the effects of immigration from south to north, and the complex question of 'terrorism'.

This study includes four main Chapters:

- The first chapter describes the Barcelona Declaration, and explains its background, why it was adopted, and its goals at the time of its adoption.

- The second chapter describes the three dimensions of the E.U Mediterranean Partnership.
- The third chapter traces the steps taken to implement the goals of the Declaration: successive conferences of the parties, and the interaction between the process and conflicts in the area, particularly the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- The fourth chapter sums up the challenges and obstacles in the way of the ongoing Barcelona process, and evaluates its failures and successes, and the extent to which its agenda was carried out, including for example the quest for a free trade zone in 2010, the improvement of the civil rights situation around the Mediterranean, the intensification of cultural exchanges, and the improvement of security.

The thesis concludes that the Barcelona Declaration did not achieve its stated goals in any particular field, but that it is important to keep it alive for the day when conditions will be more favorable and a natural process, the reunification of the Mediterranean basin, can take place.