

Sarkozy, Prodi and Zapatero: first summit for the Mediterranean Union



Rome, 20th December 2007 - For Romano Prodi it is a "great project". A "new step forward" in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation launched in Barcelona in 1995, according to Jose' Luis Zapatero. "A vision, a dream, which we will fulfil", says Nicolas Sarkozy. The "vision" that Sarkozy carries on since his election as President, will be realized through the Union among the countries facing the Mediterranean.

Prodi, Sarkozy and Zapatero have decided to convene a summit with the President and the Prime Minister of the Mediterranean countries. It will take place in Paris on 13th July, the day before the EU summit.

"We wish that Mediterranean Area will be a cohesive region, against war and discrimination" said Sarkozy who also stated to share the objectives defined by Prodi and Zapatero and their vision about Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean Union does not want to substitute the cooperation ideas of the EU, but its purpose is to complete it, signing an improvement in collaboration for new projects. It will be a form of universal cooperation to encourage "a further proximity" between the two coasts of the Mediterranean. Paris aims, with the newborn Union at a new dynamism, to give new impulse to the partnership process. This cooperation wishes to be a flexible structure, which however will not cancel the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, launched in Barcelona with all the EU partners.

The new Union was ideally born in Rome, to deal with the challenges of development, peace, protection of the environment.

A cohesive Mediterranean which will bring peace in the whole Area. This is the "dream" of Sarkozy, Prodi and Zapatero.