

## Outline

- What is The Union of the Mediterranean?
- The structure of the UfM
- UfM's work programme
- UfM as a de-politicization?
- The two-stage strategy
- From normative to pragmatic and the consequences
- Perception of the UfM in the Middle Eastern States
- Question about security
- Conclusion

## Union for the Mediterranean – pragmatic multilateralism?

Student presentation by Elise

### What is The Union of the Mediterranean?

- Established on the initiative of the French president Nicolas Sarkozy in July 2008
- A new project of cooperation between the EU and the Middle East
- The aim is a secure environment across the Mediterranean
- A continuation of ENP's pragmatism?

## The structure of the UfM

- 27 member states of the EU
- 16 partners south and east of the Mediterranean
- Two co-presidents: a state leader from an EU and a non-EU country
- Secretariat in Barcelona
- See also [http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/index_en.htm)

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## UfM's work programme

- De-pollution of the Mediterranean
- Maritime and Land Highways
- Civil Protection
- Alternative Energies: Mediterranean Solar Plan
- Higher Education and Research: a Euro-Mediterranean University
- The Mediterranean Business Development Initiative

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## UfM as a de-politicization?

- Uncontroversial programme
- Built on pragmatism
- Possible access to better cooperation between EU and the MENA states

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## Two-stage strategy

- Help from history
- “The short term initial cooperation focuses on rather uncontroversial projects, while in the long term more binding forms of political cooperation are assumed to become feasible” (Seeberg, 288)
- Neo-functionalist line of thought

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## From normative to pragmatic

- Normative strategies in the Barcelona Process
- Pragmatic strategies in ENP and UfM
- EU's foreign policy: limits for what is possible

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## Consequences of pragmatism

- Legitimizes the authoritarian regimes in the Middle East
- “The EU chooses not to challenge the authoritarian Arab regimes and thereby leaves political controversies unresolved” (Seeberg, 290).
- EU moves away from its own fundamental values

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### Perception of the UfM in the Middle Eastern States

- Focus on the political aspects rather than on the UfM's projects
- Scepticism towards the cooperation
- UfM is a "political fantasy"
- No peace, no progress

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### Question about security

- Middle East: how to approach the Islamist movements and parties of the region
- EU: has increased the awareness of radical groups in Europe after 9/11 and the bombings in Madrid and London
- The Arab-Israeli conflict is still controversial

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### Conclusion

- "Contrary to the Barcelona process, the UfM is not to be understood as an attempt to change (a part of) the world, but as a way ahead toward local, pragmatic solutions." (Seeberg, 291)
- Pragmatism might lead to security
- Two-stage strategy is a hope

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