Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Palestinian National Authority this week to discuss the Middle East peace process and the upcoming summit of the Union for the Mediterranean. The Spanish government announced its intentions to strengthen relations with the Palestinian Authority following President Abbas' recent decision to renew direct negotiations with Israel. Spain has decided to afford the General Delegation of the PA the status of Diplomatic Mission , effectively recognising the Palestinian Authority as the government of a future Palestinian state, despite the deepening rift between the factions of Fatah and Hamas. During the meeting the two leaders addressed the prospect of peace following the renewal of direct talks, and the possibility of increased co-operation ahead of the summit of the Union for the Mediterranean (UPM), which is to take place in Barcelona later this year.

Quote: *"The two Ministers also had the opportunity to talk about the Union for the Mediterranean Summit that is scheduled to take place in Barcelona in November. Along these lines, Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos indicated that Spain remains fully involved in the work as host country and said that he hopes to count on the support of Palestine in the preparation and development of this Summit.*

A similar meeting also took place last week between French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Sarkozy was of course the originator of the idea of a Union for the Mediterranean, while Mubarak currently serves as the union's southern president. Both leaders discussed the Middle East peace process, and the possibility of using the November summit to facilitate a possible peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

Quote: *"Sarkozy said he agreed with President Mubarak to hold the second summit of the Union for the Mediterranean in November to realise peace in the Middle East. The summit will be an important chance as it will bring together Palestinians, Israelis and other parties concerned to look into ways of boosting Middle East peace efforts and achieve a two-state solution, he added. The French leader lauded the deeply-rooted relations between his country and Egypt, saying the two countries have "distinguished" relations. Thanks to the friendly ties binding Egypt and France, the Union for the Mediterranean was brought to daylight, he said.*

The Union for the Mediterranean brings together all the states of the European Union, along with most southern states that border the Mediterranean Sea. It was born out of the Barcelona Process, also known as EuroMed, which held its first session in Madrid, Spain in 1995. After around 12 years of talks with little real progress being achieved, Nicolas Sarkozy first proposed

the idea of transforming the Barcelona Process into a union of states, in a similar vein to that of the European Union. In October 2007, referring to the collapse of the old Roman Empire, Sarkozy boldly declared that, *"Within every man and woman who lives on the shores of the Mediterranean sleeps the memory, nostalgia, for the unity lost 15 centuries ago"* . In 2008 his proposal was officially adopted by the European Union, and later that year the Union for the Mediterranean was born .

As you can see, there is clearly more to this idea of a Union for the Mediterranean than meets the eye. It is not just about promoting peace and stability on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. It is also about consciously recreating an old social order that has not existed since Caesar sat on the throne. In 2008, President of the European Commission Manuel Barroso was challenged by a European parliamentarian to explain exactly what the end goal of the European project was. We are constantly told by our politicians of the need to integrate our societies and accept globalisation without ever questioning why. In his response to his questioner, Barroso made an astonishing claim , that the EU was essentially the world's first *" non-imperial empire "* . And as I recently remarked, when Belgian politician Paul-Henri Spaak was asked how he felt upon signing the Treaty of Rome, which formally established the European Community - the forerunner to the European Union, he said,
"we felt like Romans on that day... We were consciously recreating the Roman Empire once more"
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Not only is the European Union philosophically linked to the Roman Empire of old, is is also linked to it geographically, with the Union for the Mediterranean covering a similar land mass to that of Daniel's fourth beast.





[redacted] ISRIA, Global Arab Network, You Tube [redacted]