

**MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS: MODERATE
CONSUMPTION, DIVERSIFIED PRODUCTION****V. Barros, A. Rodrigues**

Portugal, a small, peripheral country at the westernmost point of Europe has the Atlantic at its feet and opened itself to the World, conquered an Empire it did not know how to explore or develop and ended up losing it because of the lack of man power and technical means. Portugal turned to Europe and became part of the European Union in 1986 after having lost its colonies and it is thanks to this fact that it has been able to survive in the globalized world we live in.

Although the coastal waters of Portugal are not the Mediterranean Sea, it is as much Mediterranean as are Spain, Italy, Greece and southern France. When the European Union was made up of 15 countries, the tendency was to have northern countries impose policies on southern countries. In increasing the number of member countries to 25, the centre of power will be even more to the north and west.

With new and broader economic areas and greater international commerce, countries tend to dilute their influence and even loose their independence and sovereignty when they are unable to affirm themselves as States with a unique identity. This is a feat only Countries with History can achieve.

With such an accelerated and sometimes unrestrained globalization, the identity and sovereignty of a country are affirmed only through the knowledge, culture and state property of the country itself.

When we look at Mediterranean countries, it is easy to find common denominators that should be the foundation on which to build a solid union that will allow us to defend - our common interests.

The History, Culture, Climate, Agriculture, Rural Development and Gastronomic Heritage of all of these countries have their roots in the Mediterranean Sea. We should also add Food Quality and Safety to these

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values, because it is always easier to control production in our own country or in neighbour countries than in far off countries.

Countries from southern Europe should use the power of these values to exercise their influence, not only moving the centre of Europe, but also involving all other Mediterranean countries. All aspects addressed in the Barcelona Agreements must be carefully analysed, because the more democratic and developed the societies surrounding us, the stronger the cohesion of the European Union.

MEDITERANSKI PROIZVODI: UMJERENA POTROŠNJA, RAZNOLIKA PROIZVODNJA

Portugal, mala, periferna zemlja na najzapadnijem dijelu Europe ima Atlantik do nogu pa se otvorila prema svijetu, pokorila je jedno Carstvo koje nije znala iskoristiti ili razviti te je konačno izgubila zbog pomanjkanja ljudske snage i tehničkih sredstava. Portugal se okrenuo Europi i postao dio Europske unije 1986. nakon što je izgubio svoje kolonije te je zahvaljujući toj činjenici uspio opstati u globaliziranom svijetu u kojem živimo.

Iako obalne vode Portugala nisu Mediteransko more on je isto toliko mediteranska zemlja kao što su Španjolska, Italija, Grčka i južna Francuska. Kad se Europska unija sastojala od 15 zemalja, tendencija je bila da sjeverne zemlje nameću politiku južnim zemljama. Povećanjem broja zemalja članica na 25, središte moći bit će još i više na sjeveru i zapadu.

S novim i širim gospodarskim područjima i većom međunarodnom trgovinom, zemlje obično oslabe svoj utjecaj pa čak i izgube svoju neovisnost i suverenitet kad se ne mogu afirmirati kao države jedinstvenog identiteta. To je nešto što mogu ostvariti samo zemlje s poviješću.

S takvom ubrzanom i katkada neobuzdanom globalizacijom identitet i suverenost zemlje potvrđuju se samo znanjem, kulturom i državnim vlasništvom same zemlje.

Kad pogledamo mediteranske zemlje lako je naći zajedničke nazivnike koji bi trebali biti temelj za stvaranje čvrstog saveza koji će nam omogućiti braniti zajedničke interese.

Povijest, Kultura, Klima, Poljoprivreda, Razvoj sela i Gastronomsko nasljeđe svih tih zemalja imaju korijene u Mediteranskom moru. Ovim vrijednostima moramo također dodati kakvoću i sigurnost hrane jer je uvijek

lakše kontrolirati proizvodnju u vlastitoj zemlji ili u susjednim zemljama nego u onim dalekim.

Zemlje južne Europe moraju iskoristiti moć ovih vrijednosti i nametnuti svoj utjecaj ne samo prema središtu Europe već i prema svim mediteranskim zemljama. Sve aspekte iznesene u Sporazumu u Barceloni treba pažljivo analizirati jer što su društva oko nas demokratičnija i razvijenija veća je povezanost Europske unije.

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