



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



Barcelona  
23-24 January  
2017

# Second UfM Regional Forum

## Mediterranean in Action: Youth for Stability and Development

Organised in cooperation with:



Media Partners:



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## PROGRAMME

Building on the first Union for the Mediterranean Regional Forum “Towards a common development agenda for the Mediterranean”, held in Barcelona on 26 November 2015, the second UfM Regional Forum will convene in Barcelona on 23–24 January 2017 under the chairmanship of the UfM Co-Presidents, Mrs. Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union and Vice President of the European Commission, and Mr. Ayman Al Safadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This second edition of the UfM Regional Forum will have a special focus on youth.

Young men and women are a source of creativity, innovation and positive change, if an enabling environment is provided to facilitate their full participation. It is the region’s most valuable asset, and must be at the heart of the Mediterranean agenda. Young people play an important role in energizing development, growth, poverty reduction and societal well-being, as well as in fostering regional cooperation and integration. Their active participation in intercultural exchanges and dialogue is key. Youth, both in the North and the South, are ambassadors of the shared values that we want to defend and promote: they are the promise of a better future.

Providing more opportunities for youth and reinforcing the regional human capital are therefore a top priority of the Union for the Mediterranean and a key driver for stability and development in the region. There is an urgent need to achieve a higher impact on youth employability and mobility, higher education, vocational training and youth inclusion, through developing further exemplary concrete initiatives, projects and programs, and replicating best practices.

Youth employability is a fundamental challenge for the entire Euro-Mediterranean region. Almost 60% of the population in the southern Mediterranean region is currently under the age of 30, with a fast growing demographic rate and 2.8 million young people entering the labour market each year.

The low level of economic integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region negatively affects socio-economic opportunities and prospects. Enhancing regional cooperation and integration is therefore essential to capitalize on the region's assets and on its very strong potential for growth and development. Two figures highlight this potential:

- according to the International Labour Organisation, a reduction of youth unemployment rates by 50% could lead to an increased regional GDP of Euro 25 billion;
- in the area of infrastructures, a study by the European Investment Bank has estimated the investment needs in infrastructure in the Mediterranean region by 2020 at Euro 23 billion per year.

There is an urgency to promote innovation, connectivity and smart solutions, in order to foster inclusive growth, entrepreneurship and job creation, and to generate a positive and sustainable multiplier effect for regional integration.

The magnitude of the current challenges calls, more than ever, for regional solutions. The Union for the Mediterranean offers a unique platform for regional cooperation, based on common strategies that represent the commitment of its 43 Member States to a regional agenda for peace, stability, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Concrete and tangible results have been achieved by the UfM and its partners in the region:

- 10 Ministerial Conferences and several High Level Meetings have taken place;
- increasingly structured regional dialogues have involved a network of cooperation of over 10,000 stakeholders around the Mediterranean, including international organisations, parliamentarians, NGOs and other civil society representatives, international financial institutions, development agencies, industries and private sector representatives and entities, universities and think-tanks;
- projects with regional impact: 47 regional cooperation projects have been labelled worth 5.5 bn Euros.

The second UfM Regional Forum will be a timely opportunity to further amplify and accelerate the agenda for action within the Euro-Mediterranean region, in line with UfM Ministerial Declarations and the Sustainable Development Goals. Discussions will address the most pressing needs of Mediterranean youth, exchanging on experiences and good practices, highlighting efficient partnerships, promoting relevant frameworks for financing regional priorities, and opening new perspectives for coordinated regional action.

The youth equation holds the key to the future of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

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*The UfM Regional Forum is comprised of two segments: (I) a meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the UfM Member States to be held in the morning of 23 January and (II) this Conference, with the participation of representatives of private sector and civil society*

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## CONFERENCE

**Monday, 23 January**

15.00 – 15.30 | Arrival of participants and registration

15.30 – 18.30 | OPENING PLENARY

15.30 – 16.00 | Inauguration

- **Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission
- **Ayman Al Safadi**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- **Alfonso María Dastis Quecedo**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain

16.00 – 16.30 | Opening statements

- **Johannes Hahn**, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations
- **Augusto Santos Silva**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal
- **Ditmir Bushati**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania
- **Ihab Nasr**, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt
- **Darja Bavdež Kuret**, State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia
- **Yildiz Ahmet**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey
- **Sabri Bachtobji**, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia

16.30 – 16.40 | Presentation of the activities of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean

- **Fathallah Sijilmassi**, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean

16.40 - 18.30 | Keynote addresses and discussions

- **Pietro Grasso**, President of the Italian Senate and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean
- **Hafez Ghanem**, Vice-President of the World Bank for the Middle East and North Africa
- **Michael A. Köhler**, Director for the Neighbourhood South, DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
- **Bertrand Piccard**, Chairman, Solar Impulse Foundation

Testimonial:

- **Imene Bouchair**, Mediterranean Youth Climate Network

Moderated by **Delphine Borione**, Senior Deputy Secretary General for Social and Civil Affairs, Union for the Mediterranean

18:30 | Networking Cocktail

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## Tuesday, 24 January

09.30 – 12.30 Parallel panels

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee break

### 09.30 -12.30 | Panel I. The human development agenda: ensuring regional stability for the Mediterranean

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The human development agenda is key for the stability and the development in the region. The focus on human capital, particularly through youth and women empowerment, is paramount to address the root causes of current regional challenges. We need to continue working on three dimensions in that regard: i) Youth employability and inclusive growth; ii) Women empowerment; and iii) Higher education, vocational education and training, and mobility.

Policies and programmes should take into account the situation of young women, whose unemployment rate is significantly higher than that of young men. Efforts should contribute to strengthen women's participation in the labour market and in economic life, as part of an integrated approach including the political and social dimensions of gender equality. It is essential to confirm the need for a global and balanced approach to the issues of mobility, migration and development. Intercultural dialogue is an essential dimension of this human development.

- *What are the best regional cooperation mechanisms to promote a better transition from school to work? How to support young entrepreneurs? And how to enable mobility in order to increase youth opportunities?*
- *How can human development policies contribute to bridging communities around the Mediterranean, promoting tolerance and intercultural dialogue?*
- *How do we improve young women's socio-economic participation, empowering them as young leaders and drivers of economic growth, stability and social inclusion?*

Co-Chairs:      **Anastasia Fetsi**, Head of Operations Department, European Training Foundation  
                      **Sudqi Omoush**, Deputy Secretary General for Business Development, Union for the Mediterranean

Speakers:

- **Christiane Bögemann-Hagedorn**, Deputy Director-General for North Africa, Middle East, South-Eastern and Eastern Europe and Latin America, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany
- **Edem Bakhshish**, Chief, Division for Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)
- **Mostapha Bousmina**, President of the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes
- **Josep González**, President of PIMEC, Catalan SME employer's organization
- **Jean-Louis Reiffers**, President of the Second Chance School of Marseille

- **Nacéra Haddad**, Vice President, “Forum des Chefs d’entreprise” of Algeria

Testimonials:

- **Kiliam Pierre Rey**, UfM labelled project “Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes”
- **Islem Ben Ali**, UfM labelled project “New Chance Mediterranean Network” (MedNC)

09.30-12.30 | Panel II. The sustainable development agenda: meeting the challenges of connectivity in the Mediterranean

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Fostering economic ties through a comprehensive regional policy on sustainable development is essential to promote inclusive socio-economic growth. Climate change, renewable energy, land and maritime transport, urban development, the water agenda and blue and circular economy are drivers for generating resilient and smart solutions to meet the challenges of sustainability and connectivity. Furthermore, they open new opportunities for employment.

These dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals should be addressed from a cross sectorial inclusive approach because they are the backbone of economic development, competitiveness and regional integration. Strengthening the Mediterranean sustainable development agenda is an important contribution to regional stability.

- *Which cooperation initiatives could improve regional action in the fields of energy, water, transports and logistics while insuring a maximum contribution to fostering regional integration, through better connectivity and inclusive growth?*
- *In what ways can innovation contribute to sustainability in the Mediterranean? How can it influence the socio-economic development of the region in line with the SDGs?*
- *How can we improve comprehensive cross-sectorial strategies around the Mediterranean, complementing infrastructure development and environmental policies, and to what extent does it contribute to providing new opportunities for youth in the region?*

Co-Chairs: **Jesús Silva Fernández**, Chairman, Spain’s Agency for Infrastructure and Engineering, INECO  
**Miguel García-Herraiz Roobaert**, Deputy Secretary General for Water and Environment, Union for the Mediterranean.

Speakers:

- **Jihad Alsawair**, Director of Green Economy, Ministry of Environment of Jordan
- **Hani Abdelmasih Al-Hayek**, Mayor of Beit Sahour, Co-President of Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly
- **Sinem Savtekin**, Manager of Waste Management Planning and Control Department of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey
- **Clive Lipchin**, Director of the Israeli Centre for Transboundary Water Management, Arava Institute
- **Jorge Vasconcelos**, Chairman, New Energy Solutions



Testimonial:

- **Najwa Bourawi**, Association for the UfM labelled project “Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Bizerte”

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#### 09.30-12.30 | Panel III. Supporting the Mediterranean Development Agenda

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Socio-economic and connectivity infrastructure investments are paramount to economic growth. International financing institutions and development cooperation agencies play a major role in this field. Their engagement is pivotal for the support and promotion of regional integration policies that can have a strong impact on the development and well-being of our peoples.

A more inclusive and cooperative strategy at the regional level has to be strengthened to amplify the coordinated efforts for mobilizing financial resources, in line with the SDGs and the UfM Ministerial meeting on Regional Cooperation and Planning, held on 1 June 2016 in Jordan.

- *How can international financing institutions and major donors better target youth? How can support to regional priorities and agendas be strengthened?*
- *How to mobilize the private sector and civil society to develop new projects and initiatives? How to strengthen the territorial cohesion and enhance local authorities' engagement?*
- *How to promote a further coordinated approach that guarantees effective and sustainable results on the ground?*

Co-Chairs :     **Román Escolano**, Vice President, European Investment Bank  
                      **Ihab Fahmy**, Deputy Secretary General for Transport and Urban Development, Union for the Mediterranean.

Speakers :

- **Mazen Ghunaim**, Minister of Water, Palestine
- **Juancho Izuzquiza**, Head of Financial Cooperation, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)
- **Irina Kravchenko**, Associate Director, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- **Irène Mingasson**, Head of Unit, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
- **Anders Frankenberg**, Director, Regional Unit MENA, Department for Asia, North Africa and humanitarian Assistance - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- **Dominique Rojat**, Economist and Project leader, Infrastructure and Environment Unit, Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- **Fakhry Al Hazaimh**, Executive President, Agadir Technical Unit (ATU)

Testimonial:

- **Imane Bejja**, Promoter, UfM labelled project “UfM Energy University by Schneider Electric”

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**09.30-12.30 | Panel IV. The future starts now: youth at the heart of the Mediterranean Agenda**

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This panel is organized by IEMED, one of the leading Spanish think tanks, acting as the Secretariat of the EuroMeSCo network of think tanks. A prospective and forward looking vision is essential to the debates in the Forum. A vast and largely untapped potential of opportunities exists on both rims of the Mediterranean. Youth represent the present and the future of our societies and constitute the largest age group in southern and eastern Mediterranean countries. More than one third of the population is under 15.

We need to exchange on experiences and good practices, with a view to turning regional challenges related to youth into opportunities for increased stability, human and sustainable infrastructure development and regional integration. We have to better understand how Mediterranean youth aspirations, needs and ideas can be more adequately addressed, and how the UfM and other regional and subregional cooperation initiatives can more effectively contribute to the shared objectives of greater social and political cohesion in the region.

- *How can the aspirations, needs and ideas of youth in the Mediterranean be met by adequate responses?*
- *What are the best mechanisms and levers to unleash youth potential as means of ensuring sustainable and inclusive development, and avoid risks of social exclusion and radicalization in the region?*
- *How can the UfM and other regional cooperation initiatives tackle the needs of Mediterranean youth more effectively in order to achieve greater social and political cohesion in the region?*

**Co-Chairs:** **Senén Florensa**, President of the Steering Committee of Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission and Executive President of European Institute of the Mediterranean  
**Jorge Borrego**, Deputy Secretary General for Energy and Climate Action, Union for the Mediterranean  
**Maria Badia**, Secretary for Foreign and European Union Affairs, Generalitat de Catalunya

**Speakers:**

- **Hatem Atallah**, Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation
- **Dalia Ghanem-Yazbeck**, El-Erian Fellow, Carnegie Middle East Center
- **Nathalie Tocci**, Vice-Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali
- **Claire Spencer**, Senior Research Fellow for the MENA programme, Chatham House
- **Hamza Meddeb**, Research Fellow, Middle East Directions Programme, European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies

Testimonials:

- **Tina Hočevár**, Bureau member, European Youth Forum
- **Sara Hasna Mokaddem**, International Relations Specialist, OCP Policy Centre

12.30-12.45 Wrap-up session

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- **Kevin Bortz**, Managing Director of Financial Operations, Union for the Mediterranean

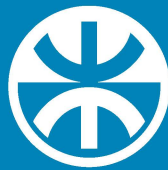
12.45-13.00 Closing remarks

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- **Rosamaria Gili**, Head of Division, Arabian Peninsula, Iraq and Regional Policies, European External Action Service, UfM co-chair
- **Fathallah Sijilmassi**, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean
- **Ignacio Ybáñez**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain

13.00 | Networking lunch





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