



# WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION

2<sup>nd</sup> ECONOMIC BUSINESS FORUM (5+5 Dialogue)

## BACKGROUND

The Western Mediterranean Cooperation (5+5 Dialogue) was launched by France in 1983, although only established in 1990, with the purpose of strengthening political dialogue and cooperation in areas of common interest between the countries of the western basin of the Mediterranean and to promote the economic development of the Maghreb Region.

In the framework of the commitments made by the Foreign Ministers of the member countries, namely at the Malta Summit and confirmed in Nouakchott Ministerial Meeting, Mauritania Summit, the promotion of economic and trade relations and investment opportunities between the countries of the two shores of the Western Mediterranean were considered as priorities for the upcoming years.

A new structure for enhanced cooperation and partnerships, mobilizing companies and their associative structures, was set.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Economic Business Forum, held last October in Barcelona, was the first step towards the deepening of the dialogue and cooperation in economic and business fields.

Portugal and Mauritania currently have the co-presidency of the 5+5 Dialogue, having the task, among others, to organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> Economic Business Forum, in cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean - UfM, in light of the Foreign Ministers Meeting that will take place next May 22<sup>nd</sup> in Lisbon.

Therefore, Sustainable Development is proposed as the central theme, structured around four strategic pillars: water, environment, infrastructure and financing. These issues should be considered from the viewpoint of the challenges and business opportunities for the companies, in order to identify areas of strategic cooperation in joint projects and initiatives. We believe that these issues are relevant and of interest to all 5+5 Dialogue Member Countries. Furthermore, these central themes are linked to other matters of undeniable importance: infrastructure projects associated with energy, environment and water management, environmental technology, sustainable mobility, agriculture, tourism and sustainable development, sustainable management of the sea, coastal and marine resources, financing of cooperation projects in the Western Mediterranean, urbanism and smart cities.

Moreover, this Economic Business Forum will provide a space for reflection, and a room to meet and discuss opportunities for cooperation, besides technical visits to companies or relevant projects.

Entrepreneurs are necessarily the key players of this new work plan aimed at promoting more partnerships, joint projects and initiatives, and above all enhancing trade and investment between the countries.



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## PROGRAMME

21<sup>st</sup> May 2014

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:  
Environment, Transports and Infrastructures**  
Challenges, cooperation and business opportunities

**9:00am – 9:30am** Delegates Registration

**9:30am – 10:00am** Opening Session

**Paulo Portas**

Deputy Prime Minister of Portugal

**Rui Chancellere de Machete**

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal

**Ahmed Ould Teguedi**

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritania

**10:00am – 10:25am** Welcome address

**Fathallah Sijlmassi**

Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

**10:25am – 10:40am** Coffee Break



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## PARALEL SESSIONS

10:45am

### PANEL 1

#### WASTE AND WATER MANAGEMENT:

#### Challenges, Business Models and Solutions

Presentation of specific projects by representatives of business associations and companies

This panel highlights the importance of Western Mediterranean cooperation projects and initiatives for: countries to set up sound solid waste (SW) management for both economic and ecological reasons; developing the concept of Integrated Sustainable Solid Waste, with the involvement and interaction of the private and public sectors based on good inter-organizational relationships; increasing the role of Government agencies or private agencies that should enhance the monitoring of outsourced SW services, and new systems to strengthen the managerial capacity of municipal managers; a water strategy for the western Mediterranean basin to promote sustainable water use at local, regional and national levels, through the adoption of cross-cutting goals, management criteria and operational objectives, in order to harmonize water policies in the Mediterranean; prevention and nuisances pollution; business models and solutions in the field of waste and water management with the cooperation of private and public sectors; the relationship between political and planning tools and water management and the assessment of socio-economical impacts of different scenarios on water availability; efficient water policies, surveillance systems, data systems, engineering and infrastructural systems; sharing of experiences, technology and knowledge transfer, as well as capacity building in the fields of human resources and management, and investment promotion; etc.

### PANEL 2

#### TRANSPORT, MOBILITY AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Presentation of specific projects by representatives of business associations and companies

This panel highlights the importance of Western Mediterranean cooperation projects and initiatives for: urban mobility at the heart of sustainable urban development stakes; efficient and well-managed and high levels of public transport system; adequate coordination of local players to be able to control urban development; smart cities, dynamism and urban sprawl; potential benefits of specialized private operators; a multi-modal approach for the public transport networks; monitoring and assessment tools dedicated to the basic indicators of urban mobility (travel, distance, time, cost...) but also to other economic, social and environmental factors in order to assess the sustainability of urban development (network congestion, urban attractiveness, local accessibility, impact on public health, energy dependency...); electric mobility; an integrated and systemic approach to urban development; consolidating the capacity of local urban expertise; an effective management that should be able to better control urban expansion, stabilize energy demand, preserve the environment and lead to improved access for the greatest number; new paradigm shifts about transportation and its relationship to the city; increasing the role of the ports systems in the western Mediterranean and international connectivity; etc.



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## PANEL 3

### INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION:

#### Actors, Priorities, SMEs, Projects and Funding

Presentation of specific projects by representatives of business associations and companies

This panel highlights the importance of Western Mediterranean cooperation projects and initiatives for: strengthen the economic and financing cooperation; taking advantage of economic and financing programs of the European Union for the cooperation in Mediterranean Basin; strengthen the role and performance of SMEs and their approaches through collaborative strategies; enable SMEs to turn environmental challenges into opportunities, namely promoting green businesses in market areas, such as transport, energy, manufacturing, health, ICT,...; financing infrastructures and business cooperation projects; setting up incentives and facilities for SMEs and providing venture capital funds; boosting interregional trade and investment; international and regional financial institutions to support Euro-Mediterranean initiatives; etc.

## PANEL 4

### INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT:

Challenges, Opportunities and Projects Presentation of specific projects by representatives of business associations and companies

This panel highlights the importance of Western Mediterranean cooperation projects and initiatives for: tackling the new energetic challenges; developing renewable energies (wind, solar, ...); strengthen the role of terminals for receiving LNG regasification in the context of energetic challenges; strengthening the pipelines network from the south to central Europe and network connection points between North Africa and Southern Europe; increasing the productivity of resources in eco-industries; take advantage of the opportunities of green and blue economy; smart energy networks (smart grids); urbanism and smart cities; projects, infrastructures, equipments and technologies related to energy, environment and water management; strengthen skills, infrastructures and equipments to support the development and competitiveness; etc

### 12:30pm **Plenary Session Wrap up and Closing**

**aicep Portugal Global** - Trade and Investment Agency (Portugal)

**Fundação AIP** (Portugal)

**UNPM** (Mauritania)

### 13:00pm **Lunch**

### Afternoon **B2B Meetings**

### 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014 **Visits to companies and relevant projects in Portugal**



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