



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

Union for the Mediterranean Conference : *Towards a common development agenda for the Mediterranean*

Thursday, 26 November 2015 – PALACIO DE CONGRESOS DE CATALUÑA

15.00 – 15.30 | Arrival of participants and Registration

15.30 – 16.15 | Official Opening

- **Nasser Judeh**, Deputy-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- **Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission
- **Sameh Shoukry**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt
- **Ignacio Ybáñez Rubio**, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs of Spain
- **Elisabeth Guigou**, President of Anna Lindh Foundation and President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly
- **Fathallah Sijilmassi**, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

16.15-16.45 | Keynote addresses

- Moderator : **Michel Bounajem**, Journalist Achark Al Awsat
- **Javier Solana**, President of ESADE Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics and Former High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy
- **Ahmed Aboul Gheit**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt
- **Youssef Amrani**, Member of the Cabinet of His Majesty the King of Morocco and Former Secretary General of the UfM

16.45-17.00 | *Networking coffee break*

Parallel panels:

17.00-18.30 | Panel I: Inclusive growth & Youth employability

Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries are experiencing rapid growth in their working age populations. Almost 60% of the regional population is today under the age of 30 and the number of young people under the age of 15 is forecasted to increase over 18% by 2020. In the MENA region, 2.8 Million young people enter the labour market each year. Youth employability represents today a fundamental challenge for the entire region. Education, vocational training and inclusive growth are key elements to facilitate access to the labour market.

- *What collective and coordinated actions can be taken to create jobs in the region?*
- *How can we maximize the capacity of private sector in the region to enhance business opportunities and create inclusive growth?*
- *How can we better articulate regional, national and local initiatives?*
- Moderator : **Rainer Ptok**, Director International Relations, Association of small and medium enterprises, BVMW
- Panelists :
 - **Claudio Cortese**, Senior Deputy Secretary General of the UfM, Business Development
 - **Nayef Stetieh**, President and Founder of the Business Development Center, Promoter of UfM labeled project “Maharat MED”
 - **Ilan Chet**, Deputy Secretary General of the UfM, Higher Education
 - **Mustapha Bousmina**, President of the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes, Promoter of UfM labeled project



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17.00-18.30 | Panel II: Sustainable development

The Global Sustainable Development Goals adopted in September 2015 set the scale and the ambition of the new universal Agenda until 2030. Great efforts are also being made to reach a new global and fair agreement on climate change at the COP 21 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in Paris in December. The Euro-Mediterranean region faces great challenges for building a sustainable future. Discrepancies in economic development levels and living standards have increased in the last few years and intra-regional commercial exchanges remain low. 650 M tons of sewage are discharged annually in the Mediterranean, while 180 M persons still suffer from water scarcity. By 2030, nearly 80% of the population will be concentrated on 10% of the land, energy consumption in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean could go up to 70% and CO2 emissions could double, exacerbating the impacts of climate change in the region.

- *In this context, the UfM is taking part of the global efforts by contributing, at a regional scale and through practical action, to sustainable development in the Euro-Mediterranean region. How can we better link regional action with the global agenda?*
- *How can we unleash the green-circular economy potential of the region?*
- *Which role should private sector play in this new paradigm and which barriers (regulatory, technical, and economic) need to be overcome in order to ensure its involvement?*

- Moderator : **Mohamed Sghir Babes**, President, Economic and Social National Council
- Panelists :
 - **Yigit Alpogan**, Deputy Secretary General of the UfM, Transport and Urban Development
 - **Khaled Zakarya**, Governor of Giza, Egypt and Promoter of UfM labeled project “UPFI Imbaba Urban Upgrading”
 - **Teresa Ribeiro**, Deputy Secretary General of the UfM, Energy
 - **Nabil Hamada**, Director General for Environment and Quality of Life and Promoter of UfM labeled Project “Integrated Programme for the Protection of the Lake Bizerte against Pollution”

17.00-18.30| Panel III Women Empowerment

Despite the clear progress achieved during the last years in closing the gender gap between men and women in the Mediterranean, work still has to be done to further strengthen women’s role in the society and access to equal opportunities. Participation of women in economic life shows a rate of 26% of women joining the labour force in the south and east Mediterranean, and 50% in the European Union ; violence against women remain high in euro-Mediterranean countries and women political participation rates are low. It is widely recognised today that gender equality is essential for a sustainable and inclusive economic development and a sustainable peace. Giving women greater and equal opportunities could significantly contribute addressing the current challenges faced by the region.

- *How could we improve and maximize the impact of public policies in the field of gender equality and women empowerment? And how to reduce the gap between adopted policies and level of their implementation?*
- *What are the best mechanisms and levers to improve women’s economic participation as a way to ensure a sustainable and inclusive development for the region? How to provide women with the necessary tools to ensure this participation?*
- *What are the actions and possible initiatives/projects that could best contribute to enhance synergies and coherence between actors and actions ?*

- Moderator: **Nicola Elhermann**, Head Middle East and North Africa –OECD Investment Programme, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD
- Panelists :
 - **Delphine Borione**, Deputy Secretary General of the UfM, Social and Civil Affairs
 - **Flutura Xhabija**, President CEO of the Professional, Businesswomen and Crafts' Association and promoter of UfM labeled project “Young women as job creators”



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- . **Yeşim Sevig**, Secretary General, KAGIDER Women Entrepreneurs Association
- . **Vered Swid**, General Director of the High Authority for the advancement of Women

18.30-19.00 | Closing session

- **Yousef Bataineh**, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Brussels, UfM Co-Presidency
- **Michael Köhler**, Director for the Neighbourhood South, European Commission, UfM Co-Presidency
- **Román Escolano**, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank
- **Gabriel Busquets Aparicio**, Ambassador at large for Mediterranean Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain
- **Fathallah Sijilmassi**, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

19.00 | Cocktail