



European Union



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



The Hashemite  
Kingdom of Jordan

## Digital Economy and Internet Access Working Group (DEWoG)

*Established by the Union for the Mediterranean – Ministerial Declaration of 30.9.2014 on Digital Economy*

### RULES OF PROCEDURE

*Version 1.1, 10.12.2015*

#### 1. Background

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) was launched on 13 July 2008 at the Paris Summit as a continuation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Euro-Med), also known as the Barcelona Process, established in 1995. The UfM constitutes a framework for political, economic and social relations between the European Union and the Southern Mediterranean partners. It draws on the goals set out in the Barcelona Declaration, namely the creation of an area of peace, stability, security and shared economic prosperity, as well as full respect of democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms and cultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Digital Economy Ministers and representatives of ministries, the UfM Secretariat, telecoms regulators, development banks and EU institutions gathered in Brussels on 30 September 2014. They pledged closer cooperation to reap the benefits of the digital economy for Euro-Mediterranean citizens, consumers and businesses. The Heads of Delegation adopted an achievable, forward-looking and focused **Declaration** which responds to the rapid pace of digital change and the huge potential of the digital technologies for the economy and society.

They also welcomed the contribution that key stakeholders can make to ensure that the UfM is focusing on the right issues and that it has the means to achieve results. As such, the UfM provides a stable and pro-active political framework for cooperation. Development banks can facilitate financial support and incentives in key areas. Ministries in charge of ICT and regulators and can play their respective roles. They underlined the need to reach out more to include civil society, bloggers, young entrepreneurs, digital champions and ICT innovators both in the EU and in Southern Mediterranean countries. Finally, the Declaration calls for the set-up of a "*Digital Economy and Internet Access Working Group to assist the digital economy Senior Officials in creating synergies among current initiatives, provide input to future actions, exchange information and good practices, including funding possibilities*".

## **2. Mandate and Work Plan<sup>99</sup>**

The long-term objective of the DEWoG is to enhance national and regional capacities for strategic planning and implementation resulting in concrete projects, which materialise in the full deployment of the Digital Economy in the region. The DEWoG will reflect on the ways to assess progress towards this objective, as appropriate, in view of providing recommendations to the Senior Officials and/or other relevant parties.

The DEWoG looks at creating synergies among current initiatives; provide input to future actions; exchange information and good practices, including funding possibilities.

The DEWoG will discuss on the concrete areas of focus to agree on a Work Plan for 2016. The Work Plan should be endorsed by Senior Officials. The DEWoG will update and renew its Work Plan as necessary.

## **3. Structure**

### *3.1 Co-Presidency, the Secretariat and Members*

The UfM co-Presidencies co-chair the DEWoG. The UfM Secretariat acts as the secretariat to the group. The EU co-Presidency is represented by DG CONNECT of the European Commission. The Jordan co-Presidency is represented by the Ministry of Information & Communications Technology of Jordan.

Each UfM country nominates one Member and one Substitute. Members will have a working level knowledge of developments of the Digital Economy in their country. Members may be assisted as they deem necessary. They should rely on their own network of expertise within their country.

### *3.2 DEWoG monitoring and reporting*

DEWoG Members monitor in their respective country the implementation of DEWoG's recommendations and contribute to the collective reporting.

The DEWoG reports to UfM Senior Officials as needed, for instance by attending UfM Senior Official Meetings when invited.

### *3.3 Observers and other stakeholders*

The DEWoG agrees on a list of permanent observers. The list will evolve as necessary.

Observers have the right to participate to DEWoG meetings and present their written contributions.

Participation of stakeholders from the private or public sectors, including NGOs, from any country, is encouraged. Participation will however be subject to prior approval by the co-Presidency.

The UfM Secretariat assisted by the European Commission is responsible for contacts with stakeholders, including the development of a comprehensive communication channel.

## **4. Financing and organisational arrangements**

The DEWoG meets at least once a year.

The co-Presidency in collaboration with UfM Secretariat sets the dates and the agenda. Topics for discussion are set by the co-Presidency in consultation with the UfM Secretariat. Members may propose topics, projects or initiatives for discussion prior to the meetings. Proposals should be submitted early enough to allow sufficient time for possible background research or other background work to be performed before the discussion.

The UfM Secretariat supports the organisation of DEWoG meetings in terms of communication and logistics. The UfM Secretariat drafts minutes of DEWoG's meetings.

Documents will be drafted in English.

Simultaneous interpretation English to/from French will be available at DEWoG meetings.

Observers have to bear the costs of their participation to DEWoG meetings.

The DEWoG is established for an unlimited duration.

Thematic sub-groups may be set-up to address a specific action of the Work Plan. Thematic sub-groups may meet physically and/or meet and work remotely.

## **5. Communication**

The DEWoG uses the established UfM communication channels, including its website.

Specific mailboxes have been created for the purpose of communication with the expert group.

DG CONNECT may also maintain a portal on the Europa website of the European Commission informing on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration in general and on the work of the DEWoG in particular. The portal may also include facilities to allow stakeholders to manifest their interest and possible wish to contribute to the initiative.

## **6. Adoption and modification of the Rules of Procedure**

The DEWoG approves its Rules of Procedure by consensus as well as possible modifications or updates.

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