



**Agenda**  
**Fifth UfM Trade and Investment Forum**  
**Jobs through Trade and Investment: Boosting employment in the Southern Mediterranean**  
**4 December 2023**  
**Brussels, Belgium**

Event moderator: *Natasha Walker*

Local Time	Agenda Item
08:00 - 09:00	<b>Registration and welcome coffee</b>
09:00 - 10:30	<p><b><u>Welcoming remarks</u></b> H.E. Nasser Kamel <i>UfM Secretary General</i></p> <p><b><u>Keynote Speeches</u></b> <b>Mr. Leopoldo Rubinacci</b> <i>Deputy Director General European Commission, DG TRADE</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Ines Rocha</b> <i>Managing Director of Impact &amp; Partnerships European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)</i></p> <p><i>Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (TBC) Spain</i></p>
10:30 - 11:00	<p><b><u>Presentation on Team Europe Initiative “Jobs through Trade and Investment in the Southern Neighbourhood”</u></b> <i>Participants will be briefed about the regional Team Europe Initiative launched in 2022 by the European Commission and the EU Member States Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).</i></p>
11:00 - 11:30	<b><u>Coffee break and family photo</u></b>
11:30 - 13:00	<p><b><u>Panel 1 - Leveraging the job potential of trade and investment</u></b> <i>Structural gaps and supply-side constraints impede participation in regional and international value chains and limit the benefits of economic integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region. How can the EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries increase trade and investment in the region, with positive impacts for employment?</i></p>



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	<p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Natasha Walker</i></p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Léon Delvaux</b> - Director for Neighbouring Countries, Industry, Goods, Regulatory Cooperation and Public Procurement, EU Commission, DG TRADE.</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Bernd Lange</b> - Chair, International Trade Committee, European Parliament.</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Yahia El Wathik Bellah</b> - First Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Egypt.</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Şahika Aşkiner</b> - Vice President of Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Izmir and President of egikad ( Aegean Business Women Association).</li> </ul>
13:00 - 14:30	<b>Lunch</b>
14:30 - 15:45	<p><b>Panel 2 - Inclusive entrepreneurship: young and women entrepreneurs leading the example</b></p> <p><i>Providing supportive ecosystems that turn job-seeker into job-providers are needed to enable innovative and sustainable economic development in the region. How can support programs tap the potential – especially of young people and women – in order to boost entrepreneurial activity in the Southern Mediterranean?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Natasha Walker</i></p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Khalthoum Ben Rjeb</b> - Minister of Trade and Export Development, Tunisia (TBC).</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Henrike Trautmann</b> - Acting Director for the Southern Neighbourhood and Türkiye, EU Commission, DG NEAR.</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ramy Boujawdeh</b> - Chief Operating Officer/Berytech, Lebanon.</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mohamed Magdy</b> - Executive Director, Esperanza, Egypt.</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Regine Qualmann</b> - Head of Department North Africa, GIZ.</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Eirini Pavlaki</b> - Co-founder/Director Women Do Business, Greece.</li> </ul>
15:45 - 16:15	<b>Coffee break</b>



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16:15 - 17:30	<p><b>Panel 3 - Bridging the skills gap</b></p> <p><i>While the level of education in the Southern Mediterranean is higher than ever before, youth and women employment is still amongst the lowest in the world. The skills mismatch leads to a waste of potential that countries cannot afford. What are governments, companies and educators doing to ensure competences match real-life demands?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Natasha Walker</i></p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Nayef Stetieh</b> - Former Minister of Employment, Chairman of Business Development Centre, Jordan.</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Sangheon Lee</b> - Director of Employment Department, International Labour Organization (ILO).</li> <li>• <b>Mr. David Dion</b> - Acting Director, Directorate for international Affairs, EU Commission, DG EMPL.</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Lamia Chaffai</b> - Chief Executive Officer, Education for Employment EFE, Tunisia.</li> </ul>
17:30 - 17:45	<p><b>Keynote Address</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Valdis Dombrovskis</b> <i>Executive Vice-President - An Economy that Works for People, and Commissioner for Trade, the European Commission</i></li> </ul>
17:45 - 18:05	<p><b>Wrap-up and Conclusions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Natasha Walker.</b></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Ingrid Schwaiger</b> - Deputy Head of Unit, Regional Cooperation Neighbourhood South, Economic Investment Plan, EU Commission, DG NEAR.</li> </ul>
18:05 - 18:15	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Abdelkader El Khissassi</b> - Deputy Secretary General, UfM Secretariat.</li> </ul>

*Simultaneous interpretation in: Arabic, English and French.*