



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



#TEAMEUROPE



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### Concept note

#### Fifth UfM Trade and Investment Forum

#### *Jobs through Trade and Investment: Boosting employment in the Southern Mediterranean*

4 December 2023

Radisson Collection Hotel – Grand Place

Brussels, Belgium

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, trade and investment flows in the Euro-Mediterranean region were way below their desired levels, exposing the entire region to economic volatilities and geopolitical risks that fall beyond its control. At the same time, the recent crises and disruptions have also opened an opportunity to strengthen the value chains and partnerships between the Northern, Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean.

The Union for the Mediterranean, as the intergovernmental organization for 43 EU and Mediterranean countries, provides a unique platform to identify the current opportunities of more regional cooperation for economic development in the whole region.

Acting upon the mandates of the UfM Ministerials on Trade, the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, with the support of the German Development Cooperation, will be holding the **5<sup>th</sup> UfM Trade and Investment Forum** in **Brussels/Belgium on 4 December 2023**, at the Radisson Collection Hotel - Grand Place.

Since its first edition in 2019, the UfM Trade and Investment Forum has become a well-established dialogue platform, which addresses the most pressing issues and the current dynamics in the area of trade and investment in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

As part of this fifth edition, and against the background of the policy priorities of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Trade, the Forum will also discuss how to address cooperation needs. In this context, the regional [Team Europe Initiative “Jobs through Trade and Investment in the Southern Neighbourhood”](#) 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). The Forum will thereby provide a unique opportunity to debate the initiative’s three priorities for the Southern Mediterranean per pillar: ***Sustainable Trade and Investment, Vocational Training and Skills, and Inclusive Entrepreneurship***.

To this end, the Forum will bring together a broad spectrum of actors, partners and stakeholders from both shores of the Mediterranean region. Recommendations emanating from the Forum will guide the future agenda of the Union for the Mediterranean.