



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



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Agenda

Seventh UfM Trade and Investment Forum

Navigating Disruption, Building Integration: Reshaping Trade and Investment in the UfM region

10 December 2025

Palau de Pedralbes, Barcelona/Spain

Event moderator: Ms. Natasha Walker

Local Time	Agenda Item
08:00 – 09:00	Registration and welcome coffee
09:00 – 09:15	Setting the scene by Ms. Natasha Walker
09:15 – 10:15	<p><u>Welcoming remarks:</u> H.E. Nasser Kamel, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean</p> <p><u>Keynote Speeches:</u> Dr. Gehan Saleh, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Egypt</p>
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee break and group photo
10:45 – 12:15	<p>Panel 1 – Global Trade Disruption and its Repercussions in the UfM Region Several trade and geopolitical disruptions are generating uncertainty and provoking businesses, in particular SMEs, and economies around the world to reconsider their value chains, assess current trade agreements, and adopt more agile policy structure. This session will discuss the implications of these challenges for the UfM region and approaches to how the region can address them.</p> <p><u>Scene Setter:</u> Mr. Abdelaziz El Sherif First Under Secretary of State/ Head of the Egyptian Commercial Service, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade (Egypt)</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u> Mr. Abdel Fattah Al Kayed General Manager, King Abdullah II Fund for Development (Jordan) Ms. Andrea Santodomingo Jiménez Head of Service of Multilateral and EU Trade Policy Directorate - Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business (Spain) Mr. Yehia Houry Chief Executive Officer, Flat6Labs (Egypt) Mrs. Zübeyde Ağsakalli</p>



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	<p>Head of Technology Center, Istanbul Chamber of Commerce/ Commercialization Center of Istanbul (Türkiye)</p> <p>Mrs. Cleopatra Kitti Senior Policy Advisor, Founder of the Mediterranean Growth Initiative (Cyprus)</p> <p>Dr. Younes Boumaaz Professor of International Trade and Customs, Université Hassan 1er (Morocco)</p>
12:15 – 13:30	Networking lunch
13:30 – 14:45	<p>Panel 2 – Trade Integration in the UfM Region</p> <p>The second edition of the UfM Progress Report on Regional Integration provides actionable policy recommendations to promote trade integration. This session will explore pathways for improving trade synergies in the region.</p> <p><u>Scene Setter:</u></p> <p>Mr. Mohammed Elrazzaz Head of Sector – Economic Development and Employment Division UfM Secretariat</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <p>Mrs. Klajda Gjosh Chief Executive Officer at NexEU Consulting, former Minister of European Integration (Albania)</p> <p>Mr. Umut Erzegez Deputy Secretary General at the Regional Cooperation Council (Bosnia and Herzegovina)</p> <p>Mr. Leopoldo Rubinacci Deputy Director-General, DG Trade and Economic Security (European Commission)</p>
14:45 – 15:00	Coffee Break
15:00 – 16:15	<p>Panel 3 – Promoting cross-border investment and bankable projects, particularly in sectors such as green energy, digital services, and sustainable production</p> <p>The UfM region continues to fall short of its potential in terms of attracting investment. This session will present best practices from Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) around the region, as well as key bottlenecks and opportunities. Furthermore, the region presents a growing pipeline of bankable projects; How can these initiatives be reinforced to ensure they meet investment criteria and regulations and offer clear revenue models and risk mitigation frameworks?</p>



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	<p><u>Scene Setter:</u></p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <p>Dr. Mesut Avci Managing Consultant, ClimAlign (Türkiye)</p> <p>Mr. Nikos Stamou Investment Promotion Director, Enterprise Greece (Greece)</p> <p>Mrs. Nina Pobric Foreign Investment Promotion Expert (Bosnia and Herzegovina)</p> <p>Mrs. Emilija Trajkovska Head Of Export Promotion Department, Invest North Macedonia</p>
16:15 – 16:20	<p><u>Concluding Remarks</u></p> <p>Mrs. Meltem Büyükkarakaş Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean</p>
16:20 – 16:30	<p><u>Wrap-up and conclusions</u></p> <p>Mrs. Natasha Walker Communication Expert, Moderator</p>

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

Venue:

Headquarters of the Union for the Mediterranean

Palau de Pedralbes

[Pere Duran Farell, 11](#)

[08034 Barcelona](#)