

2025: A shared direction for the Mediterranean



10th UfM Regional Forum, Press Conference.

The 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, marked in November 2025, could have been an occasion for reflection alone. Instead, it became the setting for decisions that will shape the UfM's direction for years to come.

Launched on 28 November 1995, the Barcelona Process represented a shared wager on the power of structured cooperation to turn a fragmented region into a space of shared opportunity. Twenty-seven countries committed to a Euro-Mediterranean partnership built on political dialogue, economic integration, and human and cultural exchange, grounded in the conviction that the stability of Europe's southern

neighbourhood and the prosperity of its northern shore were fundamentally inseparable.

Thirty years on, that founding insight has lost none of its relevance. The war in Gaza, the fragmentation of multilateral norms, and the accelerating pace of climate change, with its attendant consequences for natural disasters and displacement, have all demonstrated what the absence of functioning regional architecture costs. The **10th UfM Regional Forum**, held in Barcelona on 28 November 2025, was therefore far more than a commemorative event. It was a moment of strategic renewal.

10th UfM Regional Forum. Joint statement of the UfM Co-Presidency:



Consult the outcome reports of the 10th UfM Regional Forum's side events:



Co-chaired by the EU's High Representative / Vice President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas and the Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Ayman Safadi, and hosted by the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs José Manuel Albares, the meeting endorsed a **new Vision Statement for the UfM** and secured political support for the Pact for the Mediterranean. Secretary General Nasser Kamel and Minister Albares also signed a new Headquarters Agreement, strengthening the UfM's legal status and operational capacity.

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The Vision Statement connects people through education, youth mobility, skills development, gender equality and social inclusion; **connects countries** by strengthening dialogue, climate resilience, water and energy security, and crisis preparedness; and **connects economies** through trade, digital cooperation and green investment. The Forum also endorsed Córdoba and Saida as the 2027 Mediterranean Capitals of Culture and Dialogue.

A week of engagement beyond the ministerial table

The ministerial meeting capped a landmark week of side events drawing together regional authorities, mayors, multilateral institutions, civil society, academia, scientists and emergency responders.

On 22 November, the Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Regions, organised with the Government of Catalonia, convened sub-national authorities to align on the new Pact for the Mediterranean

and adopt a Joint Declaration. On 25 and 26 November, the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Workshop on Wildfires brought together scientists, civil protection authorities and policy actors to strengthen cross-border preparedness and integrate satellite and AI-driven tools in emergency response.

Also on 26 November, the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Society Conference gathered over 100 representatives to reinforce civil society's role in building an inclusive Mediterranean. The Conference of Mediterranean Cities on 26 and 27 November brought together mayors and local leaders to deepen cities' engagement in regional agendas. On 27 November, the UfM's event on Regional Resilience and Recovery examined coordinated responses to the region's interconnected crises, including through partnerships with the Gulf region. It was the first time that the UfM hosts the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, who affirmed his organisation's interest in partnering with the UfM.

The week closed with a cultural commemoration at the Palau de la Música Catalana, blending flamenco, Arab and Romani traditions in a tribute to Mediterranean dialogue.

Taken together, these events demonstrated the breadth of the constituency the UfM convenes and the degree to which its new Vision Statement reflects shared realities across the region. In a year marked by fragmentation and instability, the 10th UfM Regional Forum showed that the Mediterranean's 43 governments have not abandoned the idea of a shared future. That, in itself, is a foundation worth building on.