



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES  
الشبكة الأورو-متوسطية للدراسات الاقتصادية



Co-funded by the  
European Union

**27 June 2019**  
**Brussels, Belgium**

**EMNES Annual Conference 2019**

**Towards A Regional Integration and  
Employment Driven  
Socio-Economic Model  
in the Mediterranean:  
A Comprehensive Policy Roadmap**

**1 Place du Congrès, Brussels, Belgium**

## Models to Enhance Regional Integration and Employment in the Mediterranean

The Euro-Mediterranean region brings together a diverse set of countries with different cultural backgrounds and economic, social and political realities, which are each developing at a varying pace and with variable geometry.

In line with the complex dynamics of intertwined integration and disintegration characterising the region, Ayadi and Sessa<sup>1</sup> (2013) devised a number of alternative scenarios that could play out in Euro-Mediterranean relations by 'Horizon 2030', two of which were particularly interesting. In the worse-case scenario, labelled "**red transition**", the Mediterranean Sea becomes a dividing line between diverse but conflicting civilisations, leading to deeper political uncertainties and mounting economic and social difficulties, as tensions escalate between, but also within, the two shores, linked by the effects of contagion in the context of a number of issues, yet without being able to resort to cooperation. In the best-case scenario, labelled "**blue transition**", the Euro-Mediterranean region experiences an increasing heterogeneity where the active contribution of people, civil society and policymakers, as well as synergetic policies are built on existing areas of agreement between distinct yet related countries.

The latest developments on both shores of the Mediterranean Sea indicate that the region has been moving in the direction of the red transition. To the north, the European Union is grappling with a timid recovery from the economic crisis, with a dangerous imbalance between northern and southern European countries and the failure to find a satisfactory common response to the ongoing migration crisis. The related upsurge of nationalist sentiments, often disguised

- 
1. Ayadi, R. and Sessa, C. (2013), Scenarios Assessment and Transitions towards a Sustainable Euro-Mediterranean in 2030, *MEDPRO Policy Paper*, No. 9 / July 2013.

among populist claims and Brexit, has possibly turned the threat of fragmentation of the European Union from an adventurous speculation into a plausible scenario. To the south, Arab countries have witnessed disruptive social and political transformations, with both the democratic aspirations of large segments of the population and the rise of extremism in a small, yet growing minority erupting in a series of upheavals, destabilising the region's polities, economies and societies. These dynamics led to the exacerbation of tensions in several areas of the Mediterranean Basin, such as in Syria and Libya, where civil uprisings evolved into international theatres of war and different factions pursue their contradictory agendas with little regard for human and social consequences.

In light of such developments, it is difficult to argue that Euro-Mediterranean relations delivered on the promise of achieving shared prosperity through enhanced political association and economic integration. In the decades leading to the 2011 Arab uprisings, Euro-Mediterranean policymakers seemingly equated stagnation with stability, choosing to side-line human rights and, more broadly, much needed political reforms, while issues such as combatting terrorism and controlling borders dominated the agenda. On the economic front, trade negotiations led to a substantial waiving of tariffs but failed to create the conditions for the emergence of regional value chains and sustainable jobs for the educated, notwithstanding the undoubted similarities between structural characteristics that could have been exploited by economies on both shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

At the EMNES Policy Conference on the 27 June 2019 the objective is to discuss the EMNES Blue Transition Scenario 2050 and the Comprehensive Policy Roadmap towards new models of regional integration, new models for socio-economic development with a special focus on employment creation in the Mediterranean. The new policies and models developed under this research phase will guide the research agenda of EMNES in the coming years.



The Euro-Mediterranean Network of Economic Studies (EMNES) new socio-economic vision stems from the quest for long-term economic policy solutions aiming at more inclusive, sustainable and employment driven socio-economic development in the region.

EMNES research covers the following areas:

- The role of institutions and labour markets;
- The role of the private sector and Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in achieving an inclusive development model;
- Social business and social inclusion;
- Entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Finance, employment and inclusive growth;
- Human capital, skill mismatches, job creation and migration;
- Macroeconomic policies, business productivity and job creation;
- Economics of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership;
- Regional integration and job creation;
- Sustainable development;
- Scenario analysis and foresight;

This list of research topics is evolving.

Progress of work: [www.emnes.org](http://www.emnes.org)

# Thursday 27 June 2019

## Programme

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**

**Welcome:** Rym Ayadi, EMEA, CEPS

09:00 – 09:15 Daniel Gros, CEPS

**Keynote Speech - Euro-Mediterranean integration and cooperation: achievements and challenges**

09:15 – 09:45 **Michael Koehler**, Director of Neighbourhood South, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

**The Future of Regional Integration and EU-Med Partnership**

09:45 – 10:15 **H. E. Fathallah Sijilmassi**, Former Secretary General Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

**Panel Discussion: Regional Integration Beyond Trade?**

- 10:15 – 11:45
- **H.E. Hala Helmy El-Saeed**, Minister of Planning and Administrative Reform, Arab Republic of Egypt
  - **Jaloul Ayed**, Former Minister of Finance, Tunisia
  - **Hamed El Etreby**, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
  - **Ibrahim Saif**, Middle East Institute (MEI)
  - **H. E. Fathallah Sijilmassi**, Former Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

*Moderator:* Rym Ayadi, EMEA, CEPS

11:45 – 12:15 Coffee break

12:15 – 13:00 **Economic Integration of the NEAR**

Simeon Djankov, World Bank

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

**Blue Transition Scenario in the Mediterranean and Policy Roadmap:**

14.00-14:45

*Presentation:* Rym Ayadi, EMEA and CEPS

Panel: Henrike Trautmann, European Commission

Roger Albinyana, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Fatima Ezzahra Mengoub, Policy Center for the New South

Ahmet Evin, Istanbul Policy Center (IPC)

*Moderator:* Cinzia Alcidi, CEPS

**Panel discussion: Creating Jobs in the Mediterranean: How to Deal with Labor Markets Frictions?**

*Presentations:* Cinzia Alcidi, CEPS

14:45 – 16.00

*Panel:* Nathalie Creste, DG Employment, European Commission

Abdellatif Bencherifa, International University of Rabat (IUR)

Léo Vincent, HOMERe

*Moderator:* Nooh Alshyab, Yarmouk University (YU)

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

**Panel discussion: Creating Jobs in the Mediterranean: What Role for the Private Sector?**

*Presentation:* Chahir Zaki, FEPS

16:30 – 17:45

*Panel:* Hamed El Etreby, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Carlos Conde, OECD

Jihen Boutiba, BUSINESSMED

Gilbert Doumit, Beyond Reform & Development (BRD)

Atilla Kaiser-Yuecel, GIZ

*Moderator:* Rim Mouelhi, IHEC Carthage

17:45 - 18:00 **Conclusions**

The event is organised by:



EMNES is financially supported by:



Co-funded by the  
European Union



EMNES is co-funded by the European Union – under Grant Contract No  
ENPI/2014/354-488 and the EMNES Partners and Associates.

*Disclaimer: This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of EMNES Partners and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union*