



CEPS Lunch time meeting

How important is the Southern neighborhood for the future of Europe?

14 November 2019

During the last two decades, the South Med-region has been trapped in cycles of interest and disinterest, the transition from euphoria and hope to disappointment and frustration, with the feeling of never being able to take off and move forward. After the migration crisis, limiting the EU strategy vis-à-vis the region to the short-term management of a safe and negative agenda would disregard the region's strengths and risks hindering the potential for long-term development and stability.

What are the key elements for building a positive agenda, which can meet the interests of both shores of the Mediterranean? How to strike a balance between political ambition and feasibility?

Fathallah Sijilmassi, former Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, **Michael Koehler**, Deputy Director General, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and Prof. **Rym Ayadi**, Director of Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies and President of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association, will debate and share their views on how to look at the future of the region and the Euro-Med relations in a strategic and constructive way.

Agenda

12:30 – 13:15

Lunch

13:15 – 14:30

Welcome and introduction:

Cinzia Alcidi, CEPS

Presentation

- **Fathallah Sijilmassi**, Former Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean

Discussion:

- **Michael Koehler**, Deputy Director General, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- **Prof. Rym Ayadi**, Director of Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies and Founder and President, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA)

Closing remarks

