

XIV Annual Conference of the Mediterranean Commission of the European League for Economic Co-Operation -ELEC-

Economic Integration and Co-Development: Recipes for shared progress in the Mediterranean Region

Pallazzo Giustiniani (Italian Senate), 4-5 October 2018
Rome (Italy)

Ten years have gone since the Paris Declaration of 2008 announced the launching of the Union for the Mediterranean. Guided by the search of peace, stability and security, the UfM builds on the legacy of the Barcelona Process, from which it inherited the commitment to promote a space of dialogue and shared prosperity in the Mediterranean. Nevertheless, its first steps were hindered by a particularly unstable backdrop: violent extremism, migrant crises, reconstruction efforts, poverty, unemployment and missing integration still remain among the main challenges to be faced.

Notwithstanding, the principles set by the Barcelona and Paris declarations are far from having lost any validity. The Euro-Mediterranean political agenda is to be driven by stronger economic cooperation between Northern and Southern countries, increased exchanges and dynamic investment flows. Economic cooperation and regional integration are powerful tools for growth, job creation and sustainable development. However for it to be possible, political commitment and structural economic reforms are essential factors to be met.

The role of Mediterranean stakeholders that endorse our common and shared challenges is key for such a process. To that extent, the growing community of binational citizens and the Diaspora from both shores of the Mediterranean should not be left aside. Their economic involvement and integration in affairs of common concern might become essential catalysers of a renewed approach to co-development.

With the strong commitment to keep developing dialogue and exchange among prominent actors of the Mediterranean, the European League of Economic Cooperation (ELEC) and the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) organise the XIV Annual Conference of the ELEC Mediterranean Commission. This event will be an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas on such challenges by engaging major experts from the region that will share their expertise and nourish the debate on the way towards a better, common, Mediterranean future.

With the collaboration of:



Thursday 4th October

17.00 **Participants arrival and accreditations**

17.30 **Opening**

Maria Elisabetta Alberti, President of the Senate of the Italian Republic (tbc)

Pier Virgilio Dastoli, President, Italian Council of the European Movement

Francesc Homs, President, Spanish Committee of the European League of Economic Cooperation

Senén Florensa, President, Mediterranean Committee of the European League of Economic Cooperation

Alfonso Dastis, Ambassador of Spain to Italy and San Marino, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAEC)

Special address by Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

18.00-19.30 **Ten years after the Paris Declaration - 2008: Going forward and the rear-view mirror**

President

Mario Monti, Former Prime Minister of Italy, Former European Commissioner for Competition

Speakers

Giulio Terzi Di Sant'agata, Ambassador of Italy and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs

Salehdine Mezouar, Former Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, President of the Confédération générale des entreprises du Maroc

Moez Sinaoui, Ambassador of Tunisia to Italy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia. Former spokesperson of the Presidency of Tunisia

Fathallah Sijilmassi, Former Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

First comments

Roberto Aliboni, Scientific Advisor, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

20.30 **Reception offered by the Spanish Ambassador in Rome**

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Friday 5th October

09.30-11.00 Key structural reforms to foster economic integration in the Mediterranean

Chair

Bernard Snoy et l'Oppuers, President of the European League of Economic Cooperation (ELEC)

Speakers

Josep Piqué, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, Former Minister for Industry of Spain

Flabia Palanza, Director, Northern Africa and Middle East, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Mohamed Benamour, President, Conseil du Développement et de la Solidarité (CDS)

Valerio De Luca, President, Forum Med of Rome

Marco Ricceri, Secretary General, Eurispes

First comments

Servaas Deroose, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General Economics and Financial Affairs (ECFIN), European Commission

Roger Albinyana, director, Mediterranean Regional Policies department, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-13.00 The role of human mobility and Diasporas as a means of co-development

Chair

Hassan Abouyoub, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador of Morocco to Italy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco

Speakers

Delphine Borione, Ambassador Permanent Representative of France to the FAO

Philippe Fargues, part-time Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre of the European University Institute and an Affiliate at Harvard Kennedy School.

Salvatore Capasso, Researcher, Istituto di Studi sulle Società del Mediterraneo (ISSM-CNR)

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Mario Boffo, Ambassador, Former Italian Diplomat. International strategy and business consultant

Silvia Colombo, Head of the Mediterranean & Middle East Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

Paolo Lembo, Senior Executive, Former Secretary General of the World Green Economy Organization

First comments

Jaume Lanasa, Member of the Board of trustees of “la Caixa” Banking Foundation

Mitchell Belfer, President, Euro Gulf Information Centre

Luigi Narbone, Director of the Middle East Directions Programme of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute in Fiesole

13.15 Closing

Senén Florensa, President, Mediterranean Committee of the European League of Economic Cooperation

Francesc Homs, President, Spanish Committee of the European League of Economic Cooperation

13.30 Lunch at the Italian Senate

15.00 Optional guided tour of emblematic places in Rome

Saturday, 6th

Morning /Morning-afternoon Optional guided tour

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