EUROMED SURVEY OF EXPERTS AND ACTORS

THE EUROPEAN UNION IN A TRANSFORMED MEDITERRANEAN:
STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

IEMed.
Domestic and geopolitical changes in the Euromed region

- There is a clear contrast between the negative assessment of the most recent past and the openly positive long-term vision.
- In the long term, a constant element is the tendency for responses from the Maghreb to be more positive. In contrast, responses from Turkey and Israel emphasise the negative perception about the future of the region.
- For the scenarios of Libya and Syria, forward-looking responses are negative, in contrast to the other countries in the region.

Comparing the improvement in the past three years and in the long term, on governance elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governance Element</th>
<th>Past Three Years</th>
<th>Long Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rule of law and good governance</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence of the judiciary</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian-military relations</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of corruption relations</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The main difference between expectations and the current situation is seen in the rule of law and good governance as well as freedom of expression and press. The optimism becomes more moderate in the relation between civil and military power and in the improvement in corruption level.

Comparing the improvement in the past three years and in the long term, on socio-economic elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Element</th>
<th>Past Three Years</th>
<th>Long Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic pros. of the region</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living standards of citizens</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status of women</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom of expression and press</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition of minorities</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- For economic elements, there has been a major decline in the last three years but there is great hope for improvement.
- In the social field, there has been a less negative evolution in the last three years. The situation of the status of women and freedom of expression are assessed positively by a third of respondents, while in the long term they are among the most positive assessments of the Survey.
Prospects for democracy are only significant in Tunisia. The prospects of securing democracy in Morocco, Jordan and Lebanon trail behind. Once again, the worst prospects are for Syria and Libya.

Prospects for Democracy

Question B4. Please arrange the following countries according to their likelihood of having better prospects for the consolidation of a democratic regime:

- Better prospects
- Worse prospects

Question B1. In your opinion, how much have the following elements improved or deteriorated in the last three years?

- More than 60% of responses
- Between 40% and 50% of responses
- Majority, but less than 50% of responses
- Neither improved nor deteriorated
- Deteriorated
- Improved

Impact of international players in the region

Assessing the impact of the following international players in the Southern Mediterranean countries:

- In the classification of the most influential international actors in the region, the USA, Russia and Iran stand out.
- While there is no doubt about the preponderance of the role of the USA, the possible role of Russia and Iran varies significantly according to responses from the Maghreb or Mashreq.
- The EU and the GCC have a similar level of impact.
- The League of Arab States and the UN obtain the highest percentage of responses indicating a low or very low impact on the region.
• The EU has a high or very high influence in the MPCs as economic and trading partner.

• The role as a driver of rule of law and good governance and as a promoter of a strengthened Euro-Mediterranean regional integration is given an intermediate assessment.

• The influence of the EU as peace mediator is considered low or very low.

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**Influence of the European Union in the present framework of a multipolar scenario**

(% of respondents answering high or very high influence)

- The EU as a major trade and economic partner for MPCs: 67%
- The EU as a driver of the rule of law and governance reform: 39%
- The EU as a promoter of a strengthened Euro-Mediterranean regional integration: 38%
- The EU as a mediator and peace broker in the region: 28%

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**An assessment of Euro-Mediterranean Policies**

• Priorities of the EU’s policies in the near future: the political and democratic reforms must be the first priority, followed at a notable distance by the creation of employment opportunities.

• Two outstanding elements of the Euromed agenda: the implementation of the EMFTA (Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Agreement) and the management of migrations and mobility of people enter the top 5 priorities (out of 11 possible areas).

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**EU’s policies in the near future for the region: selecting policy areas according to its priority**

(5 areas considered to be 1st priority)

- Democratic political reforms: 30.3%
- Creating employment opportunities: 13.1%
- Institutional and administrative reform: 11.3%
- Implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area: 8.8%
- Migration and mobility: 8.6%

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• Impact of EU actions in the region: the positive assessments have a slight downturn from 2012, while negative ones (low impact) increase by 13%.

• The visibility of EU actions in the region: there is a slight upturn of 1% in the positive assessment, while the negative assessment (low impact) increases by 13%.

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**Assessing the impact of the EU’s actions in Mediterranean Partner Countries**

(comparing 2013 and 2012 results)

- Impact of EU’s actions (2013):
  - Impact: 41%
  - Neither low nor high: 36%
  - Very low: 23%

- Impact of EU’s actions (2012):
  - Impact: 28%
  - Neither low nor high: 44%
  - Very low: 28%

- Visibility of EU’s actions (2013):
  - Visibility: 50%
  - Neither low nor high: 28%
  - Very high: 22%

- Visibility of EU’s actions (2012):
  - Visibility: 37%
  - Neither low nor high: 42%
  - Very high: 21%
Impact of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) measures

- ENP measures considered as having greatest impact are the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements.
- The Spring programme and Mobility Partnerships are considered to have a lower impact.

Assessing the impact of the following measures of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) on the Southern Mediterranean countries

- Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility to strengthen the capacity of civil society to promote reform and increase public accountability
- Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTA) and other market access initiatives
- European Endowment for Democracy to help political parties, non-registered NGOs, trade unions and other social partners
- Relocation of extra financial resources to support the transition to democracy
- Mobility Partnerships to enhance mobility and improve visa facilitation
- Facility for Agriculture and Rural Development
- Support for Partnership, Reform and Inclusive Growth (SPRING) programme to provide support for democratic transformation, institution building and economic growth in the wake of the “Arab Spring”

Priority of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) projects

- The programmes considered to be higher priority are Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector and the Desalination Facility for the Gaza Strip.
- The higher degree of knowledge of projects are for the three related to the promotion of women.
- For some of the projects there is a notable degree of ignorance, in some cases exceeding 30% of responses obtained.

Degree of priority attributed to the following projects of the Union for the Mediterranean (% of respondents answering Very high priority/High priority)

- Governance and financing for the Mediterranean water sector
- The “Desalination Facility” for the Gaza Strip Project
- Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs
- Skills for success-employability skills for women
- Mediterranean Solar Plan
- Young women as job creators
- Higher education on food security and rural development
- Developing women’s empowerment
- Euro-Mediterranean Development Centre for Enterprises
- The Euro-Mediterranean Sustainable Urban Development Strategy
- Completion of the central section of the trans-Maghreb motorway axis
- Euro-Mediterranean masters and PhDs
- LOGISMED training activities
- Creation of the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes
- Jordanian Railway Network
The Euromed Survey of Experts and Actors

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) has carried out five Surveys of actors and experts with the objective of assessing the progress, achievements and shortcomings of Euro-Mediterranean relations.

From 2009 to 2012, the Survey was developed following a request from the European Commission. Given the success of the Euromed Survey, both in terms of the number of respondents and quality of proposals made, the IEMed decided to prepare the 6th Euromed Survey with the aim of offering a way for experts and actors to express their hopes and concerns, as well as the possibility of putting forward proposals that could help decision-makers to define policies to address the challenges of the democratic transition in the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

Known as the Euromed Survey, it is based on a broad sample of policy-makers and experts, with the objective of covering the main issues on the political agenda of the region and monitoring the progress in Euro-Mediterranean perceptions and policies.

This project is in line with the IEMed’s role as a public diplomacy and research institution for Euro-Mediterranean relations, proposing and disseminating policy options and contributing to the building of a true Euro-Mediterranean area.

The Questionnaire and the Survey Sample

The Survey was conducted among a universe of 4,650 experts and actors from the 43 countries that are members of the Union for the Mediterranean (UM), all of whom received an invitation to answer the questionnaire. 838 responses were received, which can be considered a representative sample.

This year, the Survey is focused on the short to mid-term scenarios following the domestic and geopolitical transformations in the region, the state of play of democratic transitions and the role of the European Union. The questionnaire has a total of 13 general questions and has been designed to capture three main elements: firstly, to obtain an assessment of present transformations in the countries of the region; secondly, several questions seek to obtain the assessment and points of view of the respondents on these changes; and, finally, there are questions designed to obtain a prospective and forward-looking analysis of the region.

In addition to close-ended questions, respondents were given the chance to elaborate on their answers through additional comments. Therefore, the Survey provides a very useful tool to identify the main issues at stake in Euro-Mediterranean relations, while assessing the progress made in the various dimensions of the Euromed policies.

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