

Euromed Chronology

January

EU-Syria

8-Brussels: In a phone call with the new UN special envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen, HR/VP Federica Mogherini expresses the continued support of the EU to the Geneva UN-led peace process for Syria. They both discuss the modalities by which the EU can support this process including in the run up to the Brussels III conference on supporting the future of Syria and the region.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/syria/56294/high-representativevice-president-mogherini-speaks-new-un-special-envoy-syria-geir-pedersen_en

Youth

15/18-Valletta: the first leadership seminar of the Young Voices of the Mediterranean project is held.

The seminar brings together 20 emerging leaders from North Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Balkans, and focuses on learning how to implement value-based leadership, working with cultural intelligence and exploring effective advocacy with EU, national and international policy makers. Coordinated by the Anna Lindh Foundation and funded by the EC, Young Mediterranean Voices provides opportunities to open doors for young influencers to shape policy and media narratives.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-backed-young-mediterranean-voices-marks-major-milestone-malta

EU-Morocco

17-Rabat: The HR/VP Federica Mogherini announces that during her meeting with the Prime Minister Mr. Saadeddine El Othmani in Rabat, they have dis-

cussed the results of the election in the European Parliament of Strasburg, which took place the day before and marks the revival of the strategic partnership and cooperation between both parties in every sector (economy, society, security, migration) and regional cooperation in the Mediterranean and Africa. Mogherini also expresses the EU's intention and interest in supporting Morocco in its consideration of a development model in the most efficient way possible.

<https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-166593>

EU-Palestine

21-Jerusalem: The EU issues a statement in agreement with its heads of missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah after the dissolution of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) last December and the announcement of legislative elections within six months, especially in view of the fact that the PLC has not been able to exercise its legislative powers since its last session in 2007. The EU, therefore, is urging the Palestinian leadership to work towards strong, inclusive, accountable and democratic institutions based on respect for the rule of law and human rights. The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah also urge all Palestinian factions to engage good faith in the reconciliation process.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/56860/local-eu-statement-dissolution-palestinian-legislative-council_en

EU-Syria

21-Brussels: In its ongoing measures against the supporters of the Syrian re-

gime, the EU adds 11 businessmen and five entities to its sanctions list. The sanctions against the Syrian regime were imposed in 2011 and are reviewed once a year. They include an oil embargo, restrictions on certain investments, a freeze of the assets of the central bank held in the EU and export restrictions on equipment and technology.

www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/01/21/syria-eu-adds-eleven-businessmen-and-five-entities-to-sanctions-list/

EU-The League of Arab States (LAS)

23-Cairo: Seventh meeting of the permanent representatives of the LAS and EU political and security committee. During several work sessions, they discuss the situation in the Arab world, such as in Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria and Yemen. They also acknowledge the need to join forces to tackle issues of mutual interest like counter-terrorism, migration, refugees and displaced persons. They acknowledge the common responsibility in confronting common political, economic, social and security challenges that threaten the region's stability.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/egypt/57212/meeting-permanent-representatives-las-and-eu-political-and-security-committee_en

EU-Egypt (Culture)

28-Cairo: EU grants 3.1 million euros to the Egyptian Museum of Cairo (EMC). A three-year project is launched in order to promote and preserve culture and heritage and ensure the EMC's recognition by UNESCO as a world heritage site. Several European museums, including the Louvre and the British Museum, will help the EMC with the redesign of entrance galleries on the

ground floor, the drafting of the museum's masterplan and the showcase of treasures from the Royal Tombs of Tanis. Most importantly, however, they will help increase the EMC's management and technical capacities. The aim of the project is to improve the visitor experience, attract more national and international visitors and increase the museum's economic impact.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/egypt/57241/european-and-egyptian-cooperation-transform-egyptian-museum-cairo-supported-eu_en

EU-Lebanon

28-Beirut: A meeting takes place between the EU Ambassador Christina Lassen and Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri, in which they discuss the country's economic situation. Lassen underlines the need to make progress on the reforms introduced during la *Conférence économique pour le développement du Liban par les réformes et avec les entreprises* (CEDRE) held in Paris last April, but the main topic of discussion is the consultation efforts led by Hariri in order to form a new government. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/57288/eu-ambassador-christina-lassen-meets-prime-minister-designate-saad-hariri_en

Justice

30/31-The Hague: In the framework of the Second Euromed Forum, Prosecutor Generals from Europe and the Mediterranean countries agree on the "General Rules for the Organization of the Forum," which set out the main objectives and principles of collaboration, communication and continuation of the Forum with the aim of allowing Prosecutor Generals to share experiences and good practices in the field of international judicial cooperation in the Mediterranean.

www.euromed-justice.eu/en/news/prosecutors-general-europe-and-mediterranean-committed-international-judicial-cooperation

EU-Lebanon

31-Brussels: HR/VP Federica Mogherini welcomes the formation of a new government through a close consultation between the Prime Minister-designate

Saad Hariri and the President Michel Aoun, in which they reach a consensus after months of negotiations. The formation of the new government takes place under the observation of an EU election observation mission. Mogherini notes that the EU will continue supporting Lebanon financially according to the three international conferences for Lebanon held in 2018 in Rome, Paris and Brussels, in order to facilitate the implementation of mutual commitments of security and economic matters, as well as to address the impact of the Syrian conflict.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/57485/stat%25E2%2580%258Bement-high-representativevice-president-federica-mogherini-newly-formed-government_en

EU-Palestine (Agriculture)

31-Jerusalem: Within the framework of the PEGASE mechanism (*Palestino-européen de Gestion de l'Aide Socio-économique*), the EU makes a 2.37-million-euro contribution to support 241 Palestinian farmers and agro-businesses affected by the Israeli occupation in the West Bank. It will help the farmers relaunch, repair or replace damaged businesses through different activities, including the acquisition of agricultural supplies, rehabilitation of land and other small infrastructure works.

The contribution is channelled through the Palestinian Authority's programme: Assistance to Agriculture in the West Bank (AAWB) taking the overall financial envelope of this programme to seven million euros. The programme is managed by the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Agricultural Disaster Risk Reduction and Insurance Fund.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/57442/european-union-provides-%25E2%2582%25AC237-million-support-palestinian-farmers_en

February

EU-The League of Arab States (LAS)

4-Brussels: In her opening speech for the 5th EU-LAS ministerial meeting,

HR/VP Federica Mogherini underlines the importance and necessity for cooperation between the EU and the Arab states, for which an initial summit has been scheduled for the end of the month in Egypt. Mogherini specifies the fields in which the parties share a common interest and must address jointly, such as: youth employment, education, migration, climate change, terrorism and conflict resolution, especially in the Middle East peace process, which is strongly backed by the EU. She also calls the parties to support the UN mediation for reconciliation, both in Syria and in Libya. Mogherini praises the Stockholm agreement, formulated as an effort to find a win-win solution in Yemen.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/egypt/57604/opening-speech-high-representativevice-president-federica-mogherini-5th-eu-league-arab-states_en

Local & Regional Cooperation

4-Barcelona: The UfM's local and regional partners sign the declaration to launch the #MedCooperationAlliance, a new strategy to promote sustainable and integrated territorial development in the region. The declaration calls stakeholders of the Euro-Mediterranean region to increase their efforts towards integrated macro-regional strategies and stronger cooperation instruments. <https://ufmsecretariat.org/the-union-for-the-mediterranean-backs-regional-and-local-authorities-strategy-for-the-sustainable-a-territorial-development-of-the-mediterranean-basin/>

EU-Lebanon

7-Beirut: In their meeting with the Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, the ambassadors of the EU and EU Member States, congratulate Hariri on the formation of a new government and voice their hopes that his main task will be to resume efforts to ensure governance and reaffirm the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and exclusive authority of the Lebanese State. The EU urges the government to immediately implement the necessary economic and structural reforms to allow for the Capital Investment Plan's (CIP) implementation. The EU encourages a renewed commitment of the Council of Ministers

to disassociate from any regional conflicts and wars and from the internal affairs of Arab countries. The EU continues to support the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and to implement its commitments undertaken by the Rome II conference.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/57758/statement-following-eu-ambassadors-meeting-prime-minister-saad-hariri_en

Regional perspectives

11-Barcelona: The UfM hosts a discussion between Josep Borrell, the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, and 15 experts and researchers from different Euro-Mediterranean countries on the state of the region and its Horizon 2030 perspectives. Organized in collaboration with EuroMeSCo, the discussion is structured around four main issues, namely: the security situation in the MENA region; migration; the social contract in MENA economies; and regional cooperation frameworks and agendas. The discussion is also joined by Christos Stylianides, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/spanish-minister-borrell-seminar-future-region/>

Civil Protection

11/12-Barcelona: The 3rd meeting of the Directors-General of Civil Protection of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Member States takes place nine years after the last meeting. The meeting, co-organized by the UfM and the EU, seeks to facilitate information-sharing and a coordinated/common approach to disaster risk management.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/fr/civil-protection-member-states-ufm/>

Fisheries

12-Brussels: The European Parliament votes in favour of the EU-Morocco Partnership Agreement on Sustainable Fisheries. The new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) includes the waters of Western Sahara and aims to take into account the conclusions reached by the EU Court of Justice on this matter. The agreement will allow the EU fleet to fish surplus stocks not exploited by local fishermen, in return for

an overall financial contribution of €208 million. The socio-economic impacts of the agreement will benefit the populations concerned and be beneficial for the sustainable development of natural resources.

www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190207IPR25218/meps-adopt-new-fisheries-partnership-with-morocco-including-western-sahara

EU-Libya

15-Munich: In the margins of the Munich security conference, HR/VP Federica Mogherini meets with the Prime Minister of Libya Mustafa al-Serraj and the Special Representative for Libya of the UN Secretary General Ghassan Salamé in separate meetings in order to discuss how to advance the political process in Libya, especially through the scheduled UN-led national conference and the holding of elections once the proper constitutional and legal framework has been approved. She stresses the need to preserve the oil infrastructure, which belongs to all Libyans and which should remain under the control of the legitimate National Oil Corporation. The parties discuss how to accelerate economic reforms and how to continue to improve conditions in detention centres for migrants with the assistance of EU and UN agencies.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/libya/58231/federica-mogherini-meets-prime-minister-libya-fayez-al-sarraj-and-un-secretary-general-special_en

EU-Syria

22-Brussels: HR/VP Federica Mogherini meets UN Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen and discusses the situation and the latest developments on the ground, as well as their impact on the Geneva peace process. Pedersen briefs Mogherini on the outcomes of his dialogues with the main stakeholders in the Syrian conflict and the upcoming plans to work towards a resumption of the intra-Syrian talks in Geneva. For her part, Mogherini briefs the UN Special Envoy on her recent contacts with the main regional and international actors and the latest discussions at the Foreign Affairs Council on 18 February. Both

officials discuss the preparations for the third Brussels conference on *supporting the future of Syria and the region* scheduled next month.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/syria/58573/federica-mogherini-meets-united-nations-special-envoy-syria-geir-pedersen_en

EU-The League of Arab States (LAS) 24-25-Sharm El-Sheikh: The main points in the EU-LAS summit declaration are that the parties will renew their commitment to affective multilateralism, especially between the EU, LAS, UN and the African Union (AU). They commit to reaching a two-state solution in the Middle East peace process on the basis of UN resolutions. They support the UN special envoys for Syria and Yemen and the UN Special Representative for Libya. They also discuss the importance of preserving the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture and direct their respective institutions to identify modalities and mechanisms to operationalize mutual cooperation, taking into account existing mechanisms for cooperation, including those within the association agreements.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/02/25/sharm-el-sheikh-summit-declaration/>

ARLEM

26/27 Seville: The 2019 topics for the 10th plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) are: Blue Economy and Regional Integration. Furthermore, the plenary adopts the two draft ARLEM reports: on youth entrepreneurship and on governance and transparency.

https://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/10th-ARLEM-Plenary-Session-.aspx?fbclid=IwAR37d1oE45s_p-OIFmiwFOLFGPJFu1HA_F2yn8FdDC474inET9gnAfp_m4l

EU-Palestine

27-Jerusalem: The EU announces a contribution of 82 million euros in support of the human development work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The new contribution will help provide Palestine refugees with essential services including educa-

tion, health and relief assistance. On the same day, the EU and Palestinian Authority inaugurate the new 5,000 square-metre Dura courthouse, which serves thousands of Palestinians in Dura and surrounding communities.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/58840/european-union-announces-vital-eur-82-million-contribution-unrwa_en

Women's strength

27-Amman: The EU, UN Women and UNFPA organize a joint event bringing together government officials and civil society representatives from the EU, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq to reflect on the impact of the Syria crisis on women and girls. The event presents research on the critical situation of women's rights, gender and equality and the Syria crisis in order to inform the discussion at the Brussels III conference on "supporting the future of Syria and the region," scheduled next month.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/jordan/58792/ahead-brussels-iii-conference-european-union-un-women-and-unfpa-call-stronger-measures-address_en

March

Urbanism

1-Paris: The Second Meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Thematic Working Group on Affordable and Sustainable Housing takes place to develop a set of recommendations in the form of an action plan with policy and operational guidelines.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/fr/second-ufm-working-group-on-sustainable-and-affordable-housing/>

Cybersecurity

5/8-Bucharest: The EU-funded Cyber-South project provides training on dark web and crypto currencies to twenty three law enforcement representatives from several Mediterranean countries. The training aims to provide the officers with competencies to perform online investigations on the dark web with enhanced knowledge on the Internet, bitcoins and other crypto currencies,

Google hacks, social media and open source intelligence.

www.coe.int/fr/web/cybercrime/-/cyber-south-darkweb-cryptocurrencies-course

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

6-Vienna: The meeting of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) takes place and was attended by the E3+2 (China, France, Germany, Russia, United Kingdom) and Iran at the level of Political Directors and Deputy Foreign Ministers. Participants welcomed and acknowledged Iran's efforts in implementing its nuclear-related commitments and decide to facilitate and enable legitimate trade with the country.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/59179/chairs-statement-following-6-march-2019-meeting-joint-commission-joint-comprehensive-plan_en

Neighbourhood instruments

8-Brussels: A new financial instrument is adopted called the "Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)." Once in force, it will be the EU's main tool to foster cooperation with non-EU countries in the neighbourhood and beyond, and to implement its international commitments deriving from the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/east-south/stay-informed/news/eu-external-action-more-funds-human-rights-development-and-climate>

EU-Syria

12/14-Brussels: The EU hosts the Brussels III conference "supporting the future of Syria and the region." A record pledge of 8 billion euros is agreed for helping the Syrian people. The EU will cover almost two-thirds of the overall pledge.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/59618/record-pledge-brussels-iii-conference-eu-supports-future-syria-and-region_en

Education

13-Rome: The European Training Foundation and the Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED) have signed a declara-

tion of intent to strengthen institutional capacities in delivering quality education and training in the Mediterranean region, especially in entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial learning; employability; career guidance and vocational training.

www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/news/joining-efforts-southern-mediterranean

Employment

18-Barcelona: The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) organizes a workshop on Informal Business Integration in the Mediterranean region where multiple stakeholders from different sectors across the labour market and the employment landscape are brought together to exchange views and experiences, share best practices and lessons learned, and present recommendations on how to tackle the transition to the formal economy using multidisciplinary and integrated approaches.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/fr/promoting-transition-from-informal-formal-employment/>

Egypt-Iraq-Jordan

23/24-Cairo: A trilateral summit by President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, Jordanian King Abdullah II and Iraqi Prime Minister Adil Abdel Mahdi is held to discuss joint Arab action, counter-terrorism efforts, regional and international issues of common interest, as well as to coordinate visions before the Arab summit.

www.sis.gov.eg/Story/138195/Egyptian---Jordanian---Iraqi-Summit?lang=en-us

EU4WATER

24-Cairo: On World Water day in Cairo, the Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Ati and a number of European and African ambassadors attend the announcement of a multi-annual flagship programme, EU4WATER, by the EU's Ambassador in Cairo Mr Ivan Sarkos. This project is meant to support the stabilization of Egypt by enhancing water security and sustainable management. The total indicative budget is set at 120 million euros in grants.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/egypt/60119/eu-and-egypt-celebrate-world-water-day_en

Blue Economy

25-Brussels: The fifth meeting of the UfM Working Group on the Blue Economy (BE WG) takes place and reports on the progress at national and regional level in achieving the deliverables of the 2015 Ministerial Declaration. It discusses blue economy financing opportunities and the financing principles. <https://ufmsecretariat.org/fr/5th-meeting-working-group-blue-economy-2019/>

Arab spring

27-Strasbourg: A plenary debate on the “Post-Arab spring: way forward for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region” takes place in the context of the 8th year anniversary of the Arab Spring. Speaking on behalf of HR/VP Federica Mogherini, Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, emphasizes the EU’s support for civil society in the Maghreb and Mashreq through initiatives and programmes and permanent contacts through EU Delegations across the region. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/60297/speech-behalf-high-representativevice-president-european-parliament-plenary-debate-%E2%80%9Cpost-arab_en

Hirak

27-Strasbourg: The European Parliament discusses recent political protests in Algeria during its plenary session. In HR/VP Federica Mogherini’s statement, which was delivered by Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, she underlines the good bilateral relations the EU and Algeria share and calls for a broader reform and transition process, while reiterating that it is up to the Algerians to decide how this transition should happen. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/60298/speech-behalf-high-representativevice-president-european-parliament-plenary-debate-situation_en

The League of Arab States (LAS) Summit

31-Tunis: The LAS Summit takes place attended by the leaders of the Arab member countries, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, HR/VP Fed-

erica Mogherini and African Union Commission chair Moussa Faki. The LAS rejects the US’ recent recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights and renews a call for the establishment of a Palestinian state. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/60416/speech-high-representativevice-president-federica-mogherini-30th-ordinary-session-arab-league_en

April*Labour*

1/2-Cascais: The member states of the UfM organize the fourth ministerial conference on labour and employment. The 2019 Declaration, highlights the challenges facing the region, in particular regarding informal employment, unemployment and underemployment, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as young people and women, low job creation, skill mismatches, difficult school-to-work transitions, low investment in vocational education and training, insufficient skills development for young people and adults, high levels of informality, and large flows of refugees and migrants. www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/news/matching-talent-and-jobs-mediterranean

Statistics

2/4-Malta: The EU-funded MEDSTAT IV project organizes a workshop on 2-4 April in Malta to respond to the urgent need expressed by the ENP-S countries to improve how the new international standards for trade in services are applied. Representatives of the ENP-S countries, from statistical offices, central banks and other organizations involved in the compilation of the balance of payments gather to discuss the countries’ respective situations regarding the implementation of the new recommendations. [www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-workshop-organised-better-handle-trade-services-statistics](https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-workshop-organised-better-handle-trade-services-statistics)

Food Crisis

3-Brussels: The EU releases a Global Report on Food Crises. The report calls for strengthened cooperation that links together prevention, preparedness and

response to address urgent humanitarian needs and root causes, which include climate change, economic shocks, conflict and displacement. The goal is to overcome world hunger, which is still affecting over 100 million people worldwide. <https://euneighbours.eu/en/east-south-stay-informed/news/eu-releases-global-report-food-crises>

EU-Jordan (Youth)

9-Amman: The EU and the UNESCO Amman Office launch the “Youth Empowerment” project at the King Hussein Bin Talal University in the Ma’an governorate. The project aims to promote inclusive media and information literacy among society groups, especially youth. The EU-funded project focuses specifically on strengthening the MIL upstream capacities of public institutions (universities and schools), media and education professionals across the Irbid, Zarqa, Mafraq and Ma’an governorates, alongside key partners Jordan Media Institute (JMI) and Media Diversity International (MDI). UNESCO supports the project’s implementation. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/jordan/60796/under-patronage-he-dr-omar-razaz-eu-and-unesco-launch-youth-empowerment-project_en

Theatre

9-Bethlehem: In the framework of *cultural exchange between international and Palestinian theatres through performance*, the Palestine International Theatre Festival for Children and Youth, organized in partnership with the EU, concludes its activities which started in Bethlehem and moved across the Palestinian territories. *The festival is part of the project Creative Labs and Artistic Performances in Palestine (CLAP!)* <https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/eu-in-action/stories/clap-lets-applaud-palestine-international-theatre-festival-children-and>

Cybercrime

9-Paris: The EU-funded Euromed Police IV project welcomes experts from seven southern partner countries in Paris in an exchange aimed at promoting a better understanding of investigation procedures between the partner countries, as well as to present the various French

services and parties involved in the fight against cybercrime. Training dedicated to malware analysis will be co-organized with the Tunisian General Directorate for National Security in May 2019.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-euromed-police-project-gathers-experts-work-cybercrime>

Cooperation

10-Barcelona: The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Managing Authority of the ENI (European Neighbourhood Instrument) CBC Med Programme signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote economic and social development and to address common environmental challenges in the Mediterranean region by strengthening the impact of regional projects and capitalization activities.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/union-mediterranean-and-eni-cbc-med-programme-team-strengthen-impact

EU-Lebanon (Research)

11-Beirut: The European Commission and the National Council for Scientific Research-Lebanon sign an Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Republic of Lebanon implying the former's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), allowing for research in the key areas of water management, agriculture and food production.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/60924/prima-signature-lebanon_en

Education

12-Barcelona: A conference takes place at the headquarters of the UfM Secretariat in Barcelona on "Recognition of higher education qualifications: Where does the Euro-Mediterranean region stand?" The participants share best practice and point out the need for a coordinated use of top-down and bottom-up approaches to make concrete progress towards the enhanced recognition of higher education qualifications in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/recognition-higher-education-qualifications-emuni/>

Youth

16-Amman: Young participants from seven southern Mediterranean countries receive training over five days in facilitation, guidance and arbitration, as part of the transfer of training to new facilitators. This training is within the framework of the EU-funded Young Mediterranean Voices.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-young-mediterranean-voices-undertook-regional-master>

Terrorism

24 New York: The United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) sign a Framework on Counter-Terrorism, thereby strengthening the EU-UN partnership in this area, on the occasion of their second EU-UN high-level political dialogue on Counter-Terrorism, held in New York. The Framework for UN-EU cooperation on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism promotes cooperation on capacity building to counter terrorism and prevent and counter violent extremism (PCVE) in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, as well as supporting the development of national and regional PCVE action plans that promote youth engagement and gender perspectives.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/61409/european-union-and-united-nations-strengthen-partnership-counter-terrorism_en

EU-Palestine (Agriculture)

30-Jerusalem : A contribution of 3.7 million euros is donated by both the EU and the Palestinian Authority in support of the latter's programme "Private sector reconstruction in Gaza-Agriculture." The contribution is to help 178 farmers and agro-businesses to relaunch, repair or replace damaged businesses. It covers a wide range of activities, including the acquisition of agricultural supplies, rehabilitation of land and other small infrastructure works.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/61621/palestinian-authority-and-european-union-support-gaza-farmers-€37-million_en

May

Syria

2-Brussels: The EU strengthens its support to stabilization in areas liberated from Daesh in northwestern Syria. The European Union has adopted a new €18-million programme to support stabilization work in areas liberated from Daesh by the Global Coalition in northeastern Syria. The new programme will contribute to the provision of basic services, such as water supplies and demining. The programme is funded under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace and will complement ongoing humanitarian and stabilization efforts by the European Union, EU Member States and other partners.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-strengthens-its-support-stabilisation-areas-liberated-daesh-north

Palestinian Authority

3-Jerusalem: The EU contributes to the PA's payment of salaries and pensions. The European Union makes a contribution of €15 million to the payment of April's salaries and pensions of nearly 57,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners in the West Bank. This contribution is funded by the European Union as part of its Direct Financial Support to the Palestinian Authority, channelled through PEGASE.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/61763/eu-contributes-%E2%82%AC15-million-pa-payment-april-salaries-and-pensions_en

Environment

14/15-Algeria: The ENI SEIS II South team from the European Environment Agency (EEA) and UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEMAP) participate in a country visit to Algeria and meet with officials from the Algerian Ministry of the Environment and Renewable Energy (MEER) and other key national partners involved in the production, management and dissemination of environmental information. The objective is to discuss Algeria's contribution to regional environmental information and assessment cooperation activities, develop a road map for the implementation

of activities in Algeria during the remainder of the project and agree on operational implementation.

<https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/south/communication/news/algerian-stakeholders-discuss-environmental-information-at-eni-seis-national-meeting-14-15-may-2019>

Investments

15-Marseille: The ANIMA Investment Network, co-supported by the European Commission, organizes in partnership with GM Consultant, the afterwork “Risks & Opportunities in the Southern Mediterranean” where experts, companies, insurers and economists discuss the risks and opportunities of the Mediterranean market from both an economic and insurance point of view.

<https://eunighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/european-supported-anima-investment-network-organises-afterwork-risks>

Mediterranean Diet

15-17 Palermo: On the occasion of the 2nd World Conference on the Revitalization of the Mediterranean Diet in Palermo, the UfM meets with CIHEAM and FAO to partner in support of a new platform on sustainable food systems in the region, which aims at framing the Mediterranean diet as a tool for implementing sustainable consumption and production in the region, as well as a model for promoting inclusive regional development.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-partners-with-ciheam-mediterranean-diet/>

EU-Tunisia

7-Brussels: The 15th meeting of the EU-Tunisia Association Council focuses its work on socio-economic development and trade relations; democratic transition and political reforms; cooperation on youth issues with the signing of an “EU4Youth” programme and legal and illegal migrations. Also discussed are issues of common interest, such as the situation in the region, security and the fight against terrorism.

www.consilium.europa.eu/fr/meetings/international-ministerial-meetings/2019/05/17/

www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/05/17/joint-press-release-following-the-15th-session-of-the-ue-tunisia-association-council/

Business

21/22-Brussels: the first “EU MED means business” conference is held in Brussels with the participation of 150 young entrepreneurs, economic leaders and change-makers from the Arab countries in Europe’s Southern Neighbourhood. The conference focuses on attracting investments; the potential of small enterprises in the creation of sustainable jobs; boosting talent and skills of young people and the priorities for action. Parallel events, which are connected to the Brussels conference, take place in Tunis, Cairo, Irbid and Rabat.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-joins-efforts-to-promote-youth-entrepreneurship/>

Youth

22/23-Barcelona: The UfM brings together around 100 representatives of civil society, youth organizations and non-state actors from the Euro-Mediterranean to discuss regional challenges during the UfM Regional Dialogue on “Shared views on key issues in the Mediterranean.” The regional dialogue’s key themes are the environment, energy, water, climate change and sustainable development, the economy and competitiveness, employment and education and women’s and girls’ empowerment. The sessions focus on inclusive and sustainable development, a key factor in addressing the root causes of the current challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean region.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/event/shared-views/>

Palestinian Authority

31-Jerusalem: The EU contributes to the PA’s payment of salaries and pensions. The European Union makes a contribution of €15 million to the payment of May’s salaries and pensions of nearly 57,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners in the West Bank. This contribution is funded by the European Union as part of its Direct Financial Support to the Palestinian Authority, channelled through PEGASE.

June

Migration

4-Brussels: Senior officials from the European Union (EU) and the International

Organization for Migration (IOM) are meeting in Brussels to advance the strategic partnership between the two organizations on key aspects of European and global migration in the sixth annual EU-IOM strategic meeting. The discussions focus on the state of play of migration at the global level, the way forward on cooperation on protection in mixed migration contexts, and cooperation on return and sustainable reintegration.

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/sixth-annual-european-union-international-organisation-migration-strategic-meeting_en

Energy

10/12 Milan: Mediterranean Energy Regulatory staff participate in a three-day training session organized by MEDREG on the topic of the Scope and Role of Regulation. This course offers a comprehensive and up-to-date view on the regulatory models that can govern electricity and gas markets and illustrates the pros and cons of each of them. The course covers a wide range of topics related to regulation, including licensing and concession regimes, infrastructure regulation in developing countries, regulators’ relation with their market stakeholders as well as the latest regulatory trends in the energy market.

www.medreg-regulators.org/PG/Eventdetail.aspx?IDUNI=jvdaubtjvaxwltkb2rc5c1mm85665&MDId=7494&RAE=7508;3;;4505-368-2019.3.11;-1;4505;&Skeda=MODIF4505-368-2019.3.11

Fisheries

11/12 Marrakech: Conference of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean on restoring healthy fisheries in this sea basin. The conference takes stock of the common achievements and renews the commitment to live up to the full promises of the MedFish4Ever Declaration adopted in 2017. Despite improvements in fisheries management, the Mediterranean remains in a critical state and further action is urgently needed to secure the future of fishing communities.

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/eu-promotes-sustainable-fisheries-mediterranean-high-level-conference-medfish4ever_en

Transport

11/13-Barcelona: Meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity and its working groups. During the meeting experts exchange views on the entire transport and logistic domain. All UfM member states actively participate in the discussion and contribute to the review of the progress of the Regional Transport Action Plan 2014-2020.

<http://ems.europa.eu/safemed-iv-project/safemed-9/item/3573-ufm-regional-platform-on-transport-connectivity-and-its-working-groups.html>

Gas

13-Paris: The UfM Gas Platform Conference takes place under the title "The Role of Liquefied Natural Gas in the Mediterranean Gas Security." The discussions are focused on the existing opportunities of using LNG in the Mediterranean region, as an element for diversification and competition, as well as the need to strengthen regional cooperation and harvest commercial opportunities in order to stimulate economic growth, inducing new or innovative solutions and job creation in a variety of sectors.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-gas-platform-conference-the-role-of-lng-in-the-mediterranean-gas-security/>

FEMISE

13/14 Brussels: The FEMISE annual conference takes place under the title "Sustainable Development: Drawing an Impactful EU-Med Roadmap." The conference offers a platform for dialogue between the different stakeholders from the European Commission, international and regional experts, policy makers, researchers, members of civil society and relevant NGOs from both shores of the Mediterranean with the objectives of: taking stock of what the South-Med region has achieved in the past few years in terms of development; highlighting some of the main challenges they are still facing; and proposing a road map on how to move forward towards achieving sustainable development.

www.femise.org/en/conferences-and-seminars/registration-open-femise-annual-conference-brussels-belgium-june-13th-14th-2019/

Cybercrime

16-20-Algiers: The first meeting of the CyberSouth working group in charge of developing a manual on cybercrime and electronic evidence for Algerian magistrates is held in Algiers, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and with the support of the Council of Europe. This first meeting of the working group results in improving the current outline of the module on cybercrime integrated in the initial course for student magistrates and in the development of a detailed outline of the basic and advanced module on cybercrime and electronic evidence for continuous training.

Energy and Climate

18-Lisbon: The UfM organizes the 2nd UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum, focused on "Supporting local authorities in their efforts towards the energy transition," with the aim of providing a networking space and promoting innovative and tangible financing solutions, private investment and public-private partnerships in the Euro-Mediterranean region oriented to local authorities' efforts to achieve a sustainable energy transition and address climate change challenges.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-energy-business-forum/>

SME

18/19-Tunis: The EU-funded EBSOMED organizes a meeting under the title "Scaling Up Finance for Inclusive Development in the Southern Neighbourhood" to discuss access to finance for southern Mediterranean SMEs. Participants discuss issues of access to finance and innovative micro-enterprises, mostly ones launched by young and women entrepreneurs, but also new sources of financing such as crowdfunding or micro-credit. Co-financed by the European Commission, EBSOMED is a four-year project. The project aims to boost the Mediterranean business ecosystem and promote inclusive economic growth and job creation, by enhancing the private sector environment and, more specifically, the Business Support Organisations in the Southern Neighbourhood countries.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-project-discusses-access-finance-southern-mediterranean-smes>

Energy

18/19-Tirana: MEDREG holds its 27th General Assembly, which is marked by a redoubling of the organization's efforts to promote and facilitate the deployment of sustainable support schemes for Renewable Energy Sources (RES). The Assembly takes stock of the multiple initiatives that MEDREG has been coordinating to foster electricity market integration, through its tightened cooperation with Med-TSO and other stakeholders, under the umbrella of the UfM Energy Platforms. Acknowledging the valuable technical and institutional contributions of MEDREG to the UfM Energy Platforms and its southern members, the EC states its intention to renew the EU's financial support to the Association for the next three years.

www.medreg-regulators.org/

EU-Jordan

17-Brussels: The EU-Jordan Association Council reviews the state of EU-Jordan bilateral relations and takes stock of progress in the implementation of the EU-Jordan Association Agreement and EU-Jordan partnership priorities. The Association Council discusses cooperation on a number of priorities in the areas of security and counter-terrorism, socio-economic issues, and democracy, human rights and the rule of law. It reviews, in particular, bilateral trade relations and Jordan's economic reform agenda.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-jordan-association-council-looks-progress-achieved-partnership

EU-Tunisia

24-Brussels: The EU approves the second of three planned disbursements (€150 million) under its Macro-Financial Assistance to Tunisia. MFA funds are made available in the form of low-interest long-term loans, conditional on the implementation of specific policy measures agreed in the MoU. Tunisia has fulfilled the policy commitments agreed with the EU for the release of the second disbursement under the programme. These included reforms to public financial management, the strengthening of social safety nets and the improvement of the business climate. These measures were

designed to support fiscal consolidation and sustainable economic growth in Tunisia. The consolidation of democracy in Tunisia also remains a priority for the EU. https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/eu-approves-%E2%82%AC150-million-disbursement-macro-financial-assistance-tunisia_en

Syrian Crisis

27 Brussels: The EU – via the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis – adopts a new €100-million assistance package to benefit refugees and local communities in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. The aid package consists of the strengthening of public service delivery systems, improved access to higher education and improved child protection services. With this new package €1.6 billion out of a total of €1.8 billion mobilized by the EU Trust Fund have now been turned into financing concrete actions to help refugees and host countries alike.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_3391

July

Sustainable Future

1/2 La Valletta: More than 40 experts from the western Mediterranean debate on how to foster an environmentally-friendly and resilient socioeconomic model for the region at the 4th MedThink 5+5 Forum. The Forum is co-organized by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) – Secretariat of the MedThink 5+5 network – and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). Under the title “Fostering Innovative Alliances in the Western Mediterranean. A Basin of Opportunities for a Sustainable Future,” participants explore the unifying role of the 5+5 Dialogue in allowing for a more comprehensive Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation and the formation of new alliances within the 5+5 Dialogue and the Mediterranean region at large. The issues debated are in line with the engagements for a more sustainable and innovative Mediterranean, which were made recently in the Summit of the Two Shores in Marseille.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/experts-western-mediterranean/>

Migrations

3 Brussels: The European Commission has approved five new migration-related programmes in North Africa totalling €61.5 million. These new programmes, adopted under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, will reinforce ongoing actions to protect and assist refugees and vulnerable migrants in North Africa, especially in Libya, improve the living conditions and resilience of Libyans as well as foster economic opportunities, labour migration and mobility in North African countries.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_3461

Social Economy

5-Barcelona: The UfM organizes its first event fully dedicated to the social economy at its premises in Barcelona, on 5 July 2019. Acting upon the UfM Ministerial mandates and in line with the UfM Roadmap, the Workshop on Social Economy in the MENA Region and the Balkans focuses on two interrelated themes, namely Entrepreneurship and Job Creation in the Social Economy and Social Innovation for a Positive Socio-Economic Impact. Social Economy forms one of the priority areas of action for the UfM Secretariat under the Business Development and Employment portfolio, as well as within the framework of Social and Civil Affairs efforts. The Workshop on Social Economy presents the first of a series of UfM Secretariat events and activities aimed at unleashing the full potential of Social Economy in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/potential-social-economy/>

Cybercrime

9-Strasbourg: The third Steering Committee meeting of CyberSouth is held with the participation of representatives from priority countries Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, and partners to the project from France and Romania as well as the European Commission. The meeting provides the chance to review the progress made within the project, to validate the next workplan and also collect ideas for the future CyberSouth project. Constructive discussions are held resulting in more guidance to assist in the final im-

plementation phase of the project. Since the beginning of the project, 58 activities have been implemented and the project has already reached 70% of its objectives towards the strengthening of legislation and institutional capacities to cooperate on cybercrime and electronic evidence in the Southern Neighbourhood region.

www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/-/cybersouth-steering-comittee

Water

9/10-Marseille: Water experts from Mediterranean countries gather in Marseille to review the progress on the H2020/NAP water cluster indicators at the national and regional level and further engage in the development of the water thematic assessment as part of the regional H2020 indicator-based assessment report. The workshop, organized by the European Environment Agency (EEA) as part of the EU-funded project European Neighbourhood Instrument – Shared Environmental Information System (ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism), consists of a number of informative and interactive group sessions. The country representatives from Egypt, Israel, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have the opportunity to enhance capacities on the use of indicator-based assessments to inform national policy, share their national experiences and elaborate on illustrative case studies.

<https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/south-communication/news/assessing-h2020-nap-water-cluster-9-10-july-2019-marseille-france>

Gender

11/12-Casablanca: Final Regional Event of the “SouthMedWiA – Towards greater gender equality: Promoting the Role and Image of Women in the Southern Mediterranean Audiovisual Sector” project. The event is an opportunity for all those involved in the SouthMedWiA project to meet and exchange information on the objectives, results and outputs achieved. SouthMedWiA has been a pioneering project that promotes and raises awareness on gender equality in the Southern Mediterranean audiovisual sector.

www.smedwia.eu/en/southmed-wia-casablanca/

MSME

15-Luxemburg: The SANAD Fund for MSME (SANAD) has launched a new sub-fund for equity investments in impactful financial intermediaries in the Middle East and North Africa. Carrying on SANAD's mission to fuel entrepreneurship and employment in the region, the SANAD Equity Sub-Fund II (SANAD ESF II) mobilizes public and private capital to help build a financial ecosystem committed to supporting the crucial but underserved micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) sector. The ESF II builds on the success of its predecessor, the SANAD Equity Sub-Fund I (SANAD ESF I), which has invested USD 30 million into five financial institutions across the region over the past six years.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/sanad-launches-new-equity-impact-fund-middle-east-and-north-africa>

Energy

18-Lisbon: The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean organizes the 2nd UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum under the title "Supporting local authorities in their efforts towards the energy transition." The objectives of the Forum are to provide a networking space and promote innovative and tangible financing solutions, private investment and public-private partnerships in the Euro-Mediterranean region oriented to local authorities' efforts in achieving a sustainable energy transition and in facing climate change challenges. The event brings together high-level government representatives, stakeholders, private sector investors, companies, services providers' business representatives, international financial institutions and successful investment cases, with the aim of identifying business and networking opportunities and enhancing exchanges on regional best practices.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-energy-business-forum/?fbclid=IwAR21yHYGYNjpXScUnC9YIHx7jXEe-y-DHtp1Aom5-RluCPh5R9Xu8VK9Sbs>

Women

18-Barcelona: Ministries in charge of gender equality and women's issues, national statistical institutions, regional and international organizations and civil society regional networks meet in Bar-

celona for the UfM Regional Dialogue on Women Empowerment. The meeting opens a dialogue with the national and regional institutions of statistics on the opportunity to start building a regional framework of gender data & statistics.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/fr/ufm-regional-dialogue-women-empowerment-2019/>

Youth Employment

15-Bonn: on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day, UNESCO launches the Youth Employment in the Mediterranean (YEM) Knowledge Platform. The platform is one of the key components of UNESCO's YEM Project which promotes the relevance, quality and image of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in the southern Mediterranean region, and is funded by the European Union. The project supports eight countries in developing robust skills and systems with the aim to stimulate youth employment and entrepreneurship in the region, which suffers from high unemployment, especially among youth. The project falls under the European Neighbourhood policy and is aligned with the UNESCO Strategy for TVET (2016-2021), which prioritizes inclusive policy dialogue, the reinforcement of TVET stakeholders' capacities, and the improvement of skills anticipation systems in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goal on Education.

<https://unevoc.unesco.org/yem/YEM+Home>

August**Refugees**

2-Istanbul: The EBRD and Human Development Foundation (INGEV) launch a mentoring scheme for Syrian refugee entrepreneurs in Turkey. The programme helps refugees build their businesses and supports integration. Syrian entrepreneurs will have access to local business networks and know-how to develop their managerial capacity. The mentoring initiative is part of the EBRD's Refugee Response in Turkey, which focuses on economic inclusion, support of SMEs and infrastructure development.

www.ebrd.com/news/2019/ebrd-launches-mentoring-programme-for-syrian-entrepreneurs-in-turkey.html

Youth

19-Tunis: Shabab Live teams start their projects. Around 50 members of the 18 selected Shabab Live projects gathered in Tunis to discuss media, the challenges for young people in the region and project and financial management details. The participants come from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, and Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan to discover each other's approaches to strengthening youth participation in the media. Participants also explore possibilities for collaboration, synergies and exchange between broadcasters and NGOs of the Shabab Live projects in their home countries to strengthen the voice of young people in the media.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-project-shabab-live-teams-kick-their-projects>

Water

27-Stockholm: The UfM, together with CMI and GWP-MED, is co-organizing a side event on Water, Entrepreneurship and Youth, during the flagship event of the World Water Week in Stockholm. Through enhanced understanding and awareness of innovation, education, job creation and networking opportunities, the event aims to empower youth in the policy making processes at national and regional levels, contribute towards having young people as a priority and turn CMI's Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat) into the flagship youth network for the region.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/side-event-world-water-week/>

September**EU-Palestine**

2-Jerusalem: The European Union makes a contribution of €24.5 million to the payment of August's salaries and pensions of nearly 56,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners in the West Bank. This contribution is funded by the European Union as part of its Direct Financial Support to the Palestinian Authority, channelled through PEGASE.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip_en

Desertification

2/13 New Delhi: The Union for the Mediterranean, with FAO and CIHEAM, highlight a regional initiative to counter land degradation in the Mediterranean, Near East and Eastern Europe at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The side event under the title “Regional initiative to counter land degradation in the Mediterranean, Near East and Eastern Europe, LANDMEDNET” draws attention to the need to identify the main challenges to the use and management of sustainable land resources and map out regional actions to counter land degradation, enhance resilience and promote sustainable production landscapes in the Mediterranean, Near East and Eastern Europe.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/restore-land-to-sustain-life/>

Energy

11-Milan: The MEDREG Consumer Working Group (CUS WG) meets in Milan to discuss the ongoing drafting of the report on “Regulatory Practices on Handling Technical and Non-Technical Losses.” The report will collect several case studies from MEDREG countries, with the objective of analysing different methods and regulatory practices implemented by MEDREG energy regulators to reduce network losses for the benefit of consumers.

www.medreg-regulators.org/

Gender violence

16/17-Brussels: The Regional Steering Committee meeting takes place of the EU/Council of Europe joint programme “Ensuring sustainable democratic governance and human rights in the Southern Mediterranean,” known as the South Programme III (2018-2020). The fight against violence against women, which is a priority of the joint programme, is a key focus of the meeting. Participants conclude that this topic remains of crucial importance and that efforts to promote the Council of Europe’s “Istanbul Convention” on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence should continue to be a priority in future work.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/south-programme-iii-regional-steering-committee-meeting-violence-against>

18/19-Valencia: 8th Technical Working Group (WG) of the 5+5 Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean (WSWM) is an Initiative launched in 2014 by Spain and Algeria with the aim of approving and implementing a collaboration line between the countries from the two shores of the Mediterranean Basin. The aim of this initiative is to promote the sustainable use of water in this region, based on the integrated management of water resources at all territorial levels, starting by that of the river basin, as a basic unit for such management. The main objectives of this meeting are to set out the state of play of the initiative and take stock of the accomplished actions; and propose and discuss new actions for the end of 2019.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/8th-technical-working-group-water-strategy/>

Sea

20/21-Bizerte: The UfM co-organizes the 2nd edition of the *Forum de la Mer*, gathering political leaders, scientific communities, civil society actors, entrepreneurs and experts from the two shores of the Mediterranean, in order to share their expertise for a reasonable exploitation of the sea and the coast. The Forum focuses on public, private and associative initiatives and a call for projects, under the name AMWEJ (“the waves”), is launched. Open to coastal initiative developers, AMWEJ aims to reward the best projects relating to economic and sustainable development for the Tunisian coast and will benefit from expertise, engineering coaching and financing.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/forum-de-la-mer-2019-2/>

Libya

25-New York: The AU-EU-UN Tripartite Taskforce on the Situation of Stranded Migrants and Refugees in Libya meets on the fringes of the high-level General Debate of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly. The members of the Taskforce deliberate on how to consolidate cooperation with the Libyan authorities in efforts to scale up assisted voluntary returns and evacuations from Libya, dismantle the existing system of arbitrary arrests and detention of migrants and create alternatives to detention, as well as ensure the rights of

migrants and refugees are equally protected. The members also reiterate the need to redouble efforts aimed at supporting returning migrants in a more comprehensive manner so they can be reintegrated into their communities in their countries of origin as part of a sustained return programme.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/libya/67915/joint-press-release-meeting-joint-au-eu-un-taskforce-address-migrant-and-refugee-situation_en

October

Elections

8-Tunis: The EU Election Observation Mission in Tunisia publishes a statement about the legislative elections of 6 October. The statement notes that the elections have taken place in an orderly manner and voting procedures and transparency measures have been properly implemented. The mission deployed 95 observers in 479 polling stations.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-election-observation-mission-tunisia-well-organized-legislative

UfM

10-Barcelona: 4th edition of the Regional Forum of the UfM, under the title “Paving the way forward.” The Forum provides the occasion to take stock of the progress achieved to date and discuss the way forward to strengthen development, cooperation and regional integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region. On the fringes of the Forum, the UfM Secretariat organizes an event to present the main conclusions of the first ever comprehensive scientific report on the impact of climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean region.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/4th-regional-forum-union-mediterranean-paving-way-forward

Cybercrime

10/11-Strasbourg: under the framework of the EU-funded CyberSouth project, the Council of Europe organizes, jointly with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, a conference on coun-

ter-terrorism and the impact of new Technologies. The conference gathers parliamentarians from Algeria, Cyprus, Greece, France, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Qatar, Tunisia and Turkey, as well as members of the Arab Parliament, NATO and academia, to discuss legal instruments and international initiatives in the field of countering terrorism, cybercrime and the exchange of electronic evidence.

www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/home

Migration

12/16-Tunis: The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) organizes the 5th Civil Society Training Workshop “Advocacy and Awareness-raising Capacities” for Libyan civil society organizations (CSOs) working on migration. The workshop takes place within the framework of the EU-funded ICMPD project “Strategic and institutional management of migration in Libya.” With EU funding, ICMPD is supporting the Libyan administration at central and local levels, as well as Libyan civil society and academia, in their efforts to develop the necessary prerequisites for effective migration governance.

www.icmpd.org/our-work/capacity-building/regions/mediterranean/ongoing-projects/

EU-Turkey

14-Luxembourg: EU foreign affairs ministers, gather for a Foreign Affairs Council, condemn Turkey’s military action in northeast Syria. HR/VP Mogherini says in a press conference following the council that “there is a clear condemnation from the European Union’s side of Turkey’s military action.”

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/north-east-syria-council-adopts-conclusions

Youth & Employment

16/17-Beirut: In the framework of the EU-funded Youth Employment in the Mediterranean project, UNESCO Beirut organizes a regional workshop on mainstreaming digital and entrepreneurial skills into TVET systems in the southern Mediterranean countries. Under the title “Digital and Entrepreneurial Skills in the South Mediterranean,” participants develop recommendations, guidelines and

resources for mainstreaming entrepreneurship and digital skills into TVET, building on regional and international experiences.

<https://en.unesco.org/news/yem-regional-workshop-digital-and-entrepreneurial-skills-south-mediterranean>

Cities

17-Amman: The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CDVB) sign a loan agreement of €45 million to finance energy efficiency projects targeting municipal, building and lighting infrastructure in Jordan. The loan addresses the sustainable development of municipalities in Jordan, especially those most affected by the refugee crisis and a long way from economic centres. More specifically, it will reduce energy costs for municipalities by boosting the implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, such as rooftop solar PV, street lighting refurbishments, energy efficiency building and other similar types of investments.

www.eib.org

Libya

21-Brussels: the European Commission announces €2 million in additional humanitarian aid to help those most in need. The assistance will cover emergency healthcare services, food, livelihood support and protection services. The EU funding will be closely monitored and channelled through international non-governmental organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_6127

Tourism

22-Rome: Kick-off Meeting of the CROSSDEV project (“Cultural Routes for Sustainable Social and Economic Development in Mediterranean”). The aim of this project is to turn less-known places and rural areas into new routes of sustainable tourism, working closely with locals to revamp their traditions and cultural heritage and turn them into assets for local socio-economic development. The project will be developed in four Mediterranean countries: Italy, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine, and its total

budget amounts to €2.5 million (EU contribution: €2.2 million).

www.enicbcmcd.eu/projects/crossdev

Water

21-Cairo: The Union for the Mediterranean and the EU Delegation in Egypt, in partnership with the League of Arab States, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), organize the EU-UfM Water Governance & Business Forum during the 2nd Cairo Water Week. The Forum highlights the link between water security and economic growth, making the quest for water security a collective goal that needs to involve as many and as diverse a range of actors as possible. The forum declares its goal to assist with the development of a roadmap for regional action, guiding financing and investment in the water sector.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/eu-ufm-water-governance-business-forum/>

Social & Economic

22/23-Barcelona: The Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions takes place in Barcelona. Its goal is to promote a greater understanding of the main issues affecting organized civil society in the Euromed region and discuss the common challenges they face. This year, the exchange will focus on digitalization and SMEs in the Mediterranean region. The meeting concludes with the adoption of recommendations, which will be sent to the political authorities of the countries involved in the Euromed Ministerial Summits as civil society’s contribution to their work, and disseminated widely amongst civil society organizations in the region.

www.eesc.europa.eu/en

Water

24-East Jerusalem: A workshop on “Water security and water diplomacy in the Middle East” examines how water can become a source of cooperation in the region, instead of a source of conflict. During the workshop, case studies of cooperation and cross border agreements are presented. Furthermore, the risks and challenges of the water-energy nexus are analysed. Finally, the de-

securitization of water is studied as a crucial step toward building solid water diplomacy. The workshop is organized by the IPCRI and Arava Institute in the framework of the EuroMeSCo ENI Project, co-funded by the European Commission and the IEMed.

www.euromesco.net/event/water-security-and-water-diplomacy-in-the-middle-east/

Solar Energy

24-Benban: After three years of work, the construction of one of the largest solar parks in the world is now complete and all its plots are now operational. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is the largest financier of the construction. Benban park extends over 37 square km and will generate 1.5 GW, enough to provide renewable energy to more than 1,000,000 homes. www.ebrd.com/news/video/benban-africas-largest-solar-park-completed.html

Anna Lindh

24/25-Thessaloniki: The Anna Lindh Foundation Secretariat organizes its annual statutory meeting of its Coordinators of National Civil Society Networks. The meeting aims to present concrete courses of action and recommendations for implementing the Action plan in 2020. The meeting also serves as a platform for the election of six Network Heads to attend the upcoming ALF Board of Governors. www.annalindhfoundation.org/

EU-Arab World

29/30-Athens: The 4th EU-Arab World Summit is held under the title "A Strategic Partnership." The Summit is an international forum of economic and political dialogue between the EU and the Arab World, which aims to promote the two regions' common interests and values, singling out key priority areas for cooperation in light of regional and global challenges. The Summit focuses this year on economic cooperation and investments, especially in the fields of energy, trade, science, technology and healthcare. www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/4th-eu-arab-world-summit-reinforcing-strategic-regional-partnership

Maritime Safety

29/30 Lisbon: Under the framework of the EU-funded SAFEMED IV project, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) delivers a training session on the implementation and enforcement of the International Maritime Organization's Ballast Water Management Convention. Participants come from Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. The objective of this event is to promote the effective management of ballast water on board ships as well as to ensure a coherent approach for implementation and enforcement for Mediterranean riparian countries.

www.emsa.europa.eu/safemed-iv-project

EU-Tunisia

30-Brussels: The European Commission, on behalf of the EU, approves the disbursement of a €150-million loan to Tunisia. This is the third and final disbursement under the second Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) programme to Tunisia. The disbursement of MFA funds is conditional on the implementation of specific policy measures agreed upon in a Memorandum of Understanding. The reforms undertaken as part of this MFA reflect the efforts made by the Tunisian authorities to implement a set of far-reaching reforms designed to fight corruption, build a more equitable tax system, increase the quality of public administration and improve the country's social protection system.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6164

Energy

30-Algiers: The EU-funded meetMED project organizes a regional workshop on assessing the existing quality infrastructures for Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energy Sources (RES) equipment and services in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMCs).

The workshop is attended by representatives of conformity assessment bodies, metrology institutes, standardization organizations and accreditation councils from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan. The EU-funded meet-

MED project – Mitigation Enabling Energy Transition in the Mediterranean Region – fosters energy transition in the Mediterranean.

<https://meetmed.org/>

November

Risk management

5/6-Rome: The EU-funded Euro-Mediterranean cooperation programme on disaster risk management, PPRD South 3 organizes a workshop for managers and officers from national services of civil protection and disaster risk management agencies of southern Mediterranean partner countries. The workshop presents the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and its tools in order to identify the aspects requiring further collaboration efforts.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/pprd-south-initiative-strengthened-euro-mediterranean-collaboration-terms

Transport

7-8-Brussels:

UfM Working Groups (WGs) on Land, Air and Maritime Transport & Logistics discuss the consolidated Evaluation Report of the Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean Region (RTAP 2014-2020) and EUMedRail countries made comments on Action 12 on safety and interoperability. Prior to the UfM Working Groups, the Steering Committee of the EUMedRail project was held.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/euromed-transport-rail-project-annual-steering-committee-held-brussels

Migration

10/11-Amman: The Migration EU eX-pertise Initiative (MIEUX), funded by the European Union and implemented by ICMPD, presents the "Guiding Principles for Shelters Working with Victims of Human Trafficking." These guiding principles will act as standard operating procedures for two shelters in Amman providing Victims of Trafficking (VoT) with accommodation and first-line services.

www.mieux-initiative.eu/en

Investments

11/12-Algiers: A workshop on the theme “Investment climate in Algeria and investor-state dispute settlement” is held within the framework of the regional EU-OECD Programme on Promoting Investment in the Mediterranean. The workshop focuses on reform priorities to attract investors and develop the private sector and on the international legal framework applicable to investment and the settlement of investor-state disputes.

www.oecd.org/investment/Promoting-Investment-Flyer-EN.pdf

Migration

11/12-Athens: In the framework of the EUROMED Migration IV (EMM4) programme, the second Euro-Mediterranean Communicator’s Workshop is held, along with a high-level event on public communication and migration. The event aims to respond to growing concerns amidst rising and widespread public misperception of migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Participants share their views, opinions and policy recommendations in relation to the issue of tackling a distorted narrative on migration.

www.icmpd.org/news-centre/news-detail/project-news-high-level-event-on-public-communication-on-migration-for-a-new-balanced-narrative-in/

Border Management

18-Amman: Launching of the Integrated Border Management Project. The aim of the project is to contribute to a significant reduction of illicit financial and arms flows, strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime while strengthening the relevant national institutions’ capacities at all levels to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/jordan/70567/jordan-launch-integrated-border-management-project_en

Media & Climate change

19-Amman: The BEI and the Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators (COPEAM) launch an International workshop for radio and TV journalists on “Climate Challenges

and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region.” The aim of the workshop is to achieve greater media visibility regarding the challenges related to climate change, particularly in the Mediterranean area.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/jordan-european-investment-bank-promotes-media-visibility-climate-change

Maritime security

19/20-Lisbon: Training on port facility security under the Maritime Security component of the EU-funded SAFEMED IV project takes place at the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) premises. The training gathers 14 participants from Israel, Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

<http://emsa.europa.eu/safemed-iv-project/364-safemed-iv-component-6/3752-safemed-iv-training-on-port-facility-security.html>

Women

19/21 Barcelona: The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Women Business Forum 2019 takes place within the margins of the Smart City Expo World Congress. The Forum convenes women entrepreneurs, national women business organizations, leading international organizations and business support schemes from the Euro-Mediterranean region to share knowledge and ideas on various business opportunities, good practices and innovative and successful business models. This year’s forum focuses on promoting the role of women in the circular economy and in tech and innovation.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-women-business-forum-2019/>

Youth

20-La Valletta: Kick off of the The Young Mediterranean Voices (YMV) Leadership Seminar. The Seminar brings together 22 emerging leaders from across the Mediterranean region. Delegates have the opportunity to meet global leaders, EU policy-makers, media drivers and civil society leaders, from political, media and civil society spheres. The event focuses on building trust and developing relationships across the group; understanding the qualities and

the skills that make up leadership; and thinking in innovative ways.

<https://youngmedvoices.org/>

Water

21-Sassari: Launching of the MENA-WARA project (Non Conventional Water Re-use in Agriculture in Mediterranean countries) in the framework of the ENI CBC MED programme. The project is designed to enhance access to water through the treatment of wastewater to be re-used as complementary irrigation and to strengthen the capacity of government institutions, non-state actors operating in the sector, technicians and farmers in Italy, Spain, Palestine, Jordan and Tunisia.

www.enicbcmec.eu/projects/menawara

Circular Economy

22-Athens: Launching of INNOMED-UP project, “Promoting Upcycling in Circular Economy through INNOVation and education for creative industries in Mediterranean cities.” The project proposes working with Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs) to shift local urban economies towards a circular production and consumption paradigm, including optimal use of material resources, innovation enhancement for SMEs, knowledge transfer among cities, social inclusion and citizen engagement. The project is in the framework of the ENI CBC MED programme.

www.enicbcmec.eu/projects/innomed-up?fbclid=IwAR2Y_pMW_HUuGfllmVZlY7noBezJYimvrpKfZUQ4Kl8lXFRXa4FL3HB_X2g

Research and Innovation

25-Barcelona: The 24th meeting of the EU-Med Group of Senior Officials (EU-Med GSO) in Research and Innovation takes place at the headquarters of the UfM. The meeting takes stock of the progress achieved since the adoption of the Valletta Ministerial Declaration (May 2017), notably in the BLUEMED initiative, the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) and research-related migration. Delegates emphasize the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe, as giving a new impetus for establishing closer collaboration in Research and

Innovation between UfM countries. They also agree that synergies with other regional initiatives, such as the Next Society and Start-Up Europe Mediterranean programmes, should be examined more closely together with the results from scientific studies on innovation ecosystems in the region.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/advancing-regional-cooperation-research-24th-meeting/>

Education & Employment

25-Turin: The Secretariat of the UfM and the European Training Foundation co-organize the UfM Workshop on the Future of Work and Skills for the Future with a focus on three key themes, Entrepreneurial Skills, Digital Skills and Green Skills. The workshop brings together over 50 stakeholders and active actors from regional and international organizations, business support organizations, the private sector, civil society, development cooperation and academia from both shores of the Euro-Mediterranean region. They exchange views and experiences, share best practices and lessons learned, and present policy recommendations and ideas for developing pertinent policies and projects to unleash the full potential of these sectors and to develop specific skill sets.

www.etf.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2019-12/final_outcome_document_-_turin.pdf

Water

26/28-Latina: Kick-off meeting of the NAWAMED (Nature Based Solutions for Domestic Water Reuse in Mediterranean Countries) project. NAWAMED is implemented in the framework of the ENI CBC MED Programme. The target countries of the project, which aims to change urban water management and foster the use of Non-Conventional Water (NCW) resources thanks to innovative, sustainable and low-cost nature-based solutions (NBS), are Italy, Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon.

<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/nawamed>

Energy

27-Amman: Kick-off meeting of the ESMES Project (Energy Smart Medi-

terranean Schools Network). ESMES will focus on the optimization of energy consumption in public schools through innovative, monitoring-based renewable energy and energy efficiency (REEE) pilot actions and will improve the capacity of public institutions in order to implement innovative energy rehabilitations. The project will be implemented in five Mediterranean countries: Italy, Jordan, Spain, Tunisia and Lebanon.

www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/esmes

December

Higher Education

1-Cairo: The UfM organizes, in partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Egypt, a regional meeting on higher education cooperation. Building on inputs received through prior consultation, the purpose of the meeting is to initiate reflection on a renewed strategic agenda for higher education regional cooperation in the Mediterranean. The discussion stresses the need to consolidate comprehensive data on higher education across the UfM region – including on the internationalization dimension of higher education- and to undertake a mapping exercise of resources and opportunities available at national and regional level. This information should be made easily accessible to policy makers and international relations offices.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/union-mediterranean-meeting-reflects-renewed-strategic-agenda-higher

Civil Society

2/3-Brussels: Second edition of the MAJALAT Brussels Civil Society Forum. The Majalat Forum aims to contribute to the creation of a forum for exchange between civil society organizations and EU representatives on issues that are essential for South-South civil society and for the EU. Ensuring a safe space for participants to express themselves freely and to openly discuss current challenges and opportunities in the southern Mediterranean is at the heart of this initiative. The priority themes covered by this initiative are: good govern-

ance and the rule of law, security and countering violence, migration, social and climate justice, economic development and social dialogue and, as a cross-cutting theme, youth.

www.majalat.org

Climate change

2/13-Madrid: During the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Clima-Med project (together with the UfM) holds a side event titled “Climate action true-to-life steps: initiating policies, climate finance access & implementation.” The event showcases the contributions to mainstream climate actions and the implementation of NDCs, undertaken through concrete mitigation and adaptation strategies to fill the climate policy gaps in the eight southern Mediterranean countries covered by the project. During the event, the UfM presents the results of the UfM International Climate Finance studies (2019) and the methodology for developing a Mediterranean Climate Finance Strategy.

www.climamed.eu/

EuroMeSCo

3/4 Warsaw/Rome: The EuroMeSCo ENI Project organizes the last workshops of the project, which is reaching the end of its duration (2015-2019). One of the workshops is held in Warsaw under the title “The Role of China in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Beyond Economic Interests,” and the other is held in Rome under the title “Infrastructures and Power in the Middle East and North Africa.”

www.euromesco.net/events/

Tourism

4-Barcelona: The UfM organizes a workshop titled “Tourism: Generating jobs for Youth in the MENA Region.” The workshop focuses on the employment pillar and, by gathering tourism stakeholders, young entrepreneurs, members of academia and the private sector from a broad Mediterranean participation, serves as a think tank to share knowledge, best practices, exchange views on regional policies, and formulate areas of cooperation that will

provide the region with specific recommendations in this area.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/workshop-on-tourism-generating-jobs-for-youth-in-the-mena-region/>

Cooperation

4/5-Amman: Sixth meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC), the decision-making body of the EU-funded ENI CBC Med Programme. The members of the JMC approve the list of pre-selected proposals under the call for strategic projects and review the state of play of the ongoing 41 projects. These projects gather over 280 organizations. Finally, the main activities planned for next year, as well as the post-2020 perspectives for cross-border cooperation in the Mediterranean area are also discussed.

www.enicbcmed.eu/

Refugees

5-Brussels: The European Union adopts a new €297-million assistance package to support refugees and host communities in Jordan and Lebanon via the EU Regional Trust Fund, in Response to the Syrian Crisis. The EU has also decided to extend the mandate of the Trust Fund, which will allow the Trust Fund's projects to run until the end of 2023.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6659

Cybercrime

3/4-Lisbon:

The Council of Europe, within the framework of the EU-funded CyberSouth project, organizes the first meeting of the Cyber South Judicial Network. This event gathers the CyberSouth priority countries (Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) with the aim of establishing the network that will constitute a permanent forum, allowing exchanges of information and knowledge on cybercrime and electronic evidence.

www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/home

Gender

10/11-Tunis: the Regional Forum on Combating Discrimination in Legislation gathers 154 participants from 12 countries from the southern Mediterranean. Participants discuss regional priorities

for abolishing and amending the legal discrimination of women in Personal Status Laws and Penal Codes, in alignment with international norms and legal frameworks. They agree on the need to develop and adopt comprehensive laws combating VAWG in each country and discuss common advocacy actions. The Regional Forum is held under the Regional Campaign on Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), which was launched by the EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI).

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/regional-forum-combating-discrimination-legislation-discussions-common

EU-Africa

11-Brussels: The European Union – via the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, North Africa Window – adopts four new migration-related actions totalling €147.7 million that will support Morocco in tackling human smuggling and irregular migration; improve the living conditions in Libyan communities and protect refugees and vulnerable migrants stranded in Libya through voluntary returns; and offer opportunities for labour migration and mobility in North Africa.

https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/region/north-africa_en

Coastal management

11-Grosseto: Presentation of COMMON (COastal Management and Monitoring Network for tackling marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea), a Euro-Mediterranean project funded under the ENI CBC Med programme. The Tuscan Maremma is one of the five pilot areas that – together with Salento, Kuriat Islands and Monastir in Tunisia and the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve in Lebanon – will represent a real laboratory for identifying strategies to reduce the problem of waste in the marine and coastal environment. The project has three years to work on a management line and to propose it to the other countries as a replicable model across the Mediterranean.

www.enicbcmed.eu/common-presented-today-grosseto-italy-tackle-marine-litter-integrated-and-participatory-approach

Digitalization

11-Brussels: The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopts the information report “Digitalization and SMEs in the Mediterranean region.” One of the main conclusions of the report is the need to establish a “broad policy agenda aimed at strengthening the decisive role of SMEs in the socioeconomic development of Euro-Mediterranean countries and, most importantly, in the fight against unemployment.”

One of the proposals put forward in the report is to prioritize investments in digital infrastructure, but also in the educational reforms needed to mainstream digital skills among teachers and students when revising the European Neighbourhood Policy and bilateral Association Agreements in the future.

www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/information-reports/digitalisation-and-smes-mediterranean-region-information-report

EU-Jordan

17-Brussels: The European Council adopts a decision to provide up to 500 million euros of macro-financial assistance to Jordan. The EU assistance will support the restoration of a sustainable external financing situation in Jordan, thereby supporting its economic stability, reform agenda and social development. The assistance will be available for two and a half years. It will be provided in the form of loans. Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis in 2011, the EU has made available more than 2.1 billion euros to Jordan under different instruments.

www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/19/jordan-eu-approves-further-assistance-of-500-million-in-loans/

EU-Morocco

20-Brussels: The European Commission is today adopting new cooperation programmes worth €389 million in support of the Kingdom of Morocco, in order to support reforms, inclusive development and border management and work towards developing a “Euro-Moroccan partnership for shared prosperity.” As part of this strengthened cooperation, the new programmes include:

€289 million financed from the bilateral cooperation envelope to support Morocco's reforms and inclusive development and the signing of a financing agreement with Morocco for a budget support programme of €101.7 million to aid border management.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6810

Police

26-Hebron: The European Union Police and Rule of Law Mission (EUPOL COPPS) advisers hold a one-day training session for 80 Palestinian lawyers to raise awareness about money laun-

dering. The workshop, held in cooperation with the Palestinian Bar Association, is part of the EUPOL COPPS support work to enhance the capabilities of Palestinian lawyers in specialized topics within the area of criminal justice. Mission advisers provide the attendees with the legal and operational know-how for identifying and understanding money laundering and its severe impact on society.

<http://eupolcoppes.eu/en>

MSME

30-Tunis: The SANAD Fund for MSME (SANAD) announces a renewed part-

nership with Compagnie Internationale de Leasing (CIL) to expand financing options for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Tunisia. Through a senior loan of €6 million, the international impact investment fund is contributing to CIL's ability to support the development of this important but underserved segment of the Tunisian economy.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-sanad-and-compagnie-internationale-de-leasing-boost-financing