

## Chronologies

# Chronology of the Barcelona Process

## January

### *Irish Presidency*

1 – *Dublin*: The Irish Presidency launches its policy programme “for stability, jobs and growth.” The programmes’ main priorities can be summarised as follows: security stability, investing in sustainable jobs and growth and Europe and the world. The Presidency will provide active support for the High Representative of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HRFASP) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) in the task of strengthening the EU’s external policy effectiveness and coherence with the Union’s Eastern and Southern neighbours, placing particular focus on development, humanitarian policy and climate change, fostering commercial relations and encouraging the development of democratic and peaceful societies in the Union’s neighbourhood.

[http://eu2013.ie/media/eupresidency/content/documents/EU-Pres\\_Prog\\_A4.pdf](http://eu2013.ie/media/eupresidency/content/documents/EU-Pres_Prog_A4.pdf)

### *ARLEM*

16 – *Brussels*: Political representatives of cities and regions of the EU and its Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) gather to discuss sustainable development, energy transition and sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean. In the framework of the development of the Mediterranean Solar Plan a need for a stronger involvement of the local and regional authorities is requested in order to secure commitment from local population. The issue of sustainable tourism is also tackled with a series of recommendations for local authorities to foster innovation, reduce waste and pollution and manage human resources in the sector.

### *EU - Tunisia*

17 – *Tunis*: European Council President Van Rompuy meets with Prime Minister Jebali during his first visit to Tunisia and affirms the EU’s will to strengthen relations with the country following the political agreement on Privileged partnership and the implementation of the new Action Plan. Van Rompuy encourages the democratisation process, particularly in the areas of judicial independence, strengthening the role of civil society and the role of women and the independence of the media.

[www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/fr/ec/134687.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/fr/ec/134687.pdf)

### *Maghreb Integration*

18 – *Brussels*: The European Commissioner for ENP Füle and the SG of the Arab Maghreb Union Ben Yahia, meet to discuss ways of implementing part of the EU’s set of policy proposals of the Joint Communication on supporting closer cooperation and regional integration in the Maghreb. The talks focus on concrete initiatives like energy, private sector development, transport, rural development, agriculture and civil society.

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/fule/headlines/news/2012/12/20121219\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/fule/headlines/news/2012/12/20121219_en.htm)

### *Euromed Heritage*

21-23 – *Fez*: The Euromed Heritage programme holds its closing conference on the theme “Towards a new strategy for cultural heritage in the Mediterranean.” The conference focuses on the achievements of Euromed Heritage and how best to build on them for the future of Mediterranean cultural heritage. The recommen-

dations propose orientations for future strategic changes: part of this vision is an enhanced and better defined role of civil society groups and the private sector, their relationship with the authorities, and the framework within which collaboration among them could occur. With a budget of €17 million, the current phase of the programme, Euromed Heritage 4, has financed 12 projects over the period 2008-2013. The specific objective of this phase is to support Mediterranean populations in the ownership of their cultural heritage at both national and regional levels, by facilitating their access to education and knowledge of their cultural heritage.

[www.euromedheritage.net/intern.cfm?enuID=9&submenuID=7&idnews=775](http://www.euromedheritage.net/intern.cfm?enuID=9&submenuID=7&idnews=775)

### *UfM Projects*

29 – *Barcelona*: The Senior Officials of the 43 UfM member states approve three new projects to be coordinated by the UfM. They will contribute to the improvement of the Mediterranean transport networks (by integrating the Jordan railway system with the regional network by establishing effective railway connection with neighbouring countries), the support of business development (through the creation of a the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Development Centre for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to support MSMEs’ access to market, finance, and human capital development), as well as the enhancement of training and employability skills of all professionals participating in Higher education programmes and advanced training courses on food security and rural development.

## Libya

31- *Brussels*: The Council of the European Union approves a new Common Security and Defence Policy mission to support capacity building for border management in Libya. The EU will first support Libyan authorities in developing capacity for enhancing border security, and secondly will assist in developing a sustainable Integrated Border Management concept and strategy.

## February

### Democracy

5 – *Paris*: Representatives from partner countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Israel and Palestinian National Authority), the EU and the Council of Europe (CoE) gather together to assess the results of the first year of implementation of the Programme “Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood” and to discuss proposed activities for the next two years. In the meeting participants shared their views on the achievements in the fields of justice reform, good governance and to strengthen respect of human rights, in particular through the prevention and control of human traffic.

### UfM

7- 8 – *Barcelona*: Identifying areas for synergy and cooperation between EU bilateral and regional programmes and UfM projects are the core issues of a two-day working seminar of the European Commission and the UfM Secretariat, with the participation of the Heads of Cooperation from EU Delegations in Southern Mediterranean countries. Participants agree that EU and UfM should work in partnership to face the regional challenges in the current context of political-social transition and economic crisis.

### Vocational Training

8 – *Brussels*: The European Training Foundation (ETF) concludes an agreement with EC launches the “Governance for Employability in the Mediterranean” (GEEM) whose aim is to contribute to a better youth and women employability. This three-year programme improves multi-level gover-

nance of vocational education and training in the Southern Mediterranean countries, giving a particular importance to cooperation between the countries, both north-south and south-south.

### ARLEM

18 – *Brussels*: Local and regional representatives from the EU and MPCs assess the state of decentralisation, territorial organisation and regional development in the 4th plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM). Technical education, vocational training and the promotion of sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean are others important topics for debate. ARLEM co-presidents present a report on the UfM territorial dimension giving the chance to discuss new outlook for decentralisation and regional developments.

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/arlem/activities/meetings/Pages/4th-ARLEM-plenary-session.aspx>

### Civil Protection

18-22 – *Istanbul*: A workshop organised by civil protection programme PPRD South gather 27 experts from the Civil Protection Authorities of 11 Mediterranean and Balkan countries in order to analyse in detail recent disasters which affected the environment in the Euro-Mediterranean region and devise possible preparedness measures to respond to future crises. Participants review the available tools for identifying the possible negative consequences on the environment of a natural or a technological disaster, for assessing the level of risk and putting in place mitigation measures.

<http://euromedcp.eu/index.php>

### Solar plan

19-21 – *Barcelona*: The Joint Committee of National Experts for the Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP) gathering more than a hundred experts from twenty Euro-Mediterranean countries, meet to discuss the Draft of the Master Plan, prepared by the UfM Secretariat after 18 months of intensive work and discussion with all the stakeholders (Member States, European Commission, League of Arab States, Financial institutions, Industry, regional and sub-

regional platforms, etc.). The Master Plan addresses the following key issues: developing enabling policy and regulatory frameworks; strengthening financial support tools; upgrading transmission infrastructure systems; supporting industrial development and job creation; enhancing capacity development and know-how transfer.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org>

### Urban Development

22 – *Barcelona*: Experts from UfM partner countries, representatives from the EC, the Arab League, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), as well as numerous institutions working on urban matters, gather on the occasion of the Fourth Senior Officials Experts Meeting of the UfM Euro-Mediterranean Sustainable Urban Development Strategy. During the meeting, the latest version of the “Guidance framework for sustainable Euro-Mediterranean cities and territories” (GF) is discussed and reviewed. The Guidance Framework aims to enable a shared perspective in urban and territorial strategies; specify the core values of a balanced sustainable urban development that respects people and the environment; and offer a basis for discussion for the authorities implementing sustainable development initiatives.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org>

### Migration

27-28 – *Paris*: The Euromed Migration III project organises a high level peer to peer meeting on the topic of Legal Migration gathering representatives from ENPI South Partner Countries and EU Member States in order to better define common ground on labour migration opportunities and challenges. The meeting uses a blend of plenary and focused working groups throughout the two days in order to better facilitate discussion, brainstorming and debates, allowing to voice South and North perspectives, understand better data matters, while reviewing migration and management tools and related labour market issues. The meeting set out to review expectations and common challenges on labour migration at national, intra- and inter-regional level, to identify key indicators to monitor labour migration

and discuss their use vis-à-vis the furthering of evidence-based labour migration policy development and also to explore and discuss the benefits of available labour and labour migration management tools.

#### *Syria*

28 – *Brussels*: The EU extends all EU sanctions against the Syrian regime for a further three months and amends the arms embargo so as to allow for the provision of non-lethal equipment and technical assistance for the protection of civilians. This decision gives legal effect to an agreement reached at the Foreign Affairs Council of 18 February. [www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/135529.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/135529.pdf)

#### **March**

##### *Media*

3-4 – *Barcelona*: Over a hundred representatives of international media bodies, citizen journalists and inter-cultural experts from 30 countries of Europe and the Southern Mediterranean attend the Euro-Mediterranean Media Meeting. Participants and experts debate new challenges and opportunities for cross-cultural reporting in the context of the historical Arab awakening, the impact of the economic crisis on social values in Europe, and ongoing conflicts in the region. The meeting provides an opportunity for the presentation of the first comprehensive Euro-Med mapping exercise, including good practices related to ethical cross-cultural reporting. Among the media organisations present are Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya, *Al Shark Al Awssat*, *El Pais*, the BBC, France 24, and Deutsche Welle, in addition to leading media initiatives such as Creative Commons and the Ethical Journalism Network, Panos Institute, Arab media Institute, etc.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/media-for-the-mediterranean/>

##### *EU - Lebanon*

4-5 – *Beirut*: During his visit to Lebanon, ENP Commissioner Füle underlines the enhanced cooperation with the country and the success in negotiating

the new Action Plan. He also reaffirms the EU's support to the process of reforms in Lebanon while stressing that more progress and implementation of the necessary reforms are expected. On the external challenges, Commissioner Füle said the EU appreciates how Lebanon is handling the influx of refugees from Syria and is aware that Lebanon cannot cope with this heavy burden all alone for this reason he announces the EC will provide an additional €30 million to Lebanon to alleviate the impact of the high influx of refugees from Syria. In this way the total amount of financial assistance offered by the European Commission to Lebanon in relation to the Syrian crisis to almost €75 million in humanitarian and non-humanitarian aid. The European assistance will be allocated in line with the priorities of the Lebanese Government and will focus on strengthening of the country's institutions in particular in the areas of education and child services for the refugees, as well as supporting the Lebanese communities that have hosted refugees from Syria, often in their own homes

##### *Tunisia*

15 – *Tunis*: ENP Commissioner Füle visits Tunisia for the fourth time since the revolution and meets with leaders of political parties, trade unionists, entrepreneurs, and civil society activists. In the meetings with his partners, the Commissioner reconfirms the EU's strong support for the Tunisian transition. Elaborating on the EU support provided so far to Tunisia, Commissioner Füle confirms that within the Privileged Partnership, the EU is also willing to start several negotiations to boost the economy such as the open sky agreement, Deep and Comprehensive and Free Trade Area, Agreement on trade in agricultural products and the Agreement on technical norms and standards.

##### *EU - Palestine*

19 – *Brussels*: The EU High Representative Catherine Ashton meets Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and announces the adoption of the EU-Occupied Palestinian Territory Action Plan, a result of a shared commitment to deepen bilateral relations in the view

to reach a fully-fledge Association Agreement. Lady Ashton also announces the signature of a €7 million financing agreement, which aim is supporting the Palestinian presence and fostering economic and social development in Area C, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip.

##### *PA-UfM*

19 – *Barcelona*: The UfM hosts for the first time the meeting of the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM). Discussions focus on the advanced state of play of the preparations for the Summit of Presidents of the UfM Parliaments to be held later this year. UfM SG Sijil-massi announces the launching of three projects during the first semester of 2013: Young Women for Job Creation; Mediterranean Water Governance; and Training Activities for the Regional Logistics Network (LOGSIMEDTA). [www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/empa/content\\_en.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/empa/content_en.html)

##### *ENP*

20 – *Brussels*: The “ENP annual package,” is presented by High Representative Ashton and ENP Commissioner Füle. This year's Package consists of a Joint Communication of the Commission and the High Representative and twelve Country Progress Reports assessing the implementation of the ENP in 2012 in the twelve neighbouring countries with which an ENP Action Plan or an Association Agenda has been agreed; two regional reports reviewing the progress made in 2012 in the implementation of the Eastern Partnership and the Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with southern Mediterranean partners; and a report with quantitative indicators of progress toward reform. Despite the current economic crisis in the EU, financial resources in the form of grants and loans allocated to the region have increased. EU cooperation with its Neighbourhood partner countries is stronger and is delivering positive results despite political instability and difficult socio-economic conditions. A press release notes that democratic reforms undertaken in the Southern neighbourhood vary and are not linear, leading to the conclusion that there is

a need for bigger differentiation in the EU response to individual country needs and aspirations.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/index_en.htm)

## April

### *Anna Lindh Forum*

4-7 – *Marseille*: With around 1,500 citizens from 44 countries from across the Mediterranean, the ALF Forum brings together in dialogue youth leaders, civil society at large, non-state actors, parliamentarians and elected officials. Hold under the banner 'Citizens for the Mediterranean,' the Forum closes with a number of key points, including: a sustainable action for Syria, the need for ad-hoc visas for cultural leaders working across the region for re-launching the Mediterranean partnership and the launching of the Euro-Med handbook on teaching intercultural citizenship in schools and the Euro-Med translation programme, focused on reducing the gap of mutual perceptions. On the margins of the Forum the EP President Schulz welcomes Speakers of the Parliaments of the UfM member countries in the first high-level meeting since the summit of the Heads of State and government of the UfM held in Paris in 2008 and the first regional meeting since the Arab Spring. A declaration approved by over 40 parliamentary presidents supports more democratic legitimacy and participation by UfM citizens. In the area of gender equality, the presidents underline the scale of the challenges of democratic transformation in the southern countries and combating the economic crisis in the northern ones. They also reiterate that human dignity, respect for fundamental rights and gender equality must guide regional cooperation, in the interests of bringing peoples together. The presidents emphasise that mobility partnerships envisaged to ease the free movement of people must be put in place quickly, and call for a common area of professional training, higher education, science and research.

[www.annalindhfoundation.org/news/citizens-mediterranean-launch-action-renewed-euro-med-partnership](http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/news/citizens-mediterranean-launch-action-renewed-euro-med-partnership)

### *PA-UfM*

11-12 – *Brussels*: Members of the 9th PA-UfM state that the democratic reforms underway in the south and east of the Mediterranean must be carried out by strong parliaments equipped with adequate human resources and infrastructure and call for better representation of women in elected institutions. To achieve parity in the most important decision-making positions, both at parliamentary and government level, they call for the progressive implementation of quotas or other forms of positive action. The Parliamentary Assembly also push for the accelerated implementation of concrete projects of the UfM, namely in the field of renewable energies and environment protection. After holding the presidency of the PA-UfM for a year, the EP has handed it over to Jordan. The new President of the PA calls for contacts with civil societies and for a focus on youth unemployment.

### *FEMIP*

18 – *Athens*: The 12th FEMIP Conference gathers Ministers of Maritime Affairs of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Morocco and Palestine, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Vice-President of EIB among others. The conference seeks to support the commitment of all to support a blue and sustainable economy in the Mediterranean region and to maximise marine and maritime cooperation across all bordering countries.

[www.amiando.com/12thFEMIP\\_Conference.html](http://www.amiando.com/12thFEMIP_Conference.html)

## May

### *Media*

3- *Dublin*: A conference on 'Media and Intercultural Relations in the Mediterranean region' organised by ALF on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, concludes that the Foundation would reinforce its activity with Media and Journalists 'to promote the potential of media in exposing the common values of citizens and combating wrong perceptions.' The conference presents a mapping on cross-cultural reporting and suggestions for a sustainable action in

the field of Media. The conference also sees the international launch of the 2013 edition of ALF Journalist Award for Reporting across Cultures.

[www.pressfreedomday.org/overview](http://www.pressfreedomday.org/overview)

### *Women entrepreneurs*

6 – *Barcelona*: The UfM launches the new project 'Young Women as Job Creators' that will be implemented between May and November 2013 in Morocco, Palestine, Jordan and Spain, in collaboration with partner businesswomen associations and local universities from the four participating countries. The project's major aim is to inform, motivate and train up to 10,000 young female university students to become future successful businesswomen and employers. By facilitating their transition from education to work, the project promotes self-employment and entrepreneurship among young women university students who have an interest in starting their own business..

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/young-women-as-job-creators-2/>

### *Security*

22 – *Brussels*: The EU today establishes a civilian EU integrated border management assistance mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya) to support capacity building for enhancing the security of Libya's land, sea and air borders. This is the result of thorough discussions between the EU and the Libyan authorities regarding the country's needs and priorities on how to improve the management and security of Libyan land and coastline.

### *Mediterranean Diet*

23 – *Rome*: The project MedDiet, funded under the EU-funded CBCMed, is holding its launching conference on the theme "Mediterranean Diet, a driver of economic development, prosperity and solidarity among the countries of the Mediterranean Basin" The Conference gathers representatives of the project partners as well as of other institutions. Increasing the awareness of consumers, in particular young people, about the importance of preserving healthy food traditions and implementing sustainable initiatives for the safeguard of the Mediterranean Diet are the key objectives of

this 30 month long initiative. In addition to taste laboratories, visits to farms/factories, cooking courses and schools vegetables gardens, a "MedDiet Quality Label" awarded to restaurants will contribute to enhance the benefits of a healthy prudent pattern.

[www.enpicbcmec.eu/sites/default/files/meddiet\\_draft\\_agenda\\_23.04.2013.pdf](http://www.enpicbcmec.eu/sites/default/files/meddiet_draft_agenda_23.04.2013.pdf)

#### *ARLEM - UfM*

*27 – Barcelona:* The 11th Bureau meeting of the ARLEM takes place at UfM's headquarters, marking a step forward in the relations between the two bodies. UfM SG Sijilmassi points out that cooperation with ARLEM is very important and it is crucial to enter into actual partnerships with local and regional authorities in the Mediterranean countries. Bureau members also discuss an ARLEM position paper on the role of women in Euromed cooperation. ARLEM and the UfM Secretariat also agree to set up a steering committee to follow up on the implementation of the joint priorities identified in the Declaration of Intent.

#### *Research and Innovation*

*28 – Brussels:* EC and CERN (European Council for Nuclear Research) agree to support the construction of SESAME, a so-called synchrotron light source, functioning in effect like a giant microscope. It will allow researchers from the region to investigate the properties of advanced materials, biological processes and cultural artefacts. SESAME is a unique joint venture based in Jordan that brings together scientists from its members Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan, Palestine and Turkey. Beside its scientific objectives, the project aims to promote peace in the region through scientific cooperation.

#### *Water*

*28-29 – Barcelona:* In the course of the UfM regional conference, the project "Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector" is launched. The meeting brings together around 100 targeted participants from both shores of the Mediterranean and the international community. Six countries are participating in the first phase of this project and they are Morocco, Lebanon,

Tunisia, Jordan, Albania and Palestine. The core objective of the project is to diagnose key governance obstacles to mobilising financing through public private partnerships (PPP) for the Mediterranean water sector and to support the development of consensual action plans based on international good practices. The project will deliver a set of country analyses, national recommendations and a regional action plan.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org>

## June

#### *Refugees*

*3 – Amman:* The EC provides additional assistance of €50 million to Jordan to alleviate the impact of the high influx of refugees from Syria. The additional assistance will focus on strengthening Jordanian institutions, in particular in the areas of education services for Syrian refugees. €25 million will help Jordanian authorities in educating Syrian refugee children in Jordan and €5 million will be allocated to UNICEF to continue the education of Syrian refugee children in the Jordanian refugee camps.

#### *Energy*

*5 – Alexandria:* The Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG), holds its 15th General Assembly meeting and for the first time, a representative from Libya attends the meeting and officially expresses the will of his country to formally become a MEDREG member. Other major regional organisations take part in a roundtable on the best practices to engage local energy actors, and on how to relate energy regulation to national economic and social development. The Assembly approves the new MEDREG Action Plan for the period 2013-2015, which includes the development of the Association as a resource center for energy stakeholders, in view of the goal to establish a Mediterranean Energy Community by 2020.

#### *Aviation*

*10 – Brussels:* EU and Israel sign a comprehensive air transport agreement which will gradually open up and integrate their respective markets, develop

an aviation area with common rules, offer economic benefits for consumers and new opportunities for the industry. With this agreement, all EU airlines will be able to operate direct flights to Israel from anywhere in the EU, and Israeli carriers will be able to operate flights to airports throughout the EU. This agreement is a further step in creating a wider Common Aviation Area between the EU and its neighbours by 2015. Similar aviation agreements with neighbouring countries have already been signed with the Western Balkan countries, Morocco, Jordan, Georgia and Moldova, and negotiations are ongoing with Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Lebanon, and are planned to soon start with Tunisia.

#### *Mobility Partnership*

*7 – Luxembourg:* The EU and Morocco sign a mobility partnership, the first of this kind, establishing a set of political objectives and provides for a series of initiatives designed to ensure that the movement of persons is managed as effectively as possible. The objective is to improve the information available to qualified Moroccan citizens on employment, education and training opportunities available in the EU and to support the integration of Moroccan citizens who regularly visit an EU Member State. As regards irregular migration, the EU and Morocco will work closely together in order to combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings and to provide assistance for victims of these crimes.

#### *Renewable Energy*

*10- Rome:* launching of the Mediterranean Development of Support schemes for solar Initiatives and Renewable Energies (MED-DESIRE), a 36-month strategic project which aims to implement a set of actions that seek to remove legal, regulatory, economic and organisational barriers to distributed solar energy generation. The nine involved organisations discuss all planned activities in order to spread energy efficiency across the Mediterranean area in particular through the definition of innovative financial schemes and market stimulation tools.

## ARLEM

15 – *Bethlehem*: Political representatives of cities and regions in the EU and its Mediterranean Partner Countries discuss the local and regional dimension of water policy in the Mediterranean during the 5th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly's commission for sustainable development. The commission also discusses sustainable urban mobility in the Mediterranean

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/arlem/activities/meetings/Pages/5th-sudev-meeting.aspx>

## Logistics

17 – *Barcelona*: UfM Secretariat launches the LOGISMED Training Activities (LOGISMED-TA) project, which aims at reinforcing the Mediterranean logistics sector. This key project will serve as a vector for development in the Southern Mediterranean countries in view of facilitating transport and strengthening trade flows in the region. The project will be initially launched in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia and will be implemented in ten Mediterranean countries during the period 2013-2018, leading to the creation of five new logistics platforms.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-labelled-project-logismedta-to-contribute-to-the-creation-of-jobs-in-the-region-2/>

## Syria

24 – *Brussels*: The EC and the High representative adopt a joint communication, mapping out a comprehensive EU approach in response to the conflict and its consequences both in Syria and its neighbouring countries. The EU response aims to support a political process that brings a sustainable solution to the crisis; prevent regional destabilisation from the spillover of the conflict in neighbouring countries; address the dramatic humanitarian situation and assist affected populations. The EU has so far mobilised more than €850 million from humanitarian and non-humanitarian budget instruments. The severity of the crisis and human suffering cannot be solved with extra money alone. This is why it is crucial to rapidly find a

lasting political solution, which guarantees an end to the violence and leads to an inclusive transitional government. The EU aims at reaching a political solution.

<http://eeas.europa.eu>

## Democratic Transition

27-28 – *Barcelona*: Around 30 experts from think tanks and research centres, as well as government representatives responsible for the economy and social policies from Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, and representatives of employers' associations and trade unions gather to debate urgent reforms of social and inclusive economic growth policies in southern and eastern Mediterranean countries during a Forum organised by IEMed. Three factors are identified for carrying out successful democratic transitions: maintaining social dialogue with all the actors, reforming labour markets to make them more competitive while improving employability with an education and training reform and, finally, fighting against corruption and increasing transparency.

[www.iemed.org/actualitat-en/noticies/quines-reformes-en-politiques-socials-a-la-mediterrania?set\\_language=en](http://www.iemed.org/actualitat-en/noticies/quines-reformes-en-politiques-socials-a-la-mediterrania?set_language=en)

## Civil Society

27-29 – *Tunis*: Some 90 participants participate in the final conference of the EU-funded Euromed Civil Society Programme. Representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from besides European and Tunisian institutions discuss the subject of "Civil and social dialogue in the contexts of transition." The main topics tackled in the sessions are: civil and social dialogue and the economic, social, political and cultural changes in the new regional context; fundamental freedoms, citizenship and women's rights; social and economic rights and changes in the Southern Mediterranean Countries; freedom of expression, right to information, knowledge and culture, and the role of the media; participation of civil society in the Euromed process and support policies of the EU; the institutions and mechanisms of civil society and social dialogue.

[www.euromedcivilsociety.net](http://www.euromedcivilsociety.net)

## July

### EU Lithuania Presidency

1 – *Vilnius*: Three key priorities are outlined in the six-month programme of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU: credible Europe, Europe in the world and Open Europe. The primary focus will be on further strengthening the financial stability and competitiveness of Europe, as well as the implementation of the Growth Agenda. Further EU integration and strengthening of the Single Market will bring new opportunities to combat unemployment and will make the European economic and social model more solid. The openness of the EU to new members, neighbours and trade partners will not only advance the EU economy, but will also reaffirm the aims of the EU, i.e. to develop a prosperous, peaceful, democratic, free and open Europe.

[www.eu2013.lt/en/presidency-and-eu-programme-and-priorities](http://www.eu2013.lt/en/presidency-and-eu-programme-and-priorities)

### Morocco

1 – *Brussels*: Discussions on the second round of negotiations for an EU-Morocco Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) advance well on all issues, and it is agreed to integrate the bilateral negotiations on trade in services which have been on-going since 2008 into the broader DCFTA negotiations. The DCFTA will thus include trade in services and investment, government procurement, competition, intellectual property rights and the gradual integration of the Moroccan economy into the EU single market.

### Education and Training

1-2 – *Turin*: Experts from SEMCs meet with European Training Foundation (ETF) staff and international consultants at the first operational meeting of the new EU-funded project Governance for Employability in the Mediterranean (GEMM), which tackles youth and women's employability in the Mediterranean region. It represents the occasion to officially launch the mapping process to analyse multilevel governance in vocational education and training (VET). The new project aims to build capacities of policy makers and social partners to efficiently provide relevant and high quality VET;

to help the shift to a demand-driven provision of VET, as well as to increase public accountability of the system. [www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Employability\\_Experts\\_Meet ETF\\_to\\_Work\\_in\\_South\\_East\\_Mediterranean\\_EN](http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Employability_Experts_Meet ETF_to_Work_in_South_East_Mediterranean_EN)

#### SPRING

30 – *Brussels*: The EU adopts a €10 million programme of support to governance in Algeria under the Support for Partnership, Reforms and Inclusive Growth (SPRING) programme. This new programme aims at strengthening the governance institutions in the economic and political fields, including the reinforcement of the rule of law, access to justice, strengthening the fight against corruption, encouraging the participation of all citizens in the development process, and improving the follow-up of public finances management.

#### August

##### Migration

2-*Rome*: An EU-funded project holds a study tour bringing together officials from Libya, Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan, to improve cooperation and to discuss voluntary return and reintegration of migrants. The tour is organised by the International Organisation for Migration, in the framework of the Regional Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme for Stranded Migrants in Libya and Egypt.

##### Solar Plan

27-28 – *Madrid*: The closing conference of the EU-funded project on 'Paving the Way for the Mediterranean Solar Plan' (PVMSP) gathers all stakeholders and partners of the project. The three year project results are presented and participants reflect on how these results can be used in the future to achieve the objectives of the Mediterranean Solar Plan.

#### September

##### Water

1-3 – *Bled*: UfM SG Sijilmassi takes part in the Bled Strategic Forum, a platform for high-level strategic dialogue among leaders from private and public

sectors on key issues facing the world. The Forum under the theme 'A changing Europe in a changing World' holds a special session on the Water challenge in the Mediterranean. SG Sijilmassi explained the activities and projects undertaken in this sector by the UfM namely the Desalination facility for the Gaza Strip and the "Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector" project, aimed at increasing efficiency and transparency in the management of the existing water resources.

##### Civil Society

3-4 – *Brussels*: A Euromed Civil Society Forum on the theme 'Gender Equality: Review and Prospects of the Istanbul-Marrakech process' gathers experts and Civil Society members from the Euro-Mediterranean region besides HR Ashton and ENP Commissioner Füle. The EU Commissioner highlights the fact that women in the Southern Mediterranean region continue to be at the forefront of the protest movements since 2011, demanding freedom, equality and justice. He also stresses that women must be able to play their full part in building the futures of their countries besides reaffirming EU commitment to support women's participation in social and political life, but also at empowering them economically.

##### Audiovisual

6 – *Venice*: The Euromed Audiovisual programme takes part in the Euro-Mediterranean Conference at the Venice International Film Festival to discuss how to boost cultural ties in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The film festival's 70th edition kicks off with a great selection of Southern Mediterranean films in its line-up. At the heart of the festival, this 19th edition of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference aims to establish a strong and open cultural network in the Euro-Mediterranean region, especially through new digital tools. An initiative of the EP, UNESCO, and the UfM, the conference panels focus on: European policies of integration and development in the Euro-Mediterranean area, existing Euro-Mediterranean cultural networks and the tools necessary to improve these networks.

[www.euromediaudiovisuel.net/p.aspx?news&mid=21&cid=10&l=en&id=1585](http://www.euromediaudiovisuel.net/p.aspx?news&mid=21&cid=10&l=en&id=1585)

##### Women

11-12 – *Paris*: Ministers in charge of women's affairs and gender equality from the 43 UfM countries gather for the 3rd UfM Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society. They renew their commitments in the priority areas of equal rights between men and women, combatting violence and discrimination. They agreed to establish a Euro-Mediterranean Forum on strengthening the role of women in society to ensure an effective dialogue on women-related policies, legislation and implementation. The Ministers agreed on a series of conclusions in the three priority areas, namely: Equal rights of women and men to participate in the political, economic, civil and social life; Combatting all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls; Change in attitude and behaviour to attain gender equality with a view to promote women empowerment not only in rights but also in reality. Within the framework of the agreed Euro-Mediterranean forum senior officials/experts will meet at least once a year to review the progress in translating the above commitments in laws and the implementation of measures contained in the Conference's conclusions. The senior officials/experts will take into account the outcome of the consultations with civil society. Ministers also welcome the projects labelled in the UfM, as presented by the UfM Secretariat Progress report on Women Empowerment and Gender Equality, and encourage Member States, regional and international organisations, and NGOs to submit concrete projects to the UfM labelling process. The next Ministerial Conference on strengthening the role of women in society will take place in 2016.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/34-13-REV4-Draft-Ministerial-Conclusions-Women.pdf>

##### Violence

16- *Beirut*: The International Center for Transitional Justice, the Université Saint-Joseph, and the Center for the Study of

the Modern Arab World launch the project entitled "Lebanon's Legacy of Political Violence: A Mapping of Serious Violations of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, 1975-2008.", which compiles information on hundreds of incidents of serious human rights violations from 1975 to 2008, and which is aimed at helping to reduce the risk of recurrence of violence in Lebanon.

#### *Women*

17 – *Rabat*: Kick-off meeting of the monitoring mission of the EU support programme to the Government Plan for Equality (GPE). This mission, composed of external experts, is tasked to conduct an objective assessment of the implementation of the GPE. The EU support programme is expected to achieve a better legal protection for women, better representation in decision making; develop the culture of equality.

#### *Employment*

17-18 – *Tunis*: The Mediterranean Economic Conference on "Employment and Territorial Development," brings together more than 300 participants from 25 UfM countries to address the unemployment and territorial development challenges in the Southern Mediterranean and also to launch the Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs) a flagship regional programme developed by the UfM Secretariat to help increase the employability of youth and women in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean region, leverage job creation and foster a culture of entrepreneurship and private sector development.

#### *Migration*

24-25 – *Portoroz*: EUROMED Migration III project organises the second peer to peer meeting in the topic of Migration and Development. ENPI South partner country representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia attend the meeting, as well as EU Member States and other international organisations (ICMPD, IOM, EMUNI...). This meeting represents another step in what is a multi-year programme of training events and peer to peer events. It focused on status review of the overall context.

[www.euromed-migration.eu](http://www.euromed-migration.eu)

#### *Arab Maghreb Union*

27- *New York*: ENP Commissioner Füle meets the Foreign Ministers of the five Maghreb countries, members of the Arab Maghreb Union on the margins of the UN General Assembly, to discuss developments in the region and ways to strengthen mutual cooperation. EU-Maghreb regional cooperation would focus on four priority areas: political dialogue and security cooperation; agriculture, environment and water resources; industry, infrastructure, trade, investment and technology; human development. It is the first informal political dialogue between countries of the Arab Maghreb Union and the EU, and the participants agree to continue with it in the future and discuss the possibility to hold next ministerial dialogue in the Maghreb.

### **October**

#### *Health*

2-4 – *Euromed Region*: The EU-funded project EpiSouth-Plus holds a simulation exercise to test the capacities of response to an outbreak across many countries in the Euro-Med region. This exercise simulates a public health event of international concern affecting several Episouth countries, with the aim of testing the availability and use of national emergency preparedness and response, testing communication and coordination, identifying needs and assessing availability of stockpiles and funds for facing outbreaks.

#### *Education and Training*

6 – *Marseille*: European Training Foundation's Policy Leaders' Forum gathers ministers and senior officials from the Arab States of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, besides EP representatives and other European institutions. The conference represents an opportunity for policy leaders to share information on concrete policies to address youth employment. Special attention is devoted to measures in the area of VET, active employment policies, and the broader considerations of change management in public policy.

[www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Arab\\_ministers\\_agree\\_to\\_boost\\_education\\_quality\\_EN](http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Arab_ministers_agree_to_boost_education_quality_EN)

#### *Culture*

17 – *Vilnius*: Eminent academics and policymakers discuss the role of culture in the EU external relations in an informal EU Senior Official meeting. The meeting is intended to discuss how a common history and a common culture can contribute to the European Neighbourhood Policy, deepen mutual trust, and promote intercultural dialogue. At the meeting the intermediate results of the European Commission's Preparatory Action "Culture in the EU External Relations" is also presented.

[www.eu2013.lt/en/events/political-meetings/](http://www.eu2013.lt/en/events/political-meetings/)

#### *Anna Lindh Foundation*

23 – *London*: The 7th edition of the Anna Lindh Mediterranean Journalist Award takes place the very first time in the premises of the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Two of the five Prizes bestowed in recognition of distinguished reporting are from and focus on Syria. The International Jury underlines the crucial impact of reporting on Syria in relation to the wider regional media agenda, and praises the courage of those journalists who continue to risk their lives to expose the reality of the situation on the ground in Syria. The Mediterranean Journalist Award is a leading regional Award which aims at rewarding exceptional journalistic productions, contributing to a better understanding of the diversity of cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean region. It promotes the positive role played by journalists in providing balanced and informed coverage of cultural issues in the region.

[www.annalindhfoundation.org/news/syria-focus-2013-journalist-award-winners-announced-london](http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/news/syria-focus-2013-journalist-award-winners-announced-london)

#### *ENP*

23 – *Strasbourg*: The European Parliament adopts a resolution on strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The EP Resolution calls for a concrete evaluation of the effectiveness of the revised ENP; for greater efforts to use all instruments and policies at the disposal of the Union and for the consistent implementation of the incentive-based and differentiated approaches and of the principle of 'more for more' as the cornerstone of the revised ENP.



It also calls, if necessary, for 'less for less' for those ENP countries making insufficient efforts to build a deep and sustainable democracy and to undertake the agreed reforms. According to the resolution, MEPs strongly believe that the Parliament should be fully involved in implementing the new ENP and in adjusting EU financial support. With regards to the Southern Neighbourhood, the Resolution recommends that the EU maintain its engagement in supporting transitions in the Southern partner countries, focusing on democratic transformation, partnership with people and civil society, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth. MEPs underline the urgent need to promote projects for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development and integration in the Maghreb.

[www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu)

#### *Justice*

22-24 – *Rome*: Participants from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia attend a training seminar on the 'Resolution of cross-border family conflicts: international, EU and national legislation.' Topics addressed include the work developed during the first phase of the project on the resolution of cross-border family conflicts, discussion on the issue of domestic and gender violence, and their influence in cross-border family conflicts and different approaches to achieving the best interest of the child. The seminar is addressed by speakers from Germany, Italy and Jordan, together with experts from the project and EU officials.

### **November**

#### *Heritage*

1st – *Beirut*: The Modern Heritage Observatory (MoHO) organises the second regional symposium on modern cultural heritage in the MENA region. The event brings together experts from the MENA region and beyond to discuss and debate crucial issues pertaining to the preservation of modern cultural heritage in the Arab world. It includes four sessions: Four regional heritage institutions; case studies; Training and regional

expertise for preservation and archiving; Living archives, living heritage; Advocacy opportunities and strategies for modern heritage preservation.

#### *Civil Society*

5-6 – *Malta*: The Malta Conference addresses the way key actors in the Mediterranean have adapted to the historic changes of the Arab Awakening, with a focus on: (a) the need for new approaches to training for diplomats, government officials and civil society representatives in the region; (b) the evolving media scene and the impact of political and social changes on traditional and new media; (c) communication mechanisms allowing dialogue at all levels across societies in the region; (d) the most suitable models of governance for oversight of the regional dialogues. The output of the Conference will contribute to the preparation of next year's EU Southern Neighbourhood forum in Brussels which will advance ideas for the creation of mechanisms to facilitate enhanced information flows and closer dialogue, coordination and cooperation across the region

[www.annalindhfoundation.org](http://www.annalindhfoundation.org)

#### *Democracy*

6-7 – *Lisbon*: Members of civil society with governments, parliaments and local and regional authorities from both shores of the Mediterranean gather at the Lisbon Forum 2013 to assess how inclusive democracy in Southern Mediterranean countries can be consolidated. The Forum is held on the theme "Valuing civil society as actor of governance: Perspectives for the southern Mediterranean," is organised by the joint EU and CoE. Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood is a joint EU-Council of Europe programme to support partner countries from the southern Mediterranean, engaged in building deep and sustainable democracy.

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/lisbonforum\\_EN.asp?](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/lisbonforum_EN.asp)

#### *Intercultural Dialogue*

9-12 – *Tunis*: The first Euro-Maghreb writers meeting on the theme of "plural identities" gather authors from the EU Member States and from Tunisia, Algeria,

Libya, Morocco and Mauritania. This event comes in the framework of the EU's promotion of intercultural dialogue between Europe and the Maghreb countries. This meeting's mission is also to put the intellectuals of the Mediterranean into contact, encouraging them to reinforce their links in the framework of their works in favour of freedom of expression, in order to promote the creation of a Maghreb writers club.

#### *ETF*

11-13 – *Tel Aviv*: The European Training Foundation organises the closing workshop of the research project "Vocational education and training (VET) for social inclusion and cohesion – policies and practices." The event, titled "Mapping of VET Policies and Practices for Social Inclusion and Social Cohesion in the Western Balkans, Turkey and Israel," is organised jointly with the Israeli Ministries of Economy and Education, and there will be policy makers, vocational school principals, researchers and other experts. The workshop will provide an opportunity to reflect on the results of the project, which include analyses, conclusions and recommendations found in the synthesis report.

#### *UfM*

11-12 – *Barcelona*: The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the UfM Secretariat organise the Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions. It focuses on key challenges affecting the countries of the region, especially those that are currently in a process of political, economic and social transition, and the role that civil society can play in meeting those challenges. Special emphasis is given to: macroeconomic policy and the employment challenge in the north and south of the Mediterranean region; the economic and social situation of women in the Euro-Mediterranean region; mobility and migration: challenges and opportunities; water: a scarce resource in the Mediterranean region. The declaration adopted is sent to the political authorities involved in the Euromed Ministerial Summits as civil society's contribution to the summits, and disseminated widely among civil society organisations in the region. <http://ufmsecretariat.org>

### Transport

*14 – Brussels:* Transport ministers from the Euro-Mediterranean area meet with the aim of establishing a well-connected area for aviation, rail, maritime and road transport. Priority guidelines for a new Regional Transport Action Plan for 2014-2020 are presented, they will contribute to the definition of the multimodal Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network. A Memorandum of Understanding is also signed between the UfM Secretariat and the Group of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean countries (GTMO 5+5), with the aim to achieve certain common objectives in the field of transport through the identification of synergies and definition of concrete forms of collaboration. The next UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport is envisaged to be held in 2016, as stated in the Ministerial Declaration.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org>

### Youth

*19-21 – Amman:* A seminar on youth and citizenship is organised by the CoE and the European Commission in the framework of the EU-CoE youth-partnership, and by the Arab States Regional office of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. It is focused on the role and status of youth organisations, youth movements and engaged young people, as crucial actors in the development and consolidation of inclusive, participatory and pluralistic democracies. Bearing in mind the disparities between and within the European and Southern Mediterranean contexts, as well as the impact of local, regional and national politics on young people (and vice versa), and the development of their democratic citizenship, the seminar is examining the specificities and conditions of active democratic citizenship and youth participation in various environments in which young people live and act. These include communities, schools, universities, work places, civil society and the virtual space.

<http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int>

### Morocco Action Plan

*14 – Brussels:* The EC announces the adoption of the second part of the 2013 Action Plan in favour of Morocco. This €166.9 million programme aims at sup-

porting the strategy of gradually bringing Morocco closer to the EU, a strategy that has been implemented by the Moroccan authorities for almost ten years, rewarded since 2008 with the “advanced status” in the partnership between Morocco and the EU. In addition, the 2013 Action Plan proposes to continue EU support to the Moroccan educational strategy launched in 2008.

### Migration

*19 – Florence:* the ETF and researchers from the European University Institute (EUI) kicks-off a new project, which aims to build an inventory of migrant support measures. The project will provide evidence to guide EU policy making with the neighbouring countries in the field of legal migration. The inventory will review migrant support measures implemented throughout the world from the perspective of skills and employment, and assess their cost-effectiveness and impact. The result of the project will be a general critical inventory of support measures as well as reports from country case studies (Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Morocco and Tunisia) and a policy brief that will discuss policy implications for the EU.

[www.etf.europa.eu](http://www.etf.europa.eu)

### Economic Leaders

*20-22 – Barcelona:* The Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders is one of the major economic events in the Mediterranean region. Bringing together businessmen, businesswomen, representatives of multilateral agencies and international institutions. This event is aimed at consolidating and defending the Euro-Mediterranean integration and collaboration as the driving forces behind social and economic development of the region. The aim of the seventh edition is to focus on critical issues for the Mediterranean region like regional integration, city management, women entrepreneurship and also to expand the knowledge of the Islamic Finance, and therefore forums on these matters will be included.

[www.medaeconomicweek.org/](http://www.medaeconomicweek.org/)

### Women Entrepreneurship

*22 – Barcelona:* UfM takes part in the 5th Mediterranean Women Entrepre-

neurs Forum aimed at providing women entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean region with the opportunity to make business contacts in key sectors for the economic development of the region, as well as to explain success stories, share good practices and know-how and to analyse the role of women in the development of the region's economies. The Forum gathers numerous professional and businesswomen's associations, business development agencies, civil society organisations, and finance institutions from the Euro-Mediterranean region. UfM SG Sijilmassi closes the forum presenting UfM's labelled projects and initiatives supporting women's overall empowerment.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org>

### ALF

*25-29 – Marrakesh:* The ALF organises the Maghreb Forum “Youth in Local Dialogue” for Dialogue on youth participation in the development and implementation of local policy in the framework of Dawrak – Citizens for Dialogue and with participation of more than 60 civil society representatives and local politicians from Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia. The Forum aims for empowering Civil Society Organisations with the appropriate tools for intercultural dialogue, and supporting the activities of ALF Network in order to create partnerships and activate citizenship participation regarding the return of youth to the political forefront after more than two years of launching social movements in the context of Arab Spring.

[www.dawrak.org/en/dawrak-citizens-dialogue](http://www.dawrak.org/en/dawrak-citizens-dialogue)

### Human Rights

*26 – Gaza City:* The EU and Palestine hold their fifth annual policy dialogue on human rights, good governance and the rule of law in the framework of the ENP. Senior review progress in the sectors of human rights, good governance and rule of law measured against the jointly formulated priorities of the EU-Palestine Action Plan adopted in 2013. The EU commends the Palestinian side for its work on a National Action Plan for human rights and efforts to combat torture and improve access in some detention

centres. The EU praises the efforts made in the good governance sector. The EU also addresses concerns about – inter alia – unlawful arrests and ill treatment, freedom of assembly, freedom of press and equal opportunities for women.

#### *Human Trafficking*

**26-27 – Rabat:** The conference on the ‘Fight against human trafficking: international norms and national good practices’ aims to boost the knowledge of representatives from government departments, national institutions and civil society to learn from European practices and experience in the field. It gathers experts from Italy, Portugal, Belgium and representatives of all the stakeholders concerned by the fight against this scourge in Morocco. Since the joint political declaration on the Partnership for Mobility was signed between Morocco and the EU both partners committed themselves to reinforce their cooperation on all the issues related to mobility on both shores of the Mediterranean.

#### *Youth*

**27 – Barcelona:** First working meeting towards the elaboration of a Euro-Mediterranean Student Mobility framework initiative gathers more than 30 key experts and stakeholders in the field of youth mobility. The aim of the meeting is to draw lessons from past and ongoing mobility programmes in the Mediterranean region, brainstorm ideas and priority areas for action and discuss the short-term and mid-term goals of this UfM initiative. UfM Secretariat is currently working on a new framework initiative to promote student mobility across the Mediterranean region, with a particular focus on South-South and North-South mobility. The new initiative will be presented to the UfM member states in 2014.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-promotes-student-mobility-across-the-mediterranean-region/>

#### *Women*

**29 – Barcelona:** The Women’s Rights Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of UfM (PA-UfM) tackles two main topics: the situation of women in armed

conflicts and women and job creation. The Committee, chaired by Samira Merai-Friaa, member of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia, is an opportunity to further associate women parliamentarians in UfM activities and exchange views on the situation of women in the region. The challenges and difficulties that women are facing on the issues of employment and violence are discussed and illustrated by concrete situations on the ground. The circumstances of women in refugee camps are also particularly debated.

### **December**

#### *Environment*

**3-6 – Istanbul:** On the occasion of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of Mediterranean and its Protocols, the UfM Secretariat, along with partners of the H2020 Steering Committee, briefed member states and stakeholders of the convention on the findings of a comprehensive study to protect the Mediterranean Sea from pollution. The event highlights the findings of a study conducted by the UfM Secretariat to identify specific projects to prevent, abate and combat pollution of the Mediterranean Sea. The study contains an updated list of depollution investment projects necessary to meet the depollution requirements

#### *Migration*

**4 – Brussels:** The Commission is proposing ways to increase solidarity and mutual support in order to prevent migrants’ death in the Mediterranean after the tragedy of Lampedusa. The actions proposed are the results of the work carried out by the Commission chaired Task-Force for the Mediterranean. The Task Force identifies actions in five main areas: Border surveillance to help save lives; Assistance and solidarity; Fight against trafficking, smuggling and organised crime; Regional protection, resettlement and legal ways to access Europe; Actions in cooperation with third countries. Mobility Partnerships allow to identify more channels for regular migration and to help those countries

develop their capacities to offer protection in the region and to respect human rights in their territory. Mobility partnerships also help improve the fighting against the threats posed by smugglers and traffickers, as well as informing about channels available for legal migration.

<http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs>

#### *FEMIP*

**10 – Brussels:** EIB holds the 13th FEMIP Conference, in partnership with UfM and the Mediterranean Energy Observatory (OME). The theme of the meeting is the promotion of energy efficiency in the EU’s Mediterranean partner countries. The conference brings together some 250 participants including the Energy Ministers of Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine and Turkey, business representatives, experts and professionals, regulators and regulatory institutions financial institutions, academics and representatives of civil society. Some lines of action are identified: an increase in collective awareness of political and technical authorities and of the operators in support of promoting energy efficiency is reckoned; ministers express their determination to extend these developments and specifically to make energy efficiency a priority; the energy transition is a social process.

[www.eib.europa.eu/projects/regions/med/index.htm](http://www.eib.europa.eu/projects/regions/med/index.htm)

#### *Energy*

**11 – Brussels:** UfM Energy Ministers meeting focuses on strengthening energy cooperation to foster socio-economic development and contribute to the transition to low carbon and energy efficient economies, in order to ensure secure, affordable and sustainable energy supply and enhance energy efficiency in the Mediterranean Basin. The ministerial meeting takes stock of the work done on the Mediterranean Solar Plan, which should exploit the huge potential of the region. Ministers discuss and support the development of a regional electricity market, underlining the need for investments in cross-border electricity connections and transmission infrastructure, as well as for the reform of the regulatory framework. The meeting highlights the importance of private

sector investments in renewable energy, including through public-private partnerships.

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/international/euomed\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/international/euomed_en.htm)

#### *Agadir Agreement*

*19 – Barcelona:* The UfM Secretariat, in coordination with the Agadir Agreement Technical Unit (ATU), organises a workshop to discuss trade development and support for SMEs in the countries that are party to the Agadir Agreement – Jordan, Egypt, Morocco,

Tunisia. The EU has been funding a support project to the Agadir Agreement which aims to contribute to progress in the realisation of a Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area and promote economic integration between countries in the region, through consolidating the institutional framework set up under the Agadir Agreement.

#### *Refugees*

*18 – Brussels:* The EU announces the launch of a Regional Development and

Protection Programme for refugees and host communities in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, as part of its long-term development response to the Syrian refugee crisis. The programme will provide a sound understanding that the presence of refugees has on host communities and propose opportunities for development for both refugees and their hosts alike. It will also assess refugees' potential contribution to the national and local economy of host countries.