

## Chronologies

## Euromed Chronology

## January

*Netherlands Presidency*

1 – *Amsterdam*: Netherlands takes over the EU Council Presidency from Luxembourg. The Netherlands Presidency focuses on four priorities: a comprehensive approach to migration and international security; Europe as an innovator and job creator; sound, future-proof European finances and a robust eurozone; forward-looking policy on climate and energy. The conflicts and violations of human rights in the southern Mediterranean are major factors of instability in the region. The Presidency wants to take an integrated approach to face complex issues like the migration crisis, terrorism and cyber security as internal and external challenges are strongly interwoven.

<https://english.eu2016.nl/>

*Neighbourhood*

7 – *Brussels*: The European Commission (EC) has adopted a series of cross-border cooperation programmes for a total of €1 billion, in order to contribute to a more integrated and sustainable regional development in the neighbouring border regions (East and South) and to a more harmonious territorial cooperation on EU's external borders. The funding comes under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

*Audiovisual*

13-14 – *Amman*: Representatives of nine broadcasters from the southern Mediterranean, engaged in exchanges of expertise to improve women's representation on screen and in programming gather for an evaluation meeting. This event, supported by MedMedia, an EU-

funded project, and in cooperation with the Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators (COPEAM), is part of a strategy strengthening gender equality policies in the media, which combines consultations, networking activities and peer-to-peer exchanges. [www.med-media.eu/event/meeting-in-amman-assesses-peer-to-peer-exchanges-on-gender-equality-in-broadcasting/#sthash.tp9GCQkD.dpuf](http://www.med-media.eu/event/meeting-in-amman-assesses-peer-to-peer-exchanges-on-gender-equality-in-broadcasting/#sthash.tp9GCQkD.dpuf)

*ARLEM*

18-19 – *Nicosia*: During the 7th plenary session of Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM), local authorities across Europe and the Mediterranean deepen cooperation in the face of the migration crisis and political instability. Practical cooperation at the local level is essential if countries around the Mediterranean are to manage challenges created by the conflicts in Syria and Libya, migration and climate change. The plenary adopts two thematic reports drawn up by the ARLEM Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development, on employment and territorial development in the Mediterranean region and on a sustainable urban agenda in the Mediterranean region as well as the adoption of ARLEM's Action plan for 2016.

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/7th-Plenary-session-ARLEM---Nicosia.aspx>

*Research and Innovation*

18 – *Cairo*: The capacity for research and innovation to unlock potential in the South Mediterranean is the focus of discussions between experts gathered at the initiative of the Economic Research Forum (ERF) and the Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Economic Science Institutes (FEMISE). Experts from the aca-

demie, civil society and policy-making communities meet with the ultimate objective of drawing up a research agenda to unlock potential in the South Mediterranean. One suggestion is to ensure the reform of the education system and, in addition to providing financial aid to businesses.

[www.femise.org/en/conferences-and-seminars/forthcoming-expert-group-meeting-on-innovation-towards-a-research-agenda-to-unlock-south-med-potentials/](http://www.femise.org/en/conferences-and-seminars/forthcoming-expert-group-meeting-on-innovation-towards-a-research-agenda-to-unlock-south-med-potentials/)

*Politics & Security*

18 – *Brussels*: According to a statement issued at the EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting, EU welcomes the new Libyan Presidency Council, presided over by Fayez al-Sarraj and supports the Government of National Accord (GNA) as the sole legitimate government of Libya. The EU HR/VP Mogherini announces concrete and practical decisions on the effective implementation of the National Government Agreement. EU will focus on supporting local authorities, border management and security sector reform.

[https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/5174\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/5174_en)

*European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)*

21 – *Tunis*: On the sidelines of EESC's annual session, a seminar on "the role of an organised civil society in the democratic transition process: the example of Tunisia," is held and attended by members of the "Tunisian Quartet of National Dialogue", the winner of the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize. The EESC is working on drafting a "notice" on the revision of the neighbourhood policy that emphasizes the duty to involve civil society in the EU's policy towards its southern neighbours.

### Investments

25-26 – *Marseille*: Two French organizations for the promotion of entrepreneurship and investment - Agence pour la Coopération Internationale et le développement local en Méditerranée (ACIM) and Finances & Conseil Méditerranée (FCM) - organise training and information workshops under the aegis of the EU to encourage diasporas to invest in their country of origin. 30 project leaders of Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian origin, who are living in Europe, gather to participate in an information workshop and coaching on setting up their businesses in the Maghreb.

### Euro-Mediterranean University

26 – *Rome*: The President of the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes (UEMF) and the Dean of the University of Florence sign two cooperation agreements for the co-creation and co-development of the Euro-Mediterranean School of Architecture and Urban Planning to be located within the UEMF campus. This Institute aims to be a school of excellence for training and research in the field of architectural sciences, urban planning, design, & heritage. Graduates of the Euro-Mediterranean School of Architecture and Urban Planning will hold a double university degree that is recognized by both the Moroccan and Italian states. By means of this agreement, the two universities express their shared desire to develop academic links and facilitate university cooperation. <http://ufmsecretariat.org/the-euro-mediterranean-university-of-fes-and-the-university-of-florence-cooperate-for-the-co-creation-of-the-euro-mediterranean-school-of-architecture-and-urban-planning/>

### Politics and Security

26 – *Ankara*: The EU and Turkey agree on a joint work plan for the next six months in order to maintain the new momentum and start the necessary preparations by holding a High-Level Political Dialogue prior to the second Turkey-EU Summit. The first summit was a turning point in creating a new momentum in relations, including through a re-energized accession process. The Turkish Government reiterates its determination to continue with political reform

process in the area of Rule of law and fundamental rights. EU and Turkey believe that there is a need to exert huge effort to address the refugee crisis and irregular migration to this end EU confirms its commitment to expand significantly its overall financial support by creating a EUR 3 billion Refugee Facility for Turkey.

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-16-156\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-16-156_en.htm)

## February

### Terrorism

2 – *Rome*: Foreign Ministers of the Small Group of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL/Daesh meet to take stock of the Coalition's work and to accelerate our unified efforts to degrade and ultimately defeat Daesh, dismantle its networks, and counter its global ambitions. The Global Coalition will expand its multifaceted approach: intensifying and accelerating the military campaign; depriving Daesh of financial resources; providing Syrian and Iraqi refugees with humanitarian support; restoring the communities and essential services in liberated areas; supporting a lasting investment in inclusive governance and a sound political process in Iraq and Syria; increasing collaboration and information sharing in the counterterrorism arena.

[www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/statement-by-the-ministers-of-foreign.html](http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/statement-by-the-ministers-of-foreign.html)

### Terrorism

2 – *Strasbourg*: The EC presents an Action Plan to strengthen the fight against terrorist financing and to call for a strong coordinated European response to combatting terrorism. The European Agenda for Security had identified a number of areas to improve the fight against terrorist financing. The Action Plan will focus on two main strands of action: Tracing terrorists through financial movements and preventing them from moving funds or other assets; Disrupting the sources of revenue used by terrorist organizations, by targeting their capacity to raise funds.

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-202\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-202_en.htm)

### Press Freedom

8 – *Beirut*: The “Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the Press” reaches its 11th anniversary, this award is a symbol of the EU's commitment to freedom of expression as a foundation for a democratic society and EU's support for freedom of expression in Lebanon, the Middle East and the Gulf. This award, which has been awarded by the EU since 2006, honours the Lebanese journalist and writer Samir Kassir, who was assassinated in 2005.

### Environment

9-12 – *Athens*: The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention – Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP/UNEP) convene for their 19th Ordinary Meeting. Representatives of 21 Mediterranean countries and the EU debate and adopt a number of decisions on biodiversity and ecosystems, land and sea-based pollution, sustainable consumption and production, and climate change adaptation. These decisions, which address specific issues of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, define strategies and actions on sustainable development in the Mediterranean. Ministers renew their commitment and determination to address together the emerging challenges related to environmental protection and sustainable development of the Mediterranean Sea and coast, in the global framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/19th-meeting-contracting-parties-barcelona-convention-be-held-athens>

### Twinning Projects

11 – *Tunis*: The EU and Tunisia launch two “twinning” operations: one focuses on the reinforcement of the capacities of the Tunisian Ministry of Justice and its jurisdictions, and the other on training the justice system personnel. 40 million € has been dedicated to the Justice Reform Programme (PARJ) from 2012 until 2020. This gives EU the status of leading partner for Tunisia regarding its judicial reforms.

### FEMISE

13-14 – *Athens*: The Annual conference of FEMISE is held under the

theme “Two decades after Barcelona, rethinking the EU-Med Partnership,” as the EU-Med region celebrate 20 years since Barcelona while still facing many economic, social and political challenges. The FEMISE conference is organized every year around a theme that is considered of importance to the EU-Med region and provides a platform for the different actors from the North and the South of the Mediterranean to debate and exchange views.  
[www.femise.org/en/slideshow-en/forthcoming-femise-annual-conference-2016/](http://www.femise.org/en/slideshow-en/forthcoming-femise-annual-conference-2016/)

#### Youth

14 – *Amman*: Emerging young leaders from 8 Arab countries gather for the “Debate to Action: Communications and Leadership Programme” which provides a platform for Arab youth leaders to engage with professional journalists, senior leaders, and European peers and it is organised by the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), the Jordan Media Institute, in partnership with the British Council, UNESCO through EU-funded networks. The challenge set for the programme aims at helping participants to grow as leaders and ambassadors for dialogue in their region, build social capital, grow their media skills, develop their influencing and advocacy skills, enhance and stretch their analytical and creative skills, and develop their Cultural Intelligence. The programme includes expert training and mentoring sessions with professional journalists and media experts, and practical sessions with decision-makers and senior leaders.  
[www.annalindhfoundation.org/news/youth-leaders-gather-amman-pioneering-communications-and-leadership-programme](http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/news/youth-leaders-gather-amman-pioneering-communications-and-leadership-programme)

#### UfM

16 – *Brussels*: The Senior Officials of the UfM member countries approve four new regional projects by according to them the UfM label, bringing up the total number of UfM-labelled regional cooperation projects to 41. The four new UfM-labelled projects will contribute to strengthening regional cooperation in the following areas: private investments for renewable ener-

gies, marine litter, shipping services and women’s health.  
<http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-member-states-further-enhance-regional-cooperation-in-2016-by-endorsing-4-new-development-projects/>

#### Refugees

17 – *Brussels*: The Steering Committee meeting of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey is chaired by the EC with the participation of all EU Member States plus Turkey in an advisory capacity. The resources of the Facility will come from the EU budget and from EU Member States reaching a total of up to €3 billion over two years. This funding will finance the provision of humanitarian, development and other assistance to refugees and host communities, national and local authorities in managing and addressing the consequences of the inflows of refugees. It will provide more urgently needed humanitarian aid and access to education for refugee children in Turkey.  
[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-340\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-340_en.htm)

#### Media

18 – *Beirut*: A consultation on proposals to establish a Special Mechanism for Media Freedom in the Arab World is organized by the EU-funded MedMedia programme and gathered 20 participants representing media outlets and media support organizations, universities as well as the National Media Council (CNA). The event is part of a multi-layered discussion launched to develop a Special Mechanism for Media Freedom in the region. During national consultations, participants are invited to examine various proposals for the Special mechanism, the scope of its mandate, its structure and funding as well as a draft Arab Declaration on the Principles of Media Freedom. Participants stressed the importance to guarantee the mechanism’s independence and said the exceptionally difficult situation in the region should not deter stakeholders from taking the initiative forward.  
[www.med-media.eu/event/special-mechanism-for-media-freedom-in-the-arab-world-discussed-at-beirut-consultative-meeting/](http://www.med-media.eu/event/special-mechanism-for-media-freedom-in-the-arab-world-discussed-at-beirut-consultative-meeting/)

#### Energy

18 – *Paris*: The International Energy Agency (IEA) and UfM sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) setting out the outlines of closer cooperation between the two organizations on projects of mutual interest in the energy field. The two parties share similar goals and have together identified a number of potential areas of cooperation. These include, but are not limited to, joint projects involving research and technical assistance; collaboration on joint publications; data sharing; training and capacity building; regional cooperation on energy efficiency and renewable energies as well as the exchange of expertise between the two parties in areas such as climate change, the water-energy-food nexus and regional energy market integration.  
<http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-and-iea-join-forces-to-strengthen-climate-action-in-the-euro-mediterranean-region/>

#### Environment

23 – *Brussels*: UfM launches a new Regional cooperation Project called “Blue-Green Med-CS; Networking Civil Society in the Mediterranean region through environment and water issues” to promote water and environment cooperation by enabling more than 120 civil society organizations (CSOs) to acquire skills in various environmental areas. The project will foster regular dialogue and collaboration between Northern and Southern CSOs working in water and the environment and will provide Southern CSOs with the opportunity to participate in the planned H2020 capacity building activities which include mentoring, sharing information and possibly replicating best environmental governance practices and projects.  
<http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-launches-new-regional-cooperation-project/>

#### Enterprises

24 – *Brussels*: A high-level regional seminar on Access to Finance for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth - Stimulating MSMEs Growth in the Mediterranean Region is held in order to identify the items on the agenda of reforms needed to foster the financial inclusion of MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) and enhance their contribu-

tion to job creation. Policymakers, bankers, entrepreneurs as well as representatives of the private sector, EU financial institutions, think tanks and of civil society from the MED region and EU countries discuss solutions and reforms needed to unlock access to finance for MSMEs in the MED region. Participants highlight the fact that national specificities should be taken into account to implement actionable recommendations and policy reforms in this area.  
[www.ebesm.eu/posts/access-to-finance-stimulating-msme-growth-in-the-med-region](http://www.ebesm.eu/posts/access-to-finance-stimulating-msme-growth-in-the-med-region)

## March

### PEGASE

1 – *Brussels*: The EC has approved a €252.5 million assistance package supporting the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian refugees. It is the first part of the EU's 2016 annual support package in favour of Palestine. €170.5 million will be channelled directly to the Palestinian Authority, through the PEGASE mechanism. Through these funds the EU will support the Palestinian Authority in delivering health and education services, protecting the poorest families and providing financial assistance to the hospitals in East Jerusalem. The remaining €82 million will be a contribution to the Programme Budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Near East (UNRWA), which provides essential services for Palestinian refugees across the region.

### Culture

2-6 – *Marrakech*: More than 40 cultural actors from 7 Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia) participate in two workshops organized by the EU funded Med Culture Regional Program. The first workshop focuses on ways and methodologies for developing cultural activity in marginalized regions. The second workshop is organized around the creation of partnerships with various stakeholders, including the media, and the value of these partnerships in strengthening cultural activities, sharing resources and promoting good practices. These workshops provide cultural profession-

als with the opportunity to discuss common challenges and share experiences with their peers from the southern Mediterranean countries. Participation in these workshops is done through an open call for applications, in order to offer the greatest number of people the opportunity to take part in these capacity development initiatives.

[www.medculture.eu/node/3978#overlay-context=node/3979](http://www.medculture.eu/node/3978#overlay-context=node/3979)

### Media

8 – *Tunis*: The EU-funded MedMedia programme launches a new initiative entitled "Khabirat, Women Experts in the Mediterranean" aimed at enhancing the contribution made by women to media outputs across the region. The initiative will focus on establishing directories of women experts which can be used by editorial teams in the course of their work. Women play an important role in the media but their visibility as experts and sources of opinion remains weak.  
[www.med-media.eu/event/international-womens-day-medmedia-unveils-plans-to-create-directories-of-women-experts-in-the-region/](http://www.med-media.eu/event/international-womens-day-medmedia-unveils-plans-to-create-directories-of-women-experts-in-the-region/)

### Refugees

11 – *Brussels*: The EU Council of Ministers approves an emergency support mechanism in response to the difficult humanitarian situation caused by the refugee crisis, notably in Greece. This enables the EU to help Greece and other affected Member States to address the humanitarian needs of the large numbers of men, women and children. At the same time, the EP has a lively debate, requesting details of a deal struck by EU leaders with Turkey on the management of migrant and refugee flows, underlining that international asylum rules must be respected. Most political group leaders insisted that EU accession negotiations with Turkey and talks on visa liberalization for Turkish nationals travelling to the EU should not be linked to the refugee issue, and they also brought up the situation of human rights in that country.

### ALF

14 – *Paris*: ALF President speaks at the opening of a civil society training initia-

tive organised by Facebook and aimed at supporting NGOs on the front-line of fighting online extremism. The training event brings together civil society, NGOs and academic research institutions to build capacity for strategic communications and share best practices for campaigns against online extremism and hate speech.

### EU-Jordan

16 – *Brussels*: EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the EC, meets the King of Jordan H.E. Abdullah II to reaffirm the EU engagement with Jordan and to discuss the political and security situation in the region. HR/VP Mogherini highlighted the EU's will to strengthen and broaden the longstanding EU-Jordan partnership in light of the challenging domestic and regional situation.  
[https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/5488\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/5488_en)

### Civil Society

16 – *Brussels*: The EC launches a call for proposals for a total amount of EUR 20 million to involve civil society in pan-African issues. Five African countries bordering the Mediterranean (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt) are invited to cooperate in addition to the cooperation foreseen in the "neighbourhood policy" in these countries. The objective is to improve the contribution of civil society organizations (CSOs) in decision making and policy formulation processes at the continental level in Africa, particularly in the areas of good governance and democracy, human rights, peace and security and the rights of women.  
[http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/algeria/press\\_corner/all\\_news/news/2016/appel\\_a\\_proposition\\_panafricain\\_fr.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/algeria/press_corner/all_news/news/2016/appel_a_proposition_panafricain_fr.htm)

## April

### Media

7-9 – *Ajaccio*: The annual meeting of the Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators (COPEAM) provides a unique opportunity for the EU-funded MedMedia programme to present its recent achievements in the

fields of gender equality and youth empowerment. The conference brings together journalists and media managers representing broadcasters from 27 countries across the Mediterranean as well as delegates from the EU, the League of Arab States, the UNESCO, the European Broadcasting Union, the Arab States Broadcasting Union and other media support organizations. Professionals take part in two workshops: the first one aims at capturing the final results of MedMedia's peer-to-peer programme on gender equality in the broadcast sector; the second focusing on young people, highlighting the challenges facing them; their portrayal by and contribution to the media as well as the role of civil society in providing them with platforms for debate.

[www.med-media.eu/event/medmedia-initiatives-gender-equality-youth-showcased-mediterranean-broadcasters-conference-ajaccio/](http://www.med-media.eu/event/medmedia-initiatives-gender-equality-youth-showcased-mediterranean-broadcasters-conference-ajaccio/)

#### *EU-Turkey Deal*

**13 – Brussels:** The agreement to return migrants and asylum seekers from the Greek islands to Turkey was at the centre of a debate with Council President Donald Tusk and Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker at the European Parliament. A broad majority of MEPs voiced concern over the migration agreement between the EU and Turkey and called on the Commission and Council to closely monitor the situation of human rights and freedom of speech in Turkey, as well as allegations that Syrian refugees are being pushed back to Syria by the Turkish authorities. They also questioned whether Turkey can be considered a "safe country" for refugees.

[www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160408IPR22136/eu-turkey-deal-on-migrants-not-perfect-but-most-realistic-tool-to-tackle-crisis](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160408IPR22136/eu-turkey-deal-on-migrants-not-perfect-but-most-realistic-tool-to-tackle-crisis)

#### *EuroMeSCo*

**13-15 – Brussels:** The EU-funded EuroMeSCo "Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission" (EuroMeSCo), the main network of research centres on politics and security in the Mediterranean, holds annual general assembly tackling the current security architecture in the Mediterranean and examine how to improve the situation. There is heightened inter-

est in this meeting, in that it is taking place in a context of intense reflection on the future of a region disturbed by conflict, terrorism, the challenges of economic development and the European contribution to their solution. The agenda reflects these concerns. The plenary session will be centred on the theme of the "fragile balance in the Mediterranean, with tense relations between some states" and the collapse of others, but also with the increasing threat arising from politicized sectarianism and terrorist groups.

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

#### *EU-Tunisia*

**18 – Brussels:** After the EU-Tunisia Association Council the HR/VP Mogherini reiterates the mutual commitment to deepen their privileged partnership, which reflects the exceptional nature of Tunisia's democratic transition and the shared ambition to intensify relations in all areas to consolidate Tunisia's democratic achievements, support the Tunisian security sector, encourage socio-economic reforms, foster the integration of the Tunisian economy with the EU's internal market and work more closely in the field of migration.

[www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/04/18-fac-eu-tunisia/](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/04/18-fac-eu-tunisia/)

#### *Electricity*

**21 – Istanbul:** The EU-supported Association of Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (Med-TSO) organizes a workshop on enhancing Transmission System Operators' (TSO) cooperation during its 11th General Assembly. The meeting focuses on Med-TSO's activities in the framework of the Mediterranean Project and the role of the various Mediterranean TSOs to enhance cooperation and power system integration. The Mediterranean Projects setting up a roadmap to share resources, costs and risks of investments in energy infrastructures in the Mediterranean Region in order to promoting the development and implementation of a harmonized and integrated Mediterranean electricity grid.

#### *Politics & Security*

**21- Brussels:** Home Affairs Ministers examine the progress in implementing

the measures to reduce the humanitarian consequences of the current migratory situation, protect EU external borders, stem the flows, reduce illegal migration and safeguard the integrity of the Schengen area. They reaffirm the need to speed up the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement of 18 March and in particular the resettlement of Syrian refugees from Turkey in the framework of the 1:1 scheme. They also invite Member States to accelerate the relocation of asylum seekers from Greece and Italy.

[www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/jha/2016/04/21/](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/jha/2016/04/21/)

#### *Neighbourhood*

**22 – Brussels:** At a seminar on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), organised by the EuroMed Human Rights Network (EuroMed Rights) the EU-funded European Endowment for Democracy underlines the ongoing demand for support for democracy work in the southern region of the Mediterranean. After nearly three years of operation, EED has identified its operational niche and proves to be a gap-filling mechanism, complementing EU instruments. To date, it has funded 304 initiatives, among which 124 initiatives from the EU Southern Neighbourhood totalling €8.44 million. It assists pro-democratic civil society organizations, movements and individual activists, acting in favour of a pluralistic multiparty system, regardless of their size or formal status.

[www.democracyendowment.eu/](http://www.democracyendowment.eu/)

#### *Women*

**25-26 – Barcelona:** Fifty international experts on gender equality from UfM governments, international organizations and civil society organisations meet for the UfM Regional Dialogue process on gender. The objective is to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the UfM ministerial commitments, and prepare for the next Ministerial meeting on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, foreseen to take place in 2017. In this framework, four working groups are currently working on four areas identified as priorities to be covered by the Ministerial Declaration: 1) Women's participation in economic life; 2) Women's access to leadership and decision making positions; 3) Combat violence

against women and gender-based violence; and 4) Dispel stereotypes through education and culture.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/fr/ufm-meeting-of-international-experts-on-womens-empowerment-still-much-work-to-be-done-in-the-region/>

## May

### *Press Freedom*

2-4 – *Casablanca*: Journalists' unions, human rights campaigners and media groups from across the Arab world back a Declaration on Media Freedom. The Declaration, which represents a commitment to the principles of media freedom, independent journalism and the right to information, is endorsed during the International Federation of Journalists and the Moroccan journalists' union (SNPM). The declaration sets out 16 key principles aimed at promoting the highest international standards of media freedom and protecting journalists' rights. Areas covered by the Declaration include Freedom of expression, Freedom of information, Journalists' safety, Media law reform, Self-regulation, Equality, Hate speech and intolerance, Independence of public service broadcasters.

### *ARLEM*

3-4 – *Murcia*: Representatives of regions and cities from both shores of the Mediterranean gather for the 17th meeting of the ARLEM to discuss cross-border cooperation, the new ENP and energy and climate issues amongst other topics of common interest. Murcia region will organise a support action on water management, irrigation systems and agriculture. Other European cities have committed to organizing working groups in public administration, management of health centres and waste management services.

### *Migration*

4-6 – *Dublin*: The theme of the first conference of the EU-funded Euromed Migration IV is "Connecting, communicating and networking with Diasporas." The event gathers participants from 14 EU countries, 7 Southern Partner Countries and Turkey as an observer. The confer-

ence gives participants the opportunity to learn about case studies and experiences in diaspora engagement from Ireland, Denmark, Morocco, Lithuania and others and to discuss their relevance for the Mediterranean. The main objective of Euromed Migration IV is to support EU Member States and the Southern Partner Countries (SPC) of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) in establishing a comprehensive, constructive and operational dialogue and co-operation framework.

[www.icmpd.org/our-work/migration-dialogues/euromed-migration-iv/](http://www.icmpd.org/our-work/migration-dialogues/euromed-migration-iv/)

### *EU-Tunisia*

9 – *Gammarth*: Celebrating Europe Day and the 40th anniversary of the first EU-Tunisia cooperation agreement, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, states that the partnership with the EU remained a core priority of Tunisia. He expresses the strong commitment of his country to "reach the next stage in its relations with the EU, and make Tunisia the closest partner of the Union in its southern neighbourhood." He praises the strong and continued support of Europeans to the efforts of Tunisia to achieve economic and social development and to strengthen a stable democracy

[www.diplomatie.gov.tn/index.php?id=27&tx\\_ttnews%5bttnews%5d=2505&tx\\_ttnews%5bbackPid%5d=27&cHash=19ca7514ccfe5d16e6010339d6bd1aaa](http://www.diplomatie.gov.tn/index.php?id=27&tx_ttnews%5bttnews%5d=2505&tx_ttnews%5bbackPid%5d=27&cHash=19ca7514ccfe5d16e6010339d6bd1aaa)

### *Public Administration*

10 – *Amman*: The EU-funded programme SIGMA programme (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management) organizes a regional conference to present a report on "The Principles of Public Administration: A Framework for ENP Countries." These Principles aim to support the national authorities, the Commission services and other donors to develop a shared understanding of what public administration reform (PAR) entails and what the countries could aim at with their administrative reforms. The conference brings together representatives from central management institutions with responsibility in PAR from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia among others. [www.sigmaxweb.org](http://www.sigmaxweb.org)

### *Climate Change*

12 – *Paris*: More than 50 climate expert representatives from UfM member countries, key international organizations working in the field of climate change such as the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), as well as civil society representatives meet at the 4th UfM Climate Change Expert Group (UfMCCEG). The aim of the meeting is to follow up on the implementation of actions related to the fields of local authorities, private sector investments and capacity building and to adopt a work programme for 2016 aiming at enhancing the Mediterranean climate agenda under a regional umbrella of medium-term strategy.

### *Road Safety*

17 – *Barcelona*: The first informal Expert Meeting on Road Safety in the Mediterranean region is held as a forum to exchange experiences and good practices, analyse current efforts and actions, as well as explore ways to substantially improve road safety in the Mediterranean region. The meeting is chaired by UfM SG Sijilmassi, Jean Todt, UNSG Special Envoy for Road Safety. Participants express their support for a regional approach to road safety prevention in the Mediterranean and agreed to explore the possibility of establishing a Regional Observatory on Road Safety in the Mediterranean, based on other successful regional experiences.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/coordinated-action-to-improve-road-safety-in-the-mediterranean/>

### *Civil Protection*

17-20 – *Valabre*: Egyptians, Jordanians and Palestinians officers from risk management structures attend a simulation exercise on flood and earthquake at the Euro-Mediterranean Centre of Risk Simulation in the framework of the EU-funded PPRD SOUTH II (Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters) programme. The objective of this workshop is to prepare the participants for the management of operational responses to major natural disasters. Participants assess a crisis, share relevant information, manage and process

information, organise on-site rescue, coordinate implemented resources, organize the return to normal situation.

#### *EU-Egypt*

23 – *Cairo*: During the 5th EU-Egypt Association Council participants discuss common issues on the bilateral and regional levels as well as the progress achieved in terms of agreeing on cooperation priorities between the two sides for the next three-year period. Both sides also discuss the developments in the peace process, the regional situation in the Middle East, and the possibilities of cooperation between Egypt and the European Union in order to restore stability in the region, as well as in the framework of fighting terrorism and extremism, and to address the problem of illegal immigration from all the economic and social aspects of both phenomena.

#### *Human Rights*

23-26 – *Strasbourg*: Around 30 participants from the southern Mediterranean attended the second module of the Programme for advanced training in the field of human rights (PATHS). The training is devoted to the “Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights and other international systems for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms”. Participants, ranging from national experts to lawyers and other human rights professionals, analysed the European Convention on Human Rights’ provisions, the Parties’ obligations and the Convention’s provisions and protocols. They also had the opportunity to debate and exchange on the human rights protection in the international and European legal systems.

<http://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/south-programme2/home>

#### *Energy*

24 – *Alger*: The first EU-Algeria Energy Business Forum takes place co-chaired by the Algerian Minister of Energy and the European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy. This forum gathers more than 500 European and Algerian companies, as well as industry associations, financial institutions and experts, is held within the framework of the Strategic Partnership for energy between the EU and Algeria. On this

occasion, the EU announces the funding for €10 million of a technical assistance programme supporting the implementation of the National Programme for Renewable Energies and the National Plan for Energy Efficiency. [http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/algeria/press\\_corner/all\\_news/news/2016/forum-affaire-energie\\_fr.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/algeria/press_corner/all_news/news/2016/forum-affaire-energie_fr.htm)

#### *Civil Society*

26-27 – *Brussels*: Representatives of more than 150 civil society organizations, academics, media, social actors, local and national government representatives and international organizations from the Southern Neighbourhood and Europe gathers for the third annual Civil Society Forum Neighbourhood South. The Forum is part of an initiative aiming at an enhanced and more strategic engagement with civil society. Behind the Forum and the consultation process lie efforts at the creation of a sustained and structured dialogue between civil society, the authorities and the EU on regional agendas in the southern Mediterranean.

#### *UfM PA*

28-29 – *Tangiers*: The 12th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM (PA-UfM), acknowledges the review of the ENP, calls for the pursue of “further complementarities and synergies between the ENP and UfM activities” and encourages the ENP to “increase its support for UfM’s regional cooperation efforts.” Parliamentarians express their satisfaction with the progress made by the UfM to carry the regional agenda forward, consolidate the regional political dialogue and to interact with all actors involved in cooperation in the region and called on “governments to increase their political and financial support to the UfM and its Secretariat to increase impact and contribute more effectively to regional socio-economic and human development.”

## **June**

#### *Regional Cooperation*

2 – *Dead Sea*: Ministers of International Cooperation and Planning from

the 43 member countries of the UfM gather to define key steps to enhance the impact of regional cooperation. ENP Commission Hahn underlines the opportunities held by regional cooperation and integration to increase economic growth and job creation in the Mediterranean region. Ministers recognize the need to boost economic integration among the countries in the region as one of the means to create opportunities for the necessary inclusive growth and job creation.

#### *Investment*

2-3 – *Beirut*: Some 120 participants from 12 countries attend the EU-ROMED Invest Academy on “EU-Arab Industrial Cooperation” which focuses on “Developing Business and Industrial Cooperation among EU-MED & Gulf Countries.” Mixing both technical contents and best practices in business servicing, presentations are delivered by experts, law firms and business support organizations on how SMEs can access MENA and GCC markets and on available tools to facilitate networking and matchmaking. A speed networking session is also organized among attending business support organisations in order to shape consortia around relevant priorities of the program.

[www.euromedinvest.eu/en/academy-beirut-euromed-invest](http://www.euromedinvest.eu/en/academy-beirut-euromed-invest)

#### *Agriculture*

2-3 – *Beirut*: The European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) South Support Programme (ESSP II) organizes its second sub-regional Mashreq seminar on short sales chains and the promotion of agricultural products. The event is an opportunity for stakeholders to present the national activities of ENPARD in Egypt and Lebanon and discuss upcoming events and activities [http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Adopted\\_UfM-Ministerial-Declaration-on-Regional-Cooperation-and-Planning.pdf](http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Adopted_UfM-Ministerial-Declaration-on-Regional-Cooperation-and-Planning.pdf)

#### *Migration*

7 – *Brussels*: The EC launches new support measures worth 27.5 million € to support the North Africa region in ad-

dressing the current migration situation. The EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa adopts three new programmes which will focus on the following areas: migration governance, protection of vulnerable migrants and refugees, and enhanced resilience of migrant populations and their host communities. The package includes: enhancing the response to migration challenges in Egypt; strengthening protection and resilience of displaced populations in Libya; regional level support providing additional funding to the Regional Development and Protection Programme in the North of Africa. The so-called “North of Africa Window” of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa covers the following five countries: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

#### *Politics and Security*

**13-14 – Jordan/Lebanon:** The EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) holds high-level talks with political leaders of Jordan and Lebanon to assess the political and security situation of these countries. King Abdullah II of Jordan discusses the strategic partnership between Jordan and the EU with the PSC delegation, and voices his country’s appreciation for the support provided by various EU institutions helping the Kingdom in addressing challenges due to regional crises, mainly the Syrian refugee crisis and the fight against extremism. PSC also meets with Lebanese political actors, among them the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Parliament. The delegation is also briefed by the Lebanese Armed forces on the security situation of the country. It also paid a visit to UNHCR premise and to an informal refugee settlement in Zahleh.

#### *TAIEX*

**14-15 – Zagreb:** Representatives of Ministries of agriculture and other relevant public bodies from the southern Mediterranean countries attend a workshop on marketing standards in the fruit and vegetables sector, in the framework of the EU-funded Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX). The workshop is one of the five events organized to mark the twentieth anniversary of the TAIEX instrument. It

focuses on EU marketing standards in fruit and vegetables, import and export conditions and producers organizations in the sector.

#### *Security & Defence*

**20 – Brussels:** At their meeting the EU 28 Foreign Ministers extend for a year the mandate of EUNAFOR MED Operation Sophia, the EU naval operation to disrupt the business model of human smugglers and traffickers in the southern central Mediterranean. The Foreign Affairs Council of the EU also endorses two supporting tasks to the operation’s mandate: training the Libyan coastguards and navy as requested by Libyan authorities, and contributing to the implementation of the UN arms embargo to Libya.

[www.consilium.europa.eu/fr/press/press-releases/2016/06/20-fac-eunavfor-med-sophia/](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/fr/press/press-releases/2016/06/20-fac-eunavfor-med-sophia/)

#### *Terrorism*

**22-23 – The Hague:** Eurojust gathers its national correspondents for terrorism matters to continue exchanging views on the best way forward in building an effective judicial response to the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. Participants at the tactical meeting also include specialized counter-terrorism prosecutors from the Member States and third States, the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, the head of the European Counter Terrorism Centre at Europol and the Director of the EU Intelligence and Situation Centre (INT-CEN). Lessons learned from ongoing investigations and prosecutions are exchanged during the meeting to highlight national experience in dealing with cases involving terrorist attacks, recruitment networks, and preparatory acts for terrorism.

[www.eurojust.europa.eu/press/PressReleases/Pages/2016/2016-06-24.aspx](http://www.eurojust.europa.eu/press/PressReleases/Pages/2016/2016-06-24.aspx)

#### *ALF*

**23 – Piran:** Around a hundred experts and cultural actors in the field of translation gather to participate in the “Translation for Dialogue” Conference, co-organized by ALF, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia and the Euro-Mediterranean University

(EMUNI). This is the first high-level conference of its kind in the EuroMed region. It focuses on the central role of translation in the current emerging socio-cultural challenges in the region and involves all the stakeholders of the “translation chain” – publishers, authors, academics, libraries, translators, civil society organizations, foundations, public and private institutions – to showcase, debate and advocate for translation as a central tool for intercultural dialogue. The “Manifesto for Translation” is also launched to support translation as a bridge for common understanding in the region

[www.annalindhoundation.org/news/translation-dialogue-conference-slovenia-gathers-100-experts-and-cultural-actors](http://www.annalindhoundation.org/news/translation-dialogue-conference-slovenia-gathers-100-experts-and-cultural-actors)

#### *Politics & Security*

**28 – Brussels:** High Representative Mogherini presents the EU Global Strategy on foreign and security policy to EU leaders meeting at the EU summit. The strategy, under the title “Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe,” reflects the collective views expressed in the process and offers a strategic vision for the EU’s global role. According to the document, the European Union will follow five lines of action in the Mediterranean and the MENA region: the EU will support functional multilateral cooperation; it will deepen sectoral cooperation with Turkey, while striving to anchor Turkish democracy in line with its accession criteria; it will pursue balanced engagement in the Gulf and Iran; it will support cooperation across North and Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as between the Horn of Africa and the Middle East; and it will invest in African peace and development as an investment in its own security and prosperity.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/top\\_stories/pdf/eugs\\_review\\_web.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/top_stories/pdf/eugs_review_web.pdf)

#### **July**

##### *Slovak Presidency*

**1 – Bratislava:** The Programme of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union is based on four priorities: an economically strong Europe, a



modern single market, a sustainable migration and asylum policies and a globally engaged Europe. On migration the Presidency intends to encourage sustainable EU migration and asylum policies, which will be based on the protection of external borders, restoration of the Schengen area, cooperation with third countries and solidarity. In terms of internal security, the challenge for Europe is to make the fight against terrorism more effective through a common coordinated approach by the Member States. In the world, helps it to face complex challenges and contributes to stabilising its neighbourhood. In terms of the Southern Neighbourhood, the Presidency will foster the development of dialogue and cooperation, and will promote the stabilization of partner countries in the political, economic and security fields, including by providing assistance in solving long-standing crises based on the diplomatic efforts of the international community.

[www.eu2016.sk/data/documents/presidency-programme-eng-final5.pdf](http://www.eu2016.sk/data/documents/presidency-programme-eng-final5.pdf)

#### Asylum

8 – *Valletta*: The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) releases its yearly reference report, which shows that, in 2015, almost 1.4 million applications for international protection were made in the EU- the highest number since the beginning of EU level data collection in 2008. The highest numbers of asylum applicants recorded were citizens of Syria, the Western Balkan countries combined, and Afghanistan. The main receiving countries were Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Austria and Italy.

[www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/public/20160630%20Press%20release%20EASO%20AR%20on%20Asylum%20in%20EU%202015.doc](http://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/public/20160630%20Press%20release%20EASO%20AR%20on%20Asylum%20in%20EU%202015.doc)

#### Asylum

13 – *Brussels*: EC presents new proposals to complete the reform of the Common European Asylum System. The Commission proposes the creation of a common procedure for international protection, uniform standards for protection and rights granted to beneficiaries of international protection and the further harmonization of reception conditions in the EU. The changes will create a genu-

ine common asylum procedure and guarantee that asylum seekers are treated in an equal and appropriate manner, regardless of the Member State in which they make their application.

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-2433\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2433_en.htm?locale=en)

#### Dialogue

13 – *Madrid*: Focal points and representatives of the major institutions contributing to Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue, including the EEAS, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the ALF, the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UN-AOC), the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Inter-cultural Dialogue (KAICIID) and the UfM Secretariat gather to conduct a mapping exercise of existing tools and actions in this field, with the aim to identify areas of collaboration, establish coordination mechanisms and set out a roadmap towards a Euro-Mediterranean intercultural and interreligious dialogue regional agenda.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/institutional-partnership-to-strengthen-intercultural-and-interfaith-dialogue-in-the-euro-mediterranean-region/>

#### Culture

15-19 – *Amman*: Some 50 peers among cultural operators from nine Arab countries participate in three different capacity development workshops, organized by the EU-funded regional programme Med Culture. The first workshop aims at laying the foundations for successful sustainable collaborative work, which could have an impact on the development of cultural operators' career paths and enhancing the structuring of organizations within the cultural field. The second workshop looks into "Cultural Policies and the Value of Cultural Projects" and sheds some light on the interaction between cultural operators and their overall cultural and political environments. The third activity consists of two-day training on "Sustainability & Communication."

#### Climate

18-19 – *Tangiers*: The MedCOP Climate brings together more than 2,000 representatives from various countries in the Mediterranean Basin,

from civil society organizations and various regional/international organizations to economic stakeholders and experts. The aim of the second edition of the MedCOP Climate is to highlight current Mediterranean initiatives linked to climate action and to formulate innovative ideas in an attempt to achieve the goals set by the Paris Agreement. The event includes thematic workshops, conferences and round table discussions on issues related to climate change. It will also see the inauguration of a "Medina of Solutions," which will reveal a potential circular economy adapted to climate change through creative and innovative solutions in support of sustainability.

#### Civil Protection

20 – *Brussels*: The EU-funded PPRD SOUTH II (Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to natural and man-made Disasters) programme is holding its closing ceremony wrapping up three years of civil protection cooperation with the SMPs. The event, is an opportunity to highlight the importance of cooperation in disaster management, particularly with new emerging threats. It includes two conferences focusing on: the role of civil protection when facing multiple threats and mass casualties management, including terrorism attacks and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risks, with examples from Algeria and France; medical and public health preparedness and response facing CBRN risks. During this conference, CBRN Centre of Excellence (CBRN CoE) initiative in the Middle East, North Africa and Sahel region will be presented and a focus on two CBRN CoE projects will be proposed to participants.

#### Women

20 – *Amman*: The UfM EU-funded project "Development of clusters in cultural and creative industries in the South Mediterranean region" (Creative Mediterranean) supports a high-level Conference on "Promoting Women Empowerment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in North Africa and Middle East." The Conference presents an update report on constraints faced by women entrepreneurs in the region, discuss measures and policies

needed to promote women's economic empowerment, demonstrate the potential of Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) in creating economic opportunities for women; facilitate sharing of best practices of successful women entrepreneurs as role models.

[http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Concept-note-Amman\\_2306.pdf](http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Concept-note-Amman_2306.pdf)

## August

### SMEs

26 – *Amman*: The EU-funded project “Enhancement of the Business environment in the Southern Mediterranean” (EBESM) organizes a high-level seminar, on the “Role of Banks and Credit Guarantee schemes” to enhance financial inclusion for Jordanian MSMEs. The seminar gathers more than 60 participants, including policy-makers, financial institutions bankers, representatives of the private sector, think tanks, academia and of civil society from Jordan as well as entrepreneurs and EU experts. Discussions tackle the policies and the measures needed to ease MSME finance constraints and help them to grow, to be more competitive and thereby create jobs.

## September

### SMEs

14-15 – *Beirut*: Lebanese and Egyptian members of the “public-private dialogue mechanisms” (PPD) established in both countries to promote export and a green economy, as well as representatives of Chambers of Commerce, Association of Industrialists, Youth and Women Entrepreneurship Associations, come together to explore new ways of policy dialogue outreach mechanisms for specific public policies at a training workshop organised in the framework of the EU project EBESM. The workshop provides a forum for knowledge sharing and debates on three main dimensions in favour of SMEs reforms, namely: elaborating a strategy for policy advocacy, drafting evidence-based position papers and enhancing negotiating skills.

## Women

20-21 – *Skhirat*: In the framework of the UfM Regional Dialogue on women empowerment two working group meetings take place to review and discuss the efforts made in combating violence against women and gender stereotypes in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Participants stress the importance of a comprehensive approach to tackle the issues of violence against women and gender stereotypes and the necessity to improve the coordination and partnership between the key actors concerned, including the media and civil society. They identify social and cultural norms, the challenge of impunity and the enforcement of laws among the main and urgent issues to be addressed. Experts formulate a number of other key recommendations, including improving research and data collection, strengthening regional cooperation between countries and with key stakeholders, and promoting exchange of success stories and lessons learnt

## Energy

20-22 – *Beirut*: The EU-funded CES-MED project holds two workshops dealing with the preparation and presentation of SEAPs (Sustainable Energy Action Plans) and SECAPs (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans) to national authorities and municipalities. The objective is to introduce the overall benefits, content and steps to prepare SECAPs and ways to finance SECAP projects and to explain the content and the preparation modalities of SECAPs.

## Solar Energy

26/9-2/10 – *Palermo*: The Sun Med Festival, the first Solar Energy festival, organized by the “Small scale thermal solar district units for Mediterranean communities” (STS-Med) project, aims at highlighting the role of the sun in the evolution of the Mediterranean civilizations and the opportunities it offers for an eco-friendly future in this area. It features more than 50 events including meetings, workshops, hackathon, games, concerts and alternating workshops, talks and exhibits with some of the economy and innovation leaders. It marks the end of the STS-Med project, which was implemented to promote the

adoption of new technologies to improve energy efficiency in public and private buildings of the Mediterranean area.

## Employment

27 – *Dead Sea*: At the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour UfM Countries reaffirm their commitment to work together to address the challenges relating to employment, employability and decent work in the Mediterranean region, particularly for young people and women. Ministers assert the value of a common approach to address the issue of unemployment, particularly of young people and women, as a means to consolidate stability in the region. They also support an integrated two-track approach, which addresses both the demand-side and the supply-side of the labour market.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/UfM-Ministerial-Declaration-Employment-and-Labour.pdf>

## EU-Tunisia

29 – *Brussels*: A Joint Communication of the EC and HR Mogherini reaffirms the EU's commitment to Tunisia's democratic transition, sets out a number of measures that the EU could take collectively to enhance its support for Tunisia's efforts to address the critical challenges that the country is facing and promote long-term stability, resilience, good governance, socio-economic development, and security in the country. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/10746\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/10746_en)

## October

### Women

10-11 – *Barcelona*: Participants at the UfM 3rd high-level conference on women's empowerment “Women for the Mediterranean: Driving force for development and stability,” stress the necessity of a common vision and a regional framework to find concrete solutions to better mobilise the full potential of women. The Conference provided a regional dialogue forum where the 250 participants from more than 30 countries stressed the need to invest in the essential contribution of women as a re-

sponse to the current Mediterranean challenges, including inclusive growth, extremism and radicalization as well as migration challenges.

[http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Report-Conference\\_V21.12-V2.pdf](http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Report-Conference_V21.12-V2.pdf)

#### *Politics & Security*

**17 – Luxembourg:** The Foreign Affairs EU Council Adopts conclusions on the joint communication by the High Representative and the European Commission, “Strengthening EU Support for Tunisia.” In these conclusions, EU Foreign Ministers reaffirm their commitment to “fully supporting the consolidation of democracy in Tunisia.” This support must be reflected in a high-level political dialogue with Tunisia, reads the document. The ministers also call on Tunisia to continue to put into practice the new Constitution and implement reforms, especially the five-year development plan.

<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13056-2016-INIT/en/pdf>

#### *Sustainable Development*

**18 – Quito:** On the margin of the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the UfM organizes the networking event “Union for the Mediterranean – Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI): Towards a New Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean region.” The event brings together more than 100 participants, including several Ministers from UfM Member States, international and regional organizations and IFIs leaders, key urban development actors in the Mediterranean in order to develop future regional programmes and projects, with a view to addressing the region’s demographic and environmental challenges.

#### *Civil Society*

**19-21 – Tunis:** Civil society organizations (CSOs) from the Southern Mediterranean countries are invited to take part in a training on local Governance, communication skills and participatory approaches for policy development, to be organized by the EU-funded project Civil Society Facility South (CSF South). The workshop aims to mobilize CSOs to effectively engage in good local gov-

ernance, enhance CSOs communication skills for effective outreach, support CSOs in transforming policy priorities into actions through participation tools and to share good practice and lessons learned across the region.

#### *ALF*

**23-25 Valletta:** The 3rd Edition of the ALF organizes Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Intercultural Dialogue with civil society organizations from almost 50 countries alongside leading international organizations, the Forum represents – with its 800 participants – the largest single gathering of actors working on intercultural dialogue. The Malta Forum aims to tackle the unprecedented challenges in the Mediterranean region, particularly those affecting youth – unemployment, radicalization, migration - by fostering dialogue among the younger generations and improving inter-cultural relations.

[www.annalindhfoundation.org/forum2016](http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/forum2016)

#### *EESC*

**25 – Athens:** The 21th edition of the Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions focuses on topics including the promotion of legal migration, women participation in labour force, the role of the civil society in the view of the COP22, the coordination of social protection systems in the Euromed region and the ENP. 140 participants from Economic and Social Councils, representatives of employers, trade unions, other economic and social interests groups and NGOs from UfM countries members attend this edition.

[www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.press-releases.40698](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.press-releases.40698)

#### *Local Governance*

**26 – Barcelona:** A conference is hosted by the City Council of Barcelona to mark the 25th anniversary of MedCities, a Euro-Mediterranean municipal network working to promote cooperation in urban development initiatives. The event is inaugurated by UfM SG Sijlmassi, and is attended by the Mayors of Barcelona and Tetouan, the Co-president of ARLEM Markku Markkula, as well as stakeholders from cities throughout the re-

gion, including Croatia, Cyprus, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Spain. Participants welcome the upcoming UfM Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Urban Development as a “call for action” aiming at elaborating a comprehensive and operational action plan towards a New Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean region and following a cooperative approach that underscores the joint efforts of governments and key stakeholders from cities around the region.

#### *Tourism*

**26-27 – Petra:** The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities of Jordan hold a two-day conference, bringing together tourism stakeholders from the public, private, banking, investment and development sectors. Participants are working in the southern and eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) region and are driving tourism development on a national, regional or global level. This is the occasion to identify the challenges and best practices that are specific to the region, with a view to drafting comprehensive recommendations for tourism development in the future, encompassing the following three priority areas: Provide access to training and employment opportunities; Enhance resource and energy efficiency; Strengthen local Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. A declaration to ensure the development of a sustainable and inclusive tourism sector based on human rights and social and economic justice and equality is drafted.

[http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/final\\_petra-declaration\\_0.pdf](http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/final_petra-declaration_0.pdf)

## **November**

#### *Invest*

**2-3 – Marseille:** On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the ANIMA Investment Network ANIMA and their partners are organizing the EMEA (Europe – Middle East – Africa) Business Forum. The Forum is targeted at business and economic decision-makers from this region, and deals with the opportunities brought by the digital revolution

and the new frontiers of cooperation between Europe and the Mediterranean. The event is aimed at: corporations or entrepreneurs interested in promoting their company in the EMEA region, understanding these markets and developing business networks across the region

#### *EU-Lebanon*

*11 – Brussels:* During the EU-Lebanon Association Council a document on the Partnership Priorities for 2016-2020 and a Compact have been adopted. Four priorities have been agreed: security and countering terrorism, governance and rule of law, fostering growth and job opportunities, and migration and mobility. With regards to the Compact agreed by the EU and Lebanon, at least €400 million will be allocated in 2016-2017 to support the country's stabilization and address the impact of the Syrian crisis. The Compact sets out mutually agreed actions to provide an appropriate and safe environment for refugees from Syria and for host communities and vulnerable groups.

[www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/11/15-eu-lebanon-partnership/](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/11/15-eu-lebanon-partnership/)

#### *Climate Change*

*15 – Marrakesh:* The UfM Secretariat is participating in the UN Climate Change Conference to launch regional initiatives for the successful achievement of the Paris Agreement targets in the Euro-Mediterranean region. With the EC, the UfM launches the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform, which aims to ensure that all citizens and businesses of the region have access to secure, affordable and reliable modern energy services. The second initiative, the SEMED Private Renewable Energy Framework, is launched together with the EBRD. This €227.5 million financing framework aims to stimulate the development of private renewable energy markets in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-at-cop22-driving-a-shared-mediterranean-agenda-for-climate-action/>

## **December**

### *Energy*

*1 – Rome:* Energy Ministers from the 43 UfM countries gathers for the Euro-Mediterranean ministerial meeting on energy. They agree to step up regional cooperation on energy in order to deliver a secure, affordable and sustainable energy supply, a major factor for stability and shared prosperity in the Mediterranean region. Concrete initiatives will be carried out under the three UfM energy platforms covering the priority policy areas, namely the UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform (UfM REM Platform), the UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform (UfM REEE Platform) and the UfM Gas Platform. The UfM energy platforms are established for structured policy dialogue with a view to identifying concrete partnership actions and following up on their implementation. As such, they will play a central role in taking energy cooperation in the Mediterranean region forward.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/UfM-Ministerial-Declaration-on-Energy.pdf>

### *Human Rights*

*13 – Brussels:* The EP honours Nadia Murad and Lamiya Aji Bashar, two Iraqi Yazidi activists, with the 2016 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. The award recognizes their fight against the hardship and brutality perpetrated by Daesh, and their role as spokespersons for women afflicted by Daesh's campaign of sexual violence, as well as for their Yazidi community. EP President, Martin Schulz, called on the International Criminal Court to investigate the crimes committed by Daesh and recalled the Europe's duty to protect people persecuted by the group.

[www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20161209STO55334/iraqi-yazidi-activists-nadia-murad-and-lamiya-aji-bashar-receive-sakharov-prize](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20161209STO55334/iraqi-yazidi-activists-nadia-murad-and-lamiya-aji-bashar-receive-sakharov-prize)

### *Cross Border Cooperation*

*16 – Athens:* The ENI Cross Border Cooperation programme in the Mediter-

anean Basin (CBCMed) holds its launching conference "WE MED" gathering over 300 participants from the 13 Mediterranean countries involved in the Programme. Discussions shed light on the importance of developing impactful and long-lasting cooperation to address crucial challenges and make a positive contribution to the lives of men and women across the Mediterranean region. During the first session focuses on stories of Mediterranean cooperation starting from experiences of final beneficiaries from funded projects under the ENPI CBC Med Programme; while the second session tackles the growing challenges in the Mediterranean region - including security, migrations, impact of climate change, economic growth, youth unemployment - in view of highlighting the shared priorities and approaches which can help build new momentum in Euro-Mediterranean relations.

### *Culture*

*17-22 – Tunis:* The EU-funded Med Culture programme organizes two regional capacity-building activities in Tunisia with the participation of cultural actors from eight southern Mediterranean countries and a second meeting of the Tunisia national working group. The first activity (17-19 Dec.) is a regional workshop based on peer-to-peer exchanges on the theme of cultural entrepreneurship. Its objective is to explore the specificities of entrepreneurship in the cultural field, to provide the participants with the necessary resources, and to encourage them to create their own, tailor-made business model. The second regional workshop (19-21 Dec.), on the theme "Reinventing partnerships," examines the evaluation of the collaborative process, and analyses different models and practices that promote interactions between different stakeholders, including opportunities to collaborate with other sectors at multiple levels. A second meeting of the Tunisia national working group also takes place to take stock of the activities carried out to date and to present the action plan for the year 2017.