

# Euromed Chronology

## January

### *Greek Presidency*

1 – *Athens*: Greece starts its 5th Presidency of the Council of the EU underlining a major turning point for the future of the EU, ahead of the May 2014 European elections. The main priorities can be summarised as follows: growth and jobs, with a focus on alleviating unemployment – particularly among the young – and boosting job-creating investments in the real economy; deepening European and eurozone economic governance, which means working towards implementation of the agreement on the banking union and pursuing the European deposit guarantee scheme; and security of the common borders, including policies and initiatives for confronting illegal migration, as well as for promoting growth-oriented mobility within an area of freedom, security and justice.

<http://gr2014.eu/>

### *Humanitarian Aid*

15 – *Kuwait*: The European Commission pledges an extra €165 million for vital humanitarian assistance and for areas such as education and support to host communities and local societies for 2014 at the International Pledging Conference for Syria. This brings the total funding to over €1.1 billion since the start of the crisis, including €615 million in life-saving humanitarian aid alone.

### *Socio-Economic Development*

20 – *Brussels*: The EU adopts an assistance package worth €45 million to address socio-economic priorities ex-

pressed by the people, through concrete bilateral actions in Jordan, Libya and Tunisia. These actions directly benefit citizens in these countries and bring tangible results in the fields of agriculture, environment, migration and education. In Jordan, this support also aims to mitigate the consequences of the Syrian refugee crisis in the country.

### *Rural Development*

20 – *Brussels*: A project of €10 million for agricultural and rural development is approved by the EU in Tunisia as part of the Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) with the aim of sharing EU best practices and providing farmers and producers with the necessary skills to actively participate in reducing the vulnerability of poor and marginalised households. Reducing the socio-economic divide is a key priority in Tunisia's political transition process, with a focus on promoting inclusive agricultural policies that promote job creation and food production by small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises.

### *Anna Lindh Foundation*

29-31 – *Tunis*: ALF holds a meeting on "The role of citizens in building open and plural societies" gathering 80 civil society leaders and experts, representatives of ALF National Networks, and key partner institutions such as the League of Arab States (LAS). They tackle fields like education, intercultural citizenship, youth participation, social changes and media narratives.

[www.dawrak.org/en/news/alf-rethinking-role-citizens-arab-awakening](http://www.dawrak.org/en/news/alf-rethinking-role-citizens-arab-awakening)

## February

### *Audiovisual*

4 – *Amman*: A workshop for narrative film projects takes place under an initiative supported by the Med Film Factory project within the framework of the Euromed Audiovisual programme. The workshop is attended by the producers of several feature film projects from the Arab world. It includes one-to-one sessions with mentors, as well as the presentation of production case studies.

[www.medfilmfactory.com/](http://www.medfilmfactory.com/)

### *IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook*

7 – *Brussels*: The European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) presents the new edition of the IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook 2013 at the European Parliament. The presentation is presided over by the European ENP Commissioner Füle. This is the occasion for the commissioner to give an overview of the changing situation in the southern Mediterranean, express the willingness of the EU to support partners in the region who embark on political transitions and recall the pivotal role civil societies play in these processes.

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

### *Horizon 2020*

9 – *Cairo*: The EC organises a regional conference to launch Horizon 2020 in the Euromed region. The conference, "Meeting Euromed Common Challenges," brings together around 400 policymakers, researchers, representatives from academia and industry and research institutes, technology transfer centres, incubators, and technology platforms. Different parallel sessions at

the conference enable participants to share know-how, explore gaps and links between research and innovation, as well as develop an understanding of how research and innovation initiatives could create complementarities and synergies that allow leveraging potentials and addressing societal challenges in the region.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/egypt/press\\_corner/all\\_news/news/2014/20140209\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/egypt/press_corner/all_news/news/2014/20140209_en.pdf)

#### *Industrial Cooperation*

*19 – Brussels:* Representatives from more than 30 Euromed countries and partners gather at the UfM's 9th Ministerial Meeting on Euro-Mediterranean industrial cooperation. The aim is to enhance support for SMEs and further develop its ultimate ambition to create a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area. International and national business associations as well as international organisations are also present to contribute to the debate. Ministers adopt the new Euro-Mediterranean Industrial Cooperation Work Programme for the period 2014-2015.

#### *Anna Lindh*

*20 – Beirut:* ALF organises a forum on the participation of young people in local public life. In the framework of the Dawrak-Citizens for Dialogue Programme, the initiative is in cooperation with the Bureau of United Cities and Local Governments, and the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO. The Forum brings together 70 participants from Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, as well as experts from other countries. It is intended to share different experiences in the field of cooperation between local authorities, civil society and institutions, and to develop the capacity of civil society in the field of dialogue management at the local level.

#### *ARLEM*

*23 – 24 Tangier:* ARLEM (Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly) holds its 5th plenary session. On the agenda, besides the discussion and adoption of ARLEM's annual report on "The Territorial Dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean" and ARLEM's work programme, is the adoption of the

report of the Commission for Economic, Social and Territorial Affairs (ECOTER) on a cohesion strategy for the Mediterranean, and of the Commission for Sustainable Development (SUDEV), on urban mobility on the Mediterranean, as well as the new priorities for the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

#### *ALF*

*24 – 1 March, Tunis:* 60 participants from across the Arab world gather for the Arab Forum for Education for Intercultural Citizenship in the framework of the Dawrak Programme, organised by the ALF in cooperation with the UNESCO club Bardo, and addressed by Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki. They stress the idea that education for intercultural citizenship is key to achieving social cohesion, is as important as the culture of co-existence and is most crucial in the times of transition that many Arab countries are going through at present.

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

#### **March**

#### *ENP*

*15 – Brussels:* The new European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) comes into force with a budget of €15.4 billion for the period 2014-2020. The ENI replaces the ENPI (the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument) in supporting the implementation of the political initiatives that have shaped the ENP. "This Regulation establishes an ENI with a view to advancing further towards an area of shared prosperity and good neighbourliness involving the Union and [...] the partner countries by developing a special relationship founded on cooperation, peace and security, mutual accountability and a shared commitment to the universal values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights in accordance with the TEU" (Treaty on European Union).

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2014:077:0027:0043:EN:PDF>

#### *Education*

*15-17 – Amman:* The Arab Education Forum and the Istikshaf coalition organ-

ises a conference on "Advocating Mobility around the Mediterranean." The conference gathers more than 50 participants and aims to be a venue for sharing experiences in the Euro-Arab region on the impact of mobility for learning, allowing artists, social entrepreneurs, and young people to discuss their experiences of mobility and the impact it has had on their professional and personal trajectory.

<http://almoultaqa.com/defaulten.aspx>

#### *Industry*

*24-25 – Florence:* To mark the 10th anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue on the textile industry, the European Commission's DG Enterprise and Industry organises the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Creativity, Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Textile and Clothing Industry in the Euro-Mediterranean Area. The main objective of the conference, organised with the support of the TAIEX instrument and the European University Institute, is to exchange experiences regarding policies, practices and programmes about creativity, design, innovation and IPR as a substantial economic lever to improve brand image, sales and profitability of companies in the textile and clothing sector.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=7250&tpa=0&tk=&lang=en](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=7250&tpa=0&tk=&lang=en)

#### *Women*

*26-27 – Barcelona:* The Secretariat of the UfM holds an international project-oriented conference under the title "Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment: Projects for Progress." As an operational result from the Third Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society (Paris, 11 September 2013), the objective of the conference is to create a strong momentum for women's socio-economic empowerment in the region, and encourage the implementation of projects and initiatives in the field of gender affairs. This conference gathers more than 200 professionals dealing with gender equality from 35 countries.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/>

## April

### *Economic Cooperation*

1 – *Athens*: Finance Ministers of the EU and the Mediterranean partner countries gather for the 13th ECOFIN/FEMIP Ministerial Meeting, during which they confirm their support to the European Investment Bank's new 2014-2020 roadmap for the Mediterranean region. The key areas tackled include maintained support for private sector development, individual country strategies adapted to the needs of each partner country and facilitating Foreign Direct Investment of EU companies, potentially through awareness campaigns and new products.

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_BEI-14-76\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_BEI-14-76_en.htm)

### *Culture*

7 – *Brussels*: Professionals from the 16 Neighbourhood partner countries join colleagues from EU Member States and 10 strategic partners to discuss the impact of culture in foreign policy. They discuss proposed recommendations by experts, which could form the basis of a new EU strategy on the role of culture in the EU's external relations. The proposals follow a pilot initiative, launched by the European Parliament and led by the European Commission.

### *Education and Training*

8-9 – *Brussels*: The European Training Foundation (ETF) organises an international conference on qualification systems to discuss the findings of a recent ETF study on the subject and help partner countries reform their education and training systems to better meet labour market needs. The conference tackles three broad topics: making better qualifications, ensuring trust in qualifications and bringing qualifications closer to citizens.

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

### *Elections*

26-27 – *Egypt*: The EU deploys an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to Egypt for the Presidential Elections in response to an invitation by the authorities. The EU has been calling for credible and transparent elections, which allow universal participation, according

to international standards. The EOM is independent and will conduct an impartial assessment of the electoral process on the basis of all relevant election standards. A Core Team of 10 EU election analysts arrived in Cairo on 18 April; they are joined by 30 long-term observers on 25 April. 60 short-term observers are deployed on 21 May. A number of local short-term observers and a delegation from the European Parliament will be embedded in the EOM.

[www.eucom.eu/files/pressreleases/english](http://www.eucom.eu/files/pressreleases/english)

### *Higher Education*

27-28 – *Brussels*: The European Commission's DG Education and Culture organises the "Seminar on Quality assurance in Higher Education in Southern Mediterranean countries." This event gathers 91 participants – including 77 from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia – representing ministries of education, universities, quality assurance institutions, student organisations and national and regional organisations active in the higher education field. The seminar gives participants the chance to discuss the topic of quality assurance in depth and provides excellent networking opportunities.

### *Civil Society*

29-30 – *Brussels*: More than 150 civil society organisations from the Southern Neighbourhood and Europe gather for the first EU-Southern Neighbourhood Civil Society Forum. Participants from EU institutions, civil society, academia and the media discuss joint approaches for more inclusive, participatory and action-oriented dialogues between governments, EU institutions and civil society organisations.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2014/140428\\_01\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2014/140428_01_en.pdf)

## May

### *Libya*

8 – *Brussels*: EU Foreign Affairs Chief Ashton appoints Bernardino Leon as her personal Special Envoy for Libya. Mr Leon will facilitate, coordinate and enhance the EU's actions in support of the

Libyan people at a critical juncture for the country. The EU is deeply concerned by the significant deterioration of the political and security situation in Libya and has repeatedly condemned the continued violence across the country. Mr Leon reiterates the importance of an inclusive Libyan political dialogue and urges all parties to actively cooperate with UNSMIL to facilitate a ceasefire and the re-launch of the political process.

### *Environment*

13 – *Athens*: 43 UfM member countries gather for the Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change. As agreed by their Senior Officials Meeting in October 2013, the main topics of this Ministerial Meeting are the Horizon 2020 Initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean, climate change and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). The Ministers highlight the cross-sectorial nature of environment and climate change challenges and the importance of fostering growth and job creation, while ensuring better quality of life and a sustainable future.

### *Trade*

12-14 *Barcelona*: The UfM Secretariat hosts the 2nd technical meeting of the "Euro-Mediterranean Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism (TIFM): Training Workshop for Technical Focal Points." The project is implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC), a joint agency of UN and WTO, and it delivers the online information portal – Euromed Trade Helpdesk – as well as coordinating a TIFM problem resolving the network of national institutions, responsible for responding to enquiries posted on the online portal, so as to facilitate trade and investment.

### *Media*

30 – *Hammamet*: The 2nd Maghreb Press Forum takes place in the presence of key media players from Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia, as well as media trade unions and representatives of the European press. The Forum is organised at the initiative of the EU Delegation to Tunisia, in partnership with the Tunisian Federation of Media Editors, to discuss the

threats looming over the press in the Maghreb. The participants agree that the major obstacles that undermine the journalists' profession in the Maghreb region are mainly: the lack of economic viability of press companies, the precarious socio-economic conditions of journalists themselves, the attacks on journalists in sometimes uncertain political contexts and an inadequate legal and judicial framework that prevents the practice of independent journalism.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tunisia/documents/press\\_corner/cp1\\_forum\\_pressemagh\\_30mai2014\\_fr.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tunisia/documents/press_corner/cp1_forum_pressemagh_30mai2014_fr.pdf)

## June

### Energy

4 – *Amman*: The Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG) holds its 17th General Assembly, where it presents and discusses the strategy it is developing for 2020-2030, defining the role of regulators in establishing a Mediterranean Energy Community and the Mediterranean Forum on Energy Regulation to be held in November.

[www.medreg-regulators.org/](http://www.medreg-regulators.org/)

### Education

8-10 – *Alexandria*: 25 participants from European and southern Mediterranean countries, representing both the formal and non-formal education sectors take part in the 3rd Alexandria Education Convention organised by ALF and the Swedish Institute in Alexandria. The aim of the Convention is to gather the feedback of educators from the Euro-Mediterranean region on the draft contents of the "Education Handbook on Intercultural Citizenship in the Euro-Mediterranean Region," to be published by the end of 2014, and their suggestions for the development of a training scheme around this resource. Participants will act as multipliers of the programme for Intercultural Citizenship Education within their communities.

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

### PA-UfM

12 – *Barcelona*: Parliamentarians representing various member states of the UfM gather at the Secretariat for a

meeting of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM). Discussions focus on the developments of important UfM activities and projects in the fields of Energy and Climate change. The committee pays special attention to the Marine Protected Areas (MedPAN), "Let's Do It" and "Eco-towns" campaigns, as top items on the meeting's agenda. The meeting provides an opportunity for a fruitful exchange of views between the UfM Secretariat and the members of the PA-UfM on the latest relevant developments, such as the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate change, which took place in Athens on the 13 May.

### EU – Israel

25-26 – *Tel Aviv*: The Mission for Growth to Israel is organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry. Its Director General, Daniel Calleja, leads the event and he is accompanied by a business delegation of 32 companies and business federations, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from 13 EU Member States. The companies participate in a B2B matchmaking event held at the offices of the Manufacturers' Association of Israel (MAI). Some of the companies also join Mr. Calleja in various meetings he holds and fora that he addresses during his visit, including an EU-Israel SME Dialogue, where both sides give presentations on their own SME policies while the European and Israeli participants discuss key issues for SMEs.

<https://www.b2match.eu/m4g-israel2>

## July

### Italian Presidency

1 – *Rome*: Italy starts its Presidency of the Council of the EU and the presidency trio programme together with Latvia and Luxemburg until 31 December 2015. In the Italian Presidency Programme the Southern Neighbourhood will continue to be high on the agenda, focusing on specific countries engaged in transition, or experiencing conflict or instability. In addition, the EU will con-

tinue to follow events in Egypt closely, working with a new leadership to resume full cooperation, which has been hindered by recent events, while finding ways to help ensure that any democratic gains are not lost. In Libya, the EU will help to strengthen state institutions, and assist the central authorities manage risks associated with the rise of militias and the divisions within the country, which will be a test for EU diplomacy and programmes.

<http://italia2014.eu/>

### Fishery

15 – *Brussels*: European vessels are able to resume fishing in Moroccan waters after a suspension of more than two years, in return for financial assistance from the EU to the Moroccan fishery sector, as the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement enters into force. EU and Morocco conclude the four-year fisheries deal in December 2013, but its entry into force was pending ratification by Morocco. Now that both sides have concluded their ratification procedure, EU vessels receive certain fishing rights in Moroccan waters in return for financial assistance from the EU to develop the Moroccan fishery sector.

## August

### Employment

20 – *Cairo*: In the framework of the EU-funded project "Stabilising at-risk communities and enhancing migration management to enable smooth transitions in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya" (START), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) delivers an introductory workshop on Information, Counselling, and Referral Services. The main objectives of the meeting are to discuss and assess current structures of the Public Employment Services Offices and propose potential reforms. The main objective of START is to support the Governments of Egypt, Tunisia and Libya to stabilise at-risk communities and enhance migration management – helping to establish preconditions to smooth transition processes and sustainable recoveries in the three target countries.

[www.egypt.iom.int/](http://www.egypt.iom.int/)

*Politics and Security*

30 – *Brussels*: Italy's Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini is appointed as the next EU High Representative at a meeting of EU leaders in Brussels, succeeding Catherine Ashton, who is due to step down when the term of the current Commission ends on 31 October 2014. At a press conference following her nomination Minister Mogherini spoke about the international situation and the "huge challenges all around Europe, in Ukraine and Iraq, Syria, and Libya."

[http://eeas.europa.eu/top\\_stories/2014/300814\\_federica-mogherini-appointed\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/top_stories/2014/300814_federica-mogherini-appointed_en.htm)

**September***ENP*

10 – *Brussels*: In the newly elected President Jean-Claude Juncker's European Commission, the Austrian Johannes Hahn is appointed European Commissioner for ENP and Enlargement Negotiations, succeeding Štefan Füle, who is due to step down when the term of the current Commission ends on 31 October 2014. EC Hahn expresses his will to build connections, help regions to stand on their own feet, and through concrete action deliver to promote security and prosperity and communicate European values.

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-984\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-984_en.htm)

*EU – Libya*

17 – *Madrid*: The Spanish Foreign Minister, Garcia Margallo, organises a Ministerial conference on stability and development in Libya. The meeting gathers Secretariat of the UfM, Foreign Ministers from North Africa and high representatives of the EU, LAS and the African Union. The meeting aims to address the deteriorating security situation in Libya and its impact and consequences on its neighbouring countries and the Mediterranean region as a whole. The conference gives the Libyan Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Abdelaziz, as well as the new special envoy of the UN, Bernardino Leon, the opportunity to give a detailed overview of the situation in Libya as well as their views on the way forward.

*Civil Protection*

22-25 – *Rabat*: The EU-funded Civil Protection PPRD South II project (Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Natural and Human Disasters) organises the first regional workshop on the Host Nation Support mechanism (HNS). Several representatives of Civil Protection Services and Institutions involved in the crisis management of Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia take part in the workshop.

*Education & Training*

22-23 – *Beirut*: The French Agency for Development (AFD), European Training Foundation (ETF) and the Centre of Mediterranean Integration (CMI), in partnership with the EU delegation in Lebanon, hold a seminar entitled "Youth employability in Lebanon: the role of vocational education and training and entrepreneurship." The event is hosted by the Social and Economic Council. In attendance are 60 participants from the Lebanese ministries of education and labour, private businesses, international agencies, academia, young entrepreneurs and civil society organisations. The seminar develops actionable recommendations for reform of the vocational and technical education system and promotion of entrepreneurship as a strategy for job creation.

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

*Crisis Management*

29-1 October – *Hazmieh*: A crisis management workshop supported by the EU takes place, gathering municipal council members, representatives of local NGOs, of municipal police departments, social workers, heads and members of several social development centres. The training is focused on negotiation techniques, problem solving mechanisms, the mediator's role and the causes and dynamics of conflict. This workshop is organised in the framework of the EU-funded "Second Cycle of Capacity Building Programme for Local Leaders from Beirut Southern Suburbs on Crisis Management & Mediation."

*Telecommunication*

30 – *Brussels*: Digital Economy Ministers and representatives of ministries, the UfM Secretariat, telecoms regula-

tors, development banks and EU institutions gather for a UfM Ministerial meeting and pledge closer cooperation to reap the benefits of the digital economy for Euro-Mediterranean citizens, consumers and businesses. Participants agree to forge closer ties on the use of open data and e-government, and to step-up dialogue between national telecom regulators around the Mediterranean. They also agree to improve connectivity between scientific and research communities and to work on a long-term eHealth cooperation strategy.

*Higher Education*

30-1 October – *Rome*: A Conference on "The EU Neighbourhood Policy and Mediterranean Youth: The Key Role of Training and Mobility" is organised by the Union of Mediterranean Universities (UNIMED) in collaboration with the French Embassy in Italy/Institut Français d'Italie and Sapienza University of Rome. The conference brings together EU and Euro-Mediterranean decision-makers, education stakeholders and university representatives from both shores of the Mediterranean to discuss the establishment and implementation of mobility and capacity building tools in the Mediterranean, to make proposals in view of strengthening the integration of Mediterranean universities in the European Higher Education Area and to propose initiatives for cooperation with universities from the countries in crisis to promote solidarity and mutual support within the academic community.

**October***Civil Society*

13 – *Amman*: A regional civil society seminar, as part of an initiative to create mechanisms for a structured regional dialogue between civil society, authorities and the EU, brings together 55 participants, including mainly civil society representatives from Jordan and the Southern Neighbourhood, a few European CSOs and experts, as well as members of the EU diplomatic corps in Jordan.

*Employment*

15 – *Barcelona*: With the broader goal of fostering regional employment op-

portunities, and under the framework of the Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs), the UfM Secretariat hosts a workshop on job intermediation and placement services in North Africa and the Levant at its headquarters. The UfM Secretariat holds this dialogue platform to foster the exchange of best practices on job intermediation, facilitate cooperation between local and regional actors, identify successful practices for potential replication and up-scaling, as well as to explore areas for possible UfM intervention and support under Med4Jobs.

#### *EU – Palestinian Authority*

**20 – Ramallah:** EU and Palestinian Authority officials meet as part of an annual policy dialogue. Two separate sub-committees participate in the meeting: one on economic and financial matters, and one on energy, transport, climate change, environment and water. Officials from the EU and their counterparts at the relevant Palestinian Authority Ministries (including Ministries of Finance, National Economy, and Transportation), Palestinian Water Authority, Environment Quality Authority, and Palestinian Energy and National resources Authority engage in detailed exchanges on the latest developments in these important areas of cooperation between the EU and Palestine.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/westbank/documents/news/2014/20141020\\_eu\\_pa\\_sub-committee\\_meeting\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/westbank/documents/news/2014/20141020_eu_pa_sub-committee_meeting_en.pdf)

#### *Tourism*

**24 – Tunis:** A TAIEX seminar opens on the implementation of a “Tunisia Tourism Quality Label.” Tourism professionals coming from European administrations and Tunisian tourism stakeholders can exchange good practices in order to promote capacities reinforcement linked to quality service to tourists in line with the European and international standards. The TAIEX seminar aims at supporting the creation of such a label in the interest of participation, transparency and public/private partnership. In the framework of the implementation of the Tunisian tourism strategy “VISION 3+1,” the quality/training approach is one of the three key pillars of the reform,

together with offer diversification/regionalisation and branding.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tunisia/documents/press\\_corner/cp\\_taieux\\_tourisme\\_24oct\\_fr.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tunisia/documents/press_corner/cp_taieux_tourisme_24oct_fr.pdf)

#### *Racism*

**27-28 – Jerusalem:** The 8th seminar on the fight against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism gathers officials, diplomats and experts from Israel, the European Commission, the EU’s Fundamental Rights Agency, the European External Action Service and several EU Member States. Over the two days, the participants discuss policies and tools aimed at combating racism and xenophobia, with a particular focus on anti-Semitism. In this context, data, trends and EU measures to combat racism and anti-Semitism figured prominently on the agenda. A specific session is devoted to cyber-hate – a growing and worrying phenomenon for both the EU and Israel.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/israel/press\\_corner/all\\_news/news/2014/20141028\\_1\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/israel/press_corner/all_news/news/2014/20141028_1_en.htm)

#### *ALF*

**27-30 – Naples:** On the occasion of its 10th Anniversary, the ALF holds a conference in Naples, under the Italian Presidency of the EU, to address the role of civil society in facing social crises and unprecedented violence in the region. EU Commissioner Füle, addresses participants opening the high-level debate. The Naples conference on “The Next Chapter of Mediterranean Dialogue” brings together 250 delegates from the 42 countries of the UfM, including civil society networks, regional institutions, media and political leaders. Their purpose is to exchange proposals, coordinate international efforts and define the next chapter of intercultural dialogue for the Mediterranean in the face of social crises, cultural regression and unprecedented violence in the region.

#### *Water*

**28-30 – Athens:** Some 100 water specialists and stakeholders from the Mediterranean region, both from within and outside the water sector, including public authorities and civil society and private sector representatives, attend the

first Regional Conference of the UfM-labelled project on “Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector.” The three-day conference aims to present the outcomes of the National Water Policy Dialogues conducted in Jordan and Tunisia during the project’s first year of implementation (2013-2014) and discuss the way forward for the second year and the project’s imminent implementation in Palestine, set to start in November. It also aims to build on the regional dialogue initiated at the project’s launch in May 2014. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity to share national experiences on sustainable water governance and financing and call for further South-South as well as North-South cooperation.

#### *Elections*

**October-November:** In response to an invitation by the Tunisian authorities, the European Union has deployed its Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to observe the upcoming elections in Tunisia. The EU EOM arrived with a Core Team of eight experts on 17 September in Tunis. A second group of 28 long-term observers join the EU EOM on 29 September and another 28 short-term observers will be deployed on 21 October throughout the country, together with a delegation of the European Parliament for the election days. Additionally, a significant number of locally recruited short-term observers from diplomatic representations of EU Member States in Tunisia will also take part in the observation. The EU EOM will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the entire electoral process based on a long-term observation in line with domestic law as well as regional and international standards.

[http://eeas.europa.eu/eucom/mis-sions/2014/tunisia/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/eucom/mis-sions/2014/tunisia/index_en.htm)

## **November**

#### *Water*

**3-4 – Naples:** Under the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU and with the support of the European Commission, the National Research Council of Italy organises the conference “EuroMED Cooperation - Inland and

Marine Water Challenges,” aimed at enhancing international cooperation on research and innovation in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The conference is designed as a two-day conference – four parallel thematic workshops and a plenary session – embracing present scientific and political debate for the identification of urgent challenges related to the proper management of inland and marine waters, with special emphasis on their links, and the impacts on society and sustainable economic growth.

[www.euromed-imwc.eu/index.html](http://www.euromed-imwc.eu/index.html)

#### Women

5-6 – *Brussels*: The European Commission, the European Parliament and UN Women kick off the two-day Spring Forward for Women conference at the European Parliament headquarters. The conference brings together women lawmakers from the Arab States and members of the EP. Participants share their experience in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in both the EU and the Arab States. The delegation of women parliamentarians from the Arab States region includes representatives from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the Arab Parliament. Arab States’ parliamentarians participate in the meetings of the European Parliament Delegations working on the Arab States and exchange experiences and perspectives with fellow parliamentarians on the situation in their respective regions and countries.

#### ARLEM

10 – *Cairo*: Representatives of local and regional authorities from the Mediterranean partner countries as well as members of the Committee of the Regions meet to discuss the work programme of the UfM and the implementation of the ENP at the local and regional level. The meeting is chaired by ARLEM co-Presidents. Participants also discuss the priorities for the next ARLEM mandate 2015-2017, which is strategically placed within the work programme of the UfM.

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/ARLEM-bureau-luxor.aspx>

#### Private Sector

14 – *Barcelona*: Over 25 private sector representatives from more than 10 countries together with the Heads of Cooperation from EU Delegations in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia take part in a seminar organised by the UfM and the European Commission to discuss the main challenges for private sector development in the region, as well as identify possible joint initiatives and innovative projects (including public-private partnerships – PPPs) to facilitate private sector growth. With a particular focus on job creation, participants discuss specific examples on how private sector growth can reduce unemployment, and discuss ways to disseminate success stories.

#### Energy

18-19 – *Rome*: Energy Ministers of Euro-Mediterranean countries as well as representatives of financial institutions, associations of regulators, transmission system operators and industry gather at the Italian Foreign Ministry for a conference on “Building a Euro-Mediterranean energy bridge.” The conference aims at strengthening cooperation among Euro-Mediterranean partners in order to deal with emerging energy challenges and concerns for energy security.

<http://italia2014.eu/en/news/post/novembre/un-ponte-energetico-sul-mediterraneo/>

#### Water

25-27 – *Murcia*: The 2nd Mediterranean Water Forum takes the current geopolitical situation in the Mediterranean region into consideration to become an important step for exchange and consolidation of know-how and experiences in the field of water in the Mediterranean. The event is structured around the preparatory process for the 7th World Water Forum, set to take place from 12 to 17 April 2015 in Daegu, South Korea.

[http://www.promosciences.com/ime2014/intro\\_en.html](http://www.promosciences.com/ime2014/intro_en.html)

#### Energy

26 – *Barcelona*: The EU-supported Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG) holds the 1st edition of the Mediterranean Forum on Energy

Regulation, supported by the European Commission with the objective of creating a Mediterranean Energy Community. Dedicated to “Regulation & Investments: Solutions for the Mediterranean Region,” the forum represents a unique opportunity to review the current state of thinking on the relationship between energy regulation and investments, identify the main challenges and risks and assess how they can be addressed both at regional and sub-regional level. Three key issues are addressed: the roadmap for a Mediterranean energy community, how to face the challenge of market-based regulation and where to find the money to build grids and support generation projects.

[www.medreg-regulators.org/Portals/45/forum/home/Press\\_release.zip](http://www.medreg-regulators.org/Portals/45/forum/home/Press_release.zip)

#### December

##### ALF

1-2 – *Alexandria*: The ALF holds a major conference focused on “civil society building open and pluralistic societies.” The conference “Moltaqa” (‘Gathering’ in Arabic) brings together more than 200 civil society leaders from across the Arab region, in addition to representatives of CSOs from Europe and international institutions. There are more than 300 civil society leaders from nine Arab ‘Mediterranean’ countries – Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia – in addition to representatives from 20 European countries. The conference is built on a series of working sessions including themes such as “How to use Arts to reach the wider society,” “Learning Tools on Intercultural Citizenship,” “Debating Skills and Young Arab Voices,” and “Youth Participation in Local Governance.”

##### Audiovisual

2-3 – *Tunis*: The EU’s Euromed Audiovisual III programme hosts the “Mediterranean Film Forum.” Almost 100 film and audiovisual professionals from Europe and the southern Mediterranean region participate in the event held on the sidelines of the Carthage Film Festival. As the programme’s activities draw to a close after four years of supporting the development of southern Mediterranean film

and audiovisual sectors, the forum aims to review results and discuss future priorities in important key areas identified by professionals and national authorities. These include film financing and film co-production, film distribution and film education, and collecting data on the region's film and audiovisual markets.

<http://www.euromediaaudiovisuel.net/p.aspx?t=news&mid=21&l=en&id=2096>

#### Transport

*9-10 – Civitavecchia Port:* The UfM High-Level Conference on the Financing of the Future Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T) gathers over 120 participants in an event attended by Jordanian Transport Minister Lina Shbeeb, in her capacity as Co-Chair of the UfM, as well as by the main European and international financial institutions, donors and private companies. The event provides an opportunity for dialogue among project promoters, donors and beneficiaries to discuss how to mobilise and coordinate all potential partners towards the effective implementation of the TMN-T Network and its priority projects within the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). Moreover, about 30 speakers participating in the conference propose innovative instruments and alternative ways of funding with an emphasis on the role of the private sector. UfM Secretary General Sijilmassi announces the launch of a consultative platform to coordinate the European and international financial institutions building the construction of the financial framework of the flagship regional transport projects. This support would reinforce efforts by the Secretariat to improve the instruments for project assessment and implementation. <http://ufmsecretariat.org/conference-financing-tmnt/>

#### Cooperation

*12 – Rome:* The NextMed Conference brings together over 500 people from the whole Mediterranean area to assess the achievements and new challenges facing cross-border cooperation in the Mediterranean. Enhanced cooperation among countries of the region under the new European Neighbourhood Instrument is highlighted as a contribution to

a more integrated Mediterranean region, from the economic, political, social and cultural points of view. Participants also focus on the strategy of the ENI CBC Med Programme for 2014-2020. The discussions offer an overview of the four thematic objectives and 11 priorities tackled by the new Programme: Business and SMEs development; Education, research, technological development and innovation; Social inclusion and fight against poverty; Environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation

<http://www.enpicbcmec.eu/communication/nextmed-conference-over-500-participants-attend-launch-new-phase-cross-border-cooperat>

#### ARLEM

*14-15 – Antalya:* ARLEM organises its 6th Plenary Session. Local and regional representatives from EU Member States and Euro-Mediterranean countries discuss various important topics, ranging from migration to waste management and urban governance. The plenary session begins with the presentation and the adoption of the annual report on "The state of the territorial dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean," which also sets political recommendations for the coming years. ARLEM insists that the EU must continue to be the primary strategic partner for the countries to the south and east of the Mediterranean, helping them towards a prosperous and peaceful future. This is followed by a debate on the state of decentralisation in the Euromed region.

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/ARLEM-antalya.aspx>

#### EU-Morocco

*16 – Brussels:* The EU and Morocco hold their 12th Association Council meeting. Both parties take stock of the achievements and progress made since the previous session, in December 2013, and review the process of reforms in Morocco, as well as the next steps to be taken. The meeting was co-chaired by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini and Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Salaheddine Mezouar. The EU reiterates its readiness to sup-

port Morocco in implementing its reform process, particularly through the Action Plan 2013-2017 within the framework of the ENP and through substantial resources being made available

[www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/FR/foraff/146306.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/FR/foraff/146306.pdf)

#### Environment

*17 – Barcelona:* National representatives in charge of Environmental Policy from more than 20 Mediterranean countries join participants from international financial institutions, regional organisations and other key stakeholders in adopting a strategic document outlining the key objectives over the next five years for the H2020 Initiative for a cleaner Mediterranean as regards investments in pollution reduction, review and monitoring, capacity building and research. With a clear indication from the ministers to step up efforts, the unanimously-adopted document recognises the need to reinforce investment activities in pollution reduction, with a wider thematic scope, information sharing and closer cooperation and synergies. During discussions, participants validate the work of ongoing efforts and the initiative's first phase. In particular, they call for more integration among the programme's different components as well as with other regional initiatives and processes for more efficiency and complementarity, especially as regards capacity building.

#### Humanitarian Assistance

*22 – Brussels:* The EC is releasing €2 million in emergency funding to assist scores of Libyans who have been forced to flee their homes because of worsening violence in the country. The funding will provide essential humanitarian assistance and protection to the most vulnerable people affected by the conflict. It will be used to provide food, shelter, medical assistance and psychosocial support. The approaching winter will also increase the need for warm clothing, heaters and insulated shelter. It is estimated that nearly 400,000 people have been displaced due to fighting in Libya since May 2014.

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-2841\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-2841_en.htm?locale=en)