

Chronologies

Euromed Chronology

January 2025

Green Transition

14 January – Mediterranean region: The Interreg NEXT MED Programme launches an €83.7 million call for green transition projects. The call covers more than 100 eligible territories and requires partnerships involving organizations from at least three countries, with dedicated funding for youth-led initiatives and joint action on climate resilience, decarbonization, water, energy and the circular economy. Projects must be genuinely cross-border and include partners from both shores of the Mediterranean. www.interregnextmed.eu/call-for-proposals-on-green-transition-projects-launched-e83-7-million-for-a-climate-resilient-mediterranean/.

Humanitarian Aid

16 January – Brussels: The European Commission announces a new €120 million humanitarian aid package for Gaza. The support targets urgent needs in food security, healthcare, water, sanitation, shelter and protection, while the EU continues coordinating deliveries with humanitarian partners and regional actors. The funding is channelled through humanitarian organizations already operating on the ground and complements the EU's logistical and diplomatic efforts to keep assistance flowing. https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-announces-new-eu120-million-humanitarian-aid-package-gaza-2025-01-16_en.

Regional Investment

16 January – London: The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development reports record annual investment of more than €2.4 billion in the southern and

eastern Mediterranean. Almost half of the financing supports the green economy, while a large share of projects includes measures on gender equality, human capital and the reduction of inequalities. Across Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and the West Bank and Gaza, the bank finances 50 new projects and mobilizes €514 million from other investors. www.ebrd.com/home/news-and-events/news/2025/EBRD-delivers-record-investment-in-SEMED-region.html.

Syrian Refugees

20 January – Brussels: The European Commission allocates €235 million in humanitarian assistance for Syrians inside the country and in neighbouring refugee-hosting states. The package supports protection, food, health, shelter, education and basic services at a moment of political transition and persistent regional displacement. The allocation extends support beyond Syria to neighbouring countries that continue to host large refugee populations. https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/middle-east-and-northern-africa/syria_en.

Fisheries Control and Blue Economy

22 January – Brussels: The final conference of the EU-funded e-FishMed project reviews three years of regional cooperation against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Implemented by the European Fisheries Control Agency, the initiative creates a virtual regional academy for fisheries control and inspection and supports the application of Mediterranean conservation measures. Beneficiary countries include Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/project-e-fishmed.

EU-Jordan

29 January – Brussels: The EU and Jordan launch a Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership supported by a €3 billion financial and investment package for 2025-2027. The partnership expands cooperation on economic resilience, investment, security, migration, human capital, green transition and regional peace and stability. The package combines grants, macro-financial assistance and investment mobilization over the 2025-2027 period. It also gives a stronger political framework to cooperation on regional crises, including Gaza and Syria, while recognizing Jordan's role as a stabilizing partner and a major host country for refugees. https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-and-jordan-launch-multi-billion-euro-partnership-tackle-shared-challenges-and-opportunities-2025-01-29_en.

February 2025

EU Mediterranean Policy

3 February – Brussels: The European Commission establishes the Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf. The new DG becomes the Commission's entry point for the region and is tasked with developing partnerships on investment, jobs, energy, transport, security, migration and resilience under the responsibility of the Commissioner for the Mediterranean. Its creation gives the southern Mediterranean a dedicated administrative structure within the Commission and places the region higher on the EU's institutional agenda. The Directorate-General is also expected to coordinate the preparation and implementation of the Pact

for the Mediterranean and the EU's strategic partnerships with southern neighbours.

https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/one-sea-three-continents-new-directorate-general-strengthen-mediterranean-and-gulf-partnerships-2025-02-03_en.

Judicial Cooperation and Counterterrorism

9-11 February – Cairo: The first high-level conference on International Judicial Cooperation in Countering Terrorism brings together more than 50 delegates from 19 Arab League countries, the European Union and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Organized through the EU-funded CT JUST programme, the meeting examines practical obstacles to extradition, mutual legal assistance and evidence-sharing across different legal systems. It also prepares the first institutional meeting between an Arab League delegation and Eurojust, intended to establish more operational links between judicial authorities while maintaining commitments to international law and human rights.

https://fpi.ec.europa.eu/news/strengthening-international-judicial-cooperation-counterterrorism-key-takeaways-high-level-2025-02-12_en.

UfM Reform

12-14 February – Barcelona: Representatives of governments, EU institutions, regional organizations, civil society and research networks discuss the future vision, mandate and resources of the Union for the Mediterranean. The consultation links the UfM reform process with the forthcoming Pact for the Mediterranean and the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Process. The discussions form part of a broader reform intended to strengthen the UfM's political relevance, budgetary sustainability and capacity to deliver regional projects. Participants also examine how the organization can complement the EU's emerging Pact without duplicating institutions, while retaining its distinctive 43-member, co-owned framework.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-open-consultation/>.

EU-Palestine Trade

26 February – Ramallah: Team Europe launches the EU4Trade programme to improve Palestinian export capacity, support businesses and strengthen economic resilience. Implemented through a Team Europe approach, the programme combines technical assistance on standards, customs, market access and trade procedures with direct support for Palestinian firms. It seeks to preserve productive capacity and employment, diversify export opportunities and connect businesses more effectively to European and regional value chains.

www.eumedbridge.eu/news/the-eu-is-strengthening-palestinian-trade-economic-growth/.

March 2025

Trade

1 March – Tunisia: Tunisia and the EU begin applying the revised preferential rules of origin negotiated under the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention. The change is intended to simplify trade, strengthen regional value chains and improve Tunisian exporters' access to European and Mediterranean markets. The revised framework application is presented as a practical step towards deeper Euro-Mediterranean economic integration.

www.eumedbridge.eu/news/tunisia-eu-trade-tunisian-exporters-can-benefit-early-from-revised-preferential-rules-of-origin/.

Maritime Security

11 March – Brussels: The Council of the European Union extends the mandate of EUNAVFOR MED IRINI until March 2027 and broadens its maritime monitoring tasks. The operation continues to support enforcement of the UN arms embargo on Libya and contributes to security and stability in the central Mediterranean. IRINI retains its central task of inspecting vessels and gathering information to help enforce the UN arms embargo. Its secondary responsibilities include disrupting illicit oil exports and trafficking networks and supporting Libyan capacity-building.

www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/11/mediterranean-sea-council-prolongs-the-mandate-of-operation-irini-until-2027/.

EU-Syria

17 March – Brussels: The ninth Brussels Conference, "Standing with Syria: Meeting the Needs for a Successful Transition," brings together Syrian representatives, the EU and international and regional partners. The conference addresses humanitarian needs, recovery, refugee-hosting communities and support for an inclusive Syrian-led political transition. The meeting mobilizes international funding for Syrians inside the country and for refugee-hosting communities in neighbouring states. The EU pledges €2.5 billion for 2025 and 2026 and links assistance to an inclusive transition, protection of minorities, accountability and the gradual creation of conditions for recovery and voluntary return.

www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/standing-with-syria-conference_en.

April 2025

Parliamentary Cooperation

2-4 April – Granada: The Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean holds its Forum on the Future of the Mediterranean. Parliamentarians discuss peace, migration, climate change, youth employment, gender equality and regional cooperation and adopt the Granada Declaration as a contribution to the renewal of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The Granada Declaration calls for renewed multilateralism, stronger parliamentary involvement and practical cooperation between the two shores. By bringing national and European parliamentarians into the debate, the forum adds a democratic and representative dimension to discussions on the Pact for the Mediterranean and the future role of the UfM.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/event/forum-future-mediterranean/>.

Pact for the Mediterranean

8 April – Brussels: The EuroMeSCo Consultation Circles are launched to collect proposals for the future Pact for the Mediterranean. The process brings together think tanks, civil society, youth, private-sector actors and public officials and is followed by regional consultations in Rabat, Cairo and Brussels. The consultation process is designed to move beyond

government-to-government diplomacy and incorporate regional expertise into the Pact's architecture. Discussions address co-ownership, governance, investment, mobility, social inclusion and the role of civil society, with recommendations from the different circles consolidated for transmission to the European Commission. www.euromesco.net/.

Research and Science Diplomacy

8 April – Online: The UfM Regional Platform on Research and Innovation launches working groups on researcher mobility and capacity building, open data and digitalization, and the scalability of innovation. The three groups bring together national authorities, researchers and institutional partners to formulate practical recommendations. Their work covers obstacles to researcher mobility, the use of interoperable data systems and mechanisms for turning successful pilot projects into regional solutions, thereby supporting a more connected Mediterranean research area. <https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-platform-research-innovation-2025/>.

Employment and Inclusive Growth

11 April – Barcelona: The UfM reviews the results of grant schemes supporting employment, entrepreneurship and inclusive growth in 11 countries. Projects presented at the dialogue focus on green jobs, digital trade, women and youth entrepreneurship, vulnerable groups and practical cooperation between public, private and civil-society actors. www.eumedbridge.eu/news/ufm-dialogue-showcases-grant-schemes-outreach-across-11-ufm-countries/.

EU-Palestine

14 April – Brussels: The first EU-Palestinian High-Level Political Dialogue launches a multiannual programme of up to €1.6 billion for Palestinian recovery and resilience. The package combines budget support, institutional reform, private-sector development and investment with continued assistance for essential public services. The programme covers the 2025-2027 period and combines grants, loans and guarantees with support for governance and public-finance reform. https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-announces-multiannual-programme-palestinian-recovery-and-resilience-worth-eu16-billion-2025-04-14_en.

[announces-multiannual-programme-palestinian-recovery-and-resilience-worth-eu16-billion-2025-04-14_en](https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-announces-multiannual-programme-palestinian-recovery-and-resilience-worth-eu16-billion-2025-04-14_en).

May 2025

EU-Tunisia

9 May – Tunis: The EU and Tunisia mark the 30th anniversary of their Association Agreement. The commemoration reviews three decades of political, economic, social, academic and cultural relations and provides a reference point for the future of the bilateral partnership within the changing Euro-Mediterranean framework. The 1995 agreement was among the first association agreements concluded with a southern Mediterranean partner and created the framework for trade, political dialogue and sectoral cooperation. www.eumedbridge.eu/news/eu-delegation-in-tunisia-celebrates-europe-day-and-30th-anniversary-of-the-association-agreement/.

Energy and Climate

12-13 May – Kuwait: The fifth UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum connects Mediterranean, European and Gulf stakeholders around renewable energy, green hydrogen, infrastructure and climate finance. The forum extends the UfM's cooperation beyond its traditional geography and connects Mediterranean needs with Gulf capital and expertise. Panels focus on creating bankable projects, reducing investment risk and developing cross-border infrastructure capable of supporting renewable energy, interconnections and emerging green-hydrogen markets. www.eumedbridge.eu/news/interreg-next-med-at-the-5th-union-for-the-mediterranean-energy-and-climate-business-forum-in-kuwait/.

EU-Egypt Research

14 May – Brussels and Cairo: The EU and Egypt conclude negotiations on Egypt's association with Horizon Europe. The agreement opens the programme more fully to Egyptian universities, researchers and innovators and strengthens cooperation in science, technology and research as part of the Strategic and Comprehensive Partner-

ship. Association gives Egyptian entities access to Horizon Europe calls on conditions similar to those of EU Member States. The step is expected to expand joint research, researcher mobility and participation in consortia addressing health, climate, energy, food security and digital transformation.

https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-and-egypt-successfully-conclude-negotiations-horizon-europe-2025-05-14_en.

EU-Syria

28 May – Brussels: The EU adopts the legal acts lifting most economic sanctions on Syria while maintaining security-related restrictions and targeted listings. The decision is intended to facilitate recovery, economic activity and an inclusive and peaceful transition while preserving safeguards against repression and destabilization. The measure follows the change of government in Damascus and the EU's decision to support economic recovery and re-engagement. Restrictions related to arms, internal repression and security risks remain in place, together with targeted measures against individuals and entities. www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/05/28/syria-eu-adopts-legal-acts-to-lift-economic-sanctions/.

June 2025

Mediterranean Connectivity

9 June – Nice: The Summit for a Connected Mediterranean gathers leaders and regional organizations to promote land, maritime, energy and digital connectivity. The UfM presents connectivity as a driver of resilience and prosperity and announces flagship Blue Mediterranean Partnership projects intended to mobilize major investment by 2030. The Blue Mediterranean Partnership is presented as a key financing vehicle, with the ambition of mobilizing more than €1 billion for sustainable blue-economy investment by 2030.

www.eumedbridge.eu/news/ufm-secretary-general-advocates-for-connectivity-as-a-driver-of-resilience-and-prosperity-at-mediterranean-summit-in-nice/.

Civil Society

11-12 June – Brussels: The final Euro-MeSCo Consultation Circle consolidates contributions gathered in Brussels, Rabat and Cairo for the Pact for the Mediterranean. Civil society, researchers, policymakers, youth and private-sector representatives call for a co-owned framework with inclusive governance, practical implementation and stronger people-to-people cooperation. Participants stress that the Pact should have transparent governance, measurable implementation and sustained participation by civil society, youth, researchers and economic actors, rather than functioning solely as an intergovernmental policy framework.
www.euromesco.net/.

Culture and Intercultural Dialogue

18-20 June – Tirana: The Anna Lindh Forum 2025 brings together civil-society networks and institutions from across the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. Around one thousand participants from the 43 Euro-Mediterranean partner countries take part in debates, workshops and cultural activities. The forum addresses polarization, trust, youth participation and intercultural cooperation.
www.annalindhfoundation.org/.

Palestinian Refugees

23 June – Brussels: The EU disburses €202 million to the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA. The support helps maintain essential public services and provides assistance to Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The disbursement forms part of the EU's wider multiannual support for Palestinian institutions and humanitarian services.
https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/unrwa-and-palestinian-authority-receive-eu202-million-support-ensure-key-services-ground-2025-06-23_en.

Green Transition

24-26 June – Brussels: The second Mediterranean Green Week brings together governments, experts, youth and civil society from the 43 UfM member states. Sessions cover clean energy, regional energy security, climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, pollu-

tion, the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus, gender-sensitive policies and green employment. The second edition reviews progress on regional climate and environmental priorities and combines political dialogue with technical sessions.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/euro-mediterranean-countries-renew-climate-ambition-and-cooperation-at-2nd-mediterranean-green-week-in-brussels/>.

Transport Connectivity

26 June – Online: The UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity and its working groups on land, air, maritime transport and logistics review progress towards better integrated and more sustainable regional networks. The discussions link infrastructure, trade facilitation, decarbonization and resilience across the Mediterranean. The platform assesses progress under the regional transport agenda and coordinates specialized work on roads, rail, aviation, ports and logistics.

www.eumedbridge.eu/news/ufm-regional-platform-on-transport-reviews-progress-to-boost-transport-connectivity-in-the-mediterranean/.

July 2025

Sustainable Tourism and Employment

2-3 July – Athens: The UfM, in partnership with the German Development Cooperation and the EC, convenes a regional conference under the title "The Tourism Sector: Employment-Related Opportunities and Challenges." The conference examines the role of tourism in Mediterranean employment, skills, innovation and resilience. Governments, businesses and sectoral organizations discuss how to improve training, private-sector participation and sustainability in one of the region's most important economic activities. Tourism remains a major source of employment and foreign exchange but is increasingly exposed to climate risks, geopolitical instability and skills shortages.

www.eumedbridge.eu/news/unlocking-economic-potential-in-challenging-times-ufm-conference-on-tourism-explores-the-cross-cutting-benefits-of-tourism-for-the-region/.

UfM and Syria

8 July – Brussels: UfM Senior Officials advance the organization's new strategic framework and welcome Syria's return to full participation after 14 years of self-suspension. The development links Syria's regional reintegration with recovery, reconstruction and renewed multilateral cooperation. The meeting also advances the new UfM Strategic Vision and preparations for the tenth Regional Forum. Syria's return has particular political significance because it restores participation in the only intergovernmental organization that brings together all EU Member States and the countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-senior-officials-meet-in-brussels-to-advance-new-strategy-and-welcome-syrias-resumption-of-membership/>.

EU-UfM Coordination

9 July – Barcelona: Commissioner Šuica visits the UfM headquarters to align the EU Pact for the Mediterranean with the organization's emerging strategic vision. Discussions focus on avoiding institutional duplication and using the UfM as a central platform for implementing regional priorities and projects. The discussions seek to ensure that the Commission's Pact and the UfM's Strategic Vision reinforce one another. Both sides emphasize policy coherence, joint programming and the use of the UfM as a convening and implementation platform for projects involving governments, financial institutions, civil society and the private sector.

www.eumedbridge.eu/news/eu-commissioner-suica-visits-ufm-to-advance-coordinated-mediterranean-agenda/

EU-Southern Neighbourhood

14-15 July – Brussels: The EU-Southern Neighbourhood Ministerial gathers EU and partner countries, including Israel, Palestine and Syria, to discuss the Pact for the Mediterranean, maritime security, economic cooperation and regional crises. Syria participates in the ministerial format for the first time in more than a decade. The ministerial provides an opportunity to discuss the Pact with southern partners before its formal presentation. It also addresses

the wars in Gaza and Syria, instability in Libya, maritime security and economic cooperation. Syria's participation for the first time in more than a decade marks a further step in its regional re-engagement.

www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-southern-neighbourhood-ministerial-press-remarks-high-representative-kaja-kallas-upon-arrival_en.

August 2025

EU-Tunisia Infrastructure Cooperation

22 August – Tunis: The EU Ambassador to Tunisia and the Tunisian Minister of Equipment and Housing review ongoing and future cooperation on major infrastructure projects. Discussions cover the rehabilitation of historic urban centres, urban regeneration and renewal, and other large-scale investments supported by the European Union. The meeting provides an opportunity to identify priorities for future financing and technical cooperation in a sector with significant implications for employment, territorial cohesion and climate resilience.

www.eumedbridge.eu/news/eu-and-tunisia-strengthen-cooperation-on-major-infrastructure-projects/.

EU-Libya

23 August – Libya: The EU Delegation and the diplomatic missions of EU Member States welcome the new political roadmap presented by the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative, Hanna Tetteh, to the Security Council. The European statement reaffirms support for a Libyan-led and UN-facilitated process and calls for effective implementation, linking the roadmap to the objectives of a stable, sovereign and unified Libya with lasting peace and democratic governance.

www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/libya/statement-european-union-delegation-and-diplomatic-missions-eu-member-states-libya-announcement-srsg_en?s=105.

EU-Jordan

26 August – Brussels and Amman: The EU and Jordan sign the memorandum implementing a €500 million macro-fi-

nancial assistance programme. Disbursements are linked to reforms in public finance, governance, anti-corruption, social protection, labour markets, the business environment and the green transition. Priorities include public-finance management, governance, social protection, labour-market participation and the business environment, linking short-term financial stability with the longer-term objectives of the EU-Jordan partnership.

www.eumedbridge.eu/news/eu-and-jordan-take-important-step-towards-delivery-of-e500-million-to-support-jordans-macro-financial-stability-and-reforms/.

September 2025

Syria and Regional Refugees

10 September – Amman: The EU marks the tenth anniversary of the Madad Fund, the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis. The event reviews a decade of support for Syrians and host communities in Jordan, Lebanon, Türkiye and Iraq and highlights the transition from emergency assistance to longer-term resilience. The Madad Fund has financed education, livelihoods, health, protection and municipal services across countries affected by the Syrian displacement crisis.

<https://trustfund-syria-region.ec.europa.eu/>.

Regional Integration

12 September – Barcelona: The UfM and OECD present the second report on Euro-Mediterranean regional integration. The report assesses trade, finance, infrastructure, movement of people, higher education and research, and proposes policy measures to overcome persistent fragmentation and unlock more sustainable and inclusive growth.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/regional-integration-2025/>.

UfM Institutional Reform

18 September – Barcelona: Senior Officials from the 43 UfM member states review the draft Strategic Vision, regional developments and preparations for the 10th Regional Forum. Discussions focus on budget sustainability, the

structure of the Secretariat and the institution's ability to convert political priorities into measurable results. The meeting also examines alignment with the Pact for the Mediterranean, aiming to clarify responsibilities and strengthen the UfM's role within the renewed regional architecture.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-senior-officials-september-2025/>

Socio-Economic Inclusion

23 September – Barcelona: The UfM, together with the ONCE Social Group and the Spanish authorities organizes a Euro-Mediterranean High-Level Dialogue focused on the Regional Disability Agenda. The agenda addresses employment, social protection, gender, migration, inclusive humanitarian action and the structural barriers that continue to exclude persons with disabilities from economic and public life. The dialogue identifies four priority areas and reviews governance, financing and implementation options.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/regional-disability-agenda-mediterranean/>.

Humanitarian Aid

24 September – Brussels: The European Commission releases an additional €50 million in emergency humanitarian assistance for Palestine, responding to the catastrophic situation in Gaza and rising needs in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The funding supports food assistance, shelter, healthcare, protection, water and sanitation through humanitarian partners. It brings the EU's emergency humanitarian aid for Gaza and the West Bank in 2025 to €220 million. The Commission reiterates the need for safe, sustained and unhindered humanitarian access.

https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/news/eu-provides-additional-eur50-million-emergency-humanitarian-aid-palestine-2025-09-24_en.

Youth

29 September-2 October – Tirana: The second Med Youth Lab gathers 58 young leaders from 14 countries to develop regional projects on climate adaptation, education-to-work transitions

and peacebuilding. The programme combines online preparation with collaborative workshops, mentoring and project pitching. Participants work in multinational teams and receive mentoring before presenting project proposals to a jury. By focusing on climate adaptation, education-to-employment pathways and youth participation in peacebuilding, the programme seeks to transform regional dialogue into practical initiatives designed and led by young Mediterranean actors.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-med-youthlab-2025/>.

October 2025

Digital Connectivity

10 October – Brussels: At the Global Gateway Forum, the EU discusses the strategic extension of the Medusa submarine cable towards Jordan and the wider Middle East. The Medusa project is conceived as a high-capacity submarine system linking southern Europe with North Africa and, through the proposed extension, the eastern Mediterranean. Supported under Global Gateway, it is intended to diversify digital routes, improve secure data exchange and connect research, education, public services and businesses across the region.

https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/global-gateway-forum-eu-strategic-expansion-medusa-submarine-cable-system-middle-east-2025-10-10_en.

Border Management

12 October – EU: The EU progressively begins operating the Entry/Exit System, a digital platform that records the entry and exit of non-EU nationals travelling for short stays in 29 European countries. The system stores travel-document information and biometric data, replaces most manual passport stamping and helps authorities identify overstays and identity fraud. Its six-month phased introduction is intended to allow border services, transport operators and travellers to adapt. The measure has direct implications for mobility between the EU and southern Mediterranean countries and forms part

of the wider modernization of European border management.

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/new-entryexit-system-went-live-12-october-2025-10-13_en.

Employment and Skills

13 October – Valletta: The UfM High-Level Conference on Employment and Labour and the Regional Platform prepare a 2026-2028 Action Plan. The proposed roadmap addresses entrepreneurship, inclusion, lifelong learning, labour-market adaptability, green and digital skills and cooperation between public authorities and social partners. The meeting reviews implementation of the 2022-2025 roadmap and brings together national focal points, social partners and regional organizations. It also presents a new monitoring tool and the STEER community of practice, which focuses on improving the transition from education and training into decent employment.

www.eumedbridge.eu/news/ufm-member-states-prepare-new-action-plan-on-employment-and-labour-for-2026-2028/.

Pact for the Mediterranean

16 October – Brussels: The European Commission and the High Representative, Kaja Kallas, present the Pact for the Mediterranean. The strategy proposes a common Mediterranean space based on co-ownership, co-creation and shared responsibility, with action on people, sustainable economies, investment, connectivity, security, preparedness and migration management. The Pact is structured around three broad pillars: people and human development; sustainable and integrated economies; and peace, security and migration management. It is intended to be translated into an action plan with more than one hundred initiatives and a governance system involving the EU and participating partner countries.

https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/pact-mediterranean-one-sea-one-pact-one-future-shared-ambition-region-2025-10-16_en.

Trade, Investment and Industry

21 October – Barcelona: The 10th UfM Regional Platform on Trade, Investment

and Industry maps future work on regional integration, sustainable trade, green industry and investment. It also reviews implementation of the revised Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention and the findings of the new regional integration report. Officials discuss the revised Pan-Euro-Mediterranean rules of origin, regional value chains, the Clean Industrial Deal and mechanisms for facilitating sustainable investment. The platform also connects its sectoral work with the new regional integration report and with priorities expected to feature in the Pact for the Mediterranean.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/the-10th-meeting-of-the-ufm-regional-platform-on-trade-investment-and-industry-maps-next-steps-on-regional-integration-sustainable-trade-and-green-industry/>.

EU-Egypt

22 October – Brussels: The first EU-Egypt Summit consolidates the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership. European Commission President von der Leyen and Egyptian President al-Sisi sign agreements on macro-financial assistance, investment and Egypt's association with Horizon Europe and discuss trade, energy, migration, maritime security, education, research and regional crises. The summit includes a memorandum linked to a second €4 billion macro-financial assistance operation and formalizes Egypt's association with Horizon Europe.

https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/first-ever-eu-egypt-summit-2025-10-22_en.

Interreg Cooperation

22-23 October – Bari: Interreg NEXT MED officially launches the first wave of 60 approved projects with a two-day training and networking event. Project partners from across the Mediterranean prepare implementation in fields including innovation, employment, social inclusion, water, climate, energy and sustainable economic development. More than 200 project representatives take part in technical sessions on management, finance, communication and cross-border coordination.

www.interregnextmed.eu/over-200-participants-join-interreg-next-med-projects-launch-and-training-in-bari/.

November 2025

EU-Syria

15 November – Damascus: The EU holds its first Day of Dialogue inside Syria, bringing together civil-society organizations, transitional authorities and EU representatives. Discussions address inclusion, justice, recovery and the role of independent civic actors in shaping the country's transition and relations with international partners. The initiative builds on the Brussels Conference and the EU's longer-standing support for Syrian civil society. Holding the dialogue in Damascus allows local organizations to engage directly with European representatives and transitional authorities on participation, transitional justice, public services and the conditions required for an inclusive recovery. www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-hosts-day-dialogue-damascus-support-syrian-civil-society_en.

EU-Palestine

20 November – Brussels: The first Palestine Donor Group meeting coordinates international support for Palestinian fiscal resilience, institutional reform, economic recovery and the reconstruction of Gaza. The EU positions the initiative as a framework for strengthening viable Palestinian governance and aligning donor action. The meeting brings together the Palestinian Authority, major donors, international financial institutions and multilateral organizations. It seeks to coordinate fiscal support and reform commitments while preparing a structured mechanism for recovery and reconstruction, consistent with the objective of viable Palestinian institutions and a negotiated two-state solution. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/press-corner/detail/en/ip_25_2771.

Regional Cooperation

22 November – Barcelona: The Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Regions gathers regional authorities to define their contribution to the Pact for the Mediterranean and the renewed partnership. Participants work towards a joint declaration emphasizing territorial cooperation, investment, climate resilience and the role of regions in implementation. The summit's declaration argues that

the Pact can only be implemented effectively if regions are involved in project design, financing and monitoring, rather than being treated solely as beneficiaries of national policies.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/event/euro-mediterranean-summit-regions/>.

Civil Society

26 November – Barcelona: The Euro-Mediterranean Civil Society Conference brings together more than 100 regional networks, professional organizations, academics and institutional representatives. Participants discuss how civil society can move from consultation to co-design, implementation and monitoring within the Pact and the UfM strategic vision. Organized by the IEMed, UFM and Government of Catalonia, the conference reflects the expanding role of trans-Mediterranean networks in policy formation.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/event/euro-mediterranean-civil-society/>.

Cities Cooperation

26-27 November – Barcelona: The "Conference of Mediterranean Cities, Barcelona+30" gathers mayors and local authorities with civil society, academia and socioeconomic actors. The meeting examines decentralized cooperation, territorial diplomacy and the role of cities in implementing sustainable development and regional integration commitments. The meeting is held alongside the MedCities General Assembly and reflects on three decades of municipal cooperation since the Barcelona Process.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/event/conference-mediterranean-cities/>.

Pact for the Mediterranean

28 November – Barcelona: EU Member States and southern Mediterranean partners jointly launch the Pact for the Mediterranean on the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Process. The Pact is based on co-ownership, shared responsibility, a new governance framework and more than one hundred proposed initiatives for citizens, economies and regional stability. The launch turns the Commission's October proposal into a jointly endorsed political framework with southern Mediterranean partners. An

action plan is expected to organize more than one hundred initiatives around human development, economic integration, connectivity, security and migration, supported by a new system of co-owned governance.

https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-and-southern-mediterranean-partners-launch-pact-mediterranean-barcelona-2025-11-28_en.

UfM and the Barcelona Process

28 November – Barcelona: At the 10th UfM Regional Forum, representatives of the 43 member states adopt a new "Strategic Vision" organized around connecting people, countries and economies. The forum reaffirms the UfM as a central platform for delivering the renewed Euro-Mediterranean partnership and implementing common regional priorities. The Vision is organized around connecting people, connecting countries and connecting economies, while also strengthening the Secretariat's capacity and working methods. Its adoption confirms the UfM's role as the 43-member multilateral platform expected to complement the Pact and translate common priorities into regional policy dialogue and projects.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/10th-ufm-regional-forum-2025/>.

December 2025

Education, Youth and Employment

2-3 December – Alexandria: The UfM, MedNC, HOMERe, the ALF and the EC organize a conference entitled "Education and Skills for Employment." The meeting promotes cooperation between education providers, companies and regional networks to improve young people's transition into work. The programme brings together second-chance schools, vocational networks, mobility schemes and employers to compare pathways into work. It highlights internships, mentoring and partnerships with companies as tools for reaching young people excluded from conventional education and for improving the match between training and labour-market demand.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/education-skills-employment/>.

EU-Lebanon

15 December – Brussels: The Ninth EU-Lebanon Association Council reviews political and economic relations, reforms, security, refugees, humanitarian needs and regional developments. The meeting relaunches structured bilateral dialogue and considers opportunities for deeper cooperation following a period of political and economic crisis. The Council also discusses the regional conflict, humanitarian access and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, restoring a high-level

institutional channel after years of severe crisis in Lebanon.

www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/12/15/ninth-eu-lebanon-association-council-brussels-15-december-2025-joint-press-release/.

Digital Connectivity

17 December – Nador: The Medusa submarine cable lands in Morocco, creating a high-capacity and secure connection between Europe and North Africa. The infrastructure will link re-

search and education networks, support digital services and strengthen Morocco's role in wider Mediterranean connectivity. EU support links Medusa with research and education networks, increasing digital capacity, route diversity and access to advanced services while positioning Morocco as a major gateway between the two shores.

https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/medusa-lands-nador-advancing-moroccos-role-mediterranean-connectivity-2025-12-17_en.