



## FEMISE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Are South Med Countries Converging?

14-15 November 2009

The Métropole Hotel  
Brussels, Belgium

The FEMISE annual conference this year will address the question of Convergence of the South Med Countries. In two plenary session and 8 parallel sessions, this issue will be addressed, questioned and some useful recommendations could be drawn to what these countries should do to ensure that they are on the right track for this convergence.

#### Concept of the Conference theme

Convergence is a fairly broad term which encompasses both notions of economic growth (and hence convergence in income levels) and more broadly convergence with respect to a wider set of socio-economic issues such as poverty, literacy, education, and of course distribution. It is true that some of the social indicators of the South Med countries are improving; does this mean that the South Med countries are converging?

Convergence related to the Euro-Med region tends to focus implicitly on the means for this convergence with respect to the functioning of markets and institutions between the countries of the EU and the countries of the Southern Mediterranean. Existing research has tended, similarly, to focus more on convergence of instruments (eg. regulatory reform) as opposed to focussing on convergence of outcomes, such as growth in per capita income, equality, quality of life, etc. The presumption appears to have been that convergence on instruments will achieve convergence on outcomes, with the accession countries providing a good example of this process. A much clearer understanding of the transmission mechanisms from instruments and outcomes is not that well identified.

FEMISE plenary sessions will address the issue of convergence of the South Med countries towards Europe and highlight the barriers/impediments to this convergence in two sessions: **Convergence of the South Mediterranean Partners Countries** and **Impediments to Convergence in the South Med Countries**

The Parallel sessions will include presentations of FEMISE funded projects, which will address the issue of convergence in a more details approach; The role of Firms, the business environment, growth, liberalization of capital accounts, finance and banking, migration and remittances, social cohesion and Poverty and Inequality.

### CONFERENCE AGENDA

DAY ONE: Saturday 14 November 2009	
08:30-09:00	Welcome and Registration of participants
09:00-09:30	<b>Opening Remarks and Welcome Note by the Coordinators</b>  <i>Ahmed Galal, President of FEMISE and ERF Managing Director</i> <i>Jean-Louis Reiffers, President of the Scientific Committee of FEMISE and IM</i>
09:30-11:00	<b>Plenary Session 1:</b>  <b>Convergence of the South Mediterranean Partners Countries</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Ahmed Galal, President of FEMISE and ERF Managing Director</i>
	<b>Keynote Speakers:</b>  <i>Jean-Philippe Platteau, CRED and FSESG</i> <i>Ambassador Senén Florensa, Director IEMED and Former Spanish Ambassador to Tunisia</i>
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break

<b>11:30-13:00</b>	<b>Parallel Sessions (1)</b>	
	<b>11:30-13:00</b>	<b>11:30-13:30</b>
	<b>Parallel Session (1A): Regional Integration, Firms and Convergence</b>	<b>Parallel Session (1B): Migrants' Remittances and their impact on South Med countries</b>
	<b>Moderator and Discussant: Mongi Boughzala, University Tunis El-Manar, Tunisia</b>	<b>Moderator and Discussant: Jackline Wahba, University of Southampton, UK</b>
	Regional Integration, firms' location and convergence: the experience of the Euro-Mediterranean area <i>Nicolas Peridy, Université du Sud, Toulon-Var, France</i>	Système financier, politique de change et transferts de fonds des migrants marocains: Quelles interactions? <i>Jamal Bouoiyour, Al Akhawayne University – Ifrane, Morocco and University of Pau, France</i>
	Deep Integration, Firms and Economic Convergence <i>Patricia Augier, DEFI, DEFI, Université de la Méditerranée, France</i>	Impact des transferts de fonds des migrants sur la pauvreté et les inégalités : une comparaison Maroc-Algérie <i>EM Mouhoud, CEPN, France, presented by: Jamal Bouoiyour, University of Pau, France</i>
		Determinants and Consequences of Migration and Remittances: The Case of Palestine and Tunisia <i>Mahmoud El Jafari, Faculty of Business and Economics, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, Palestine and Mongi Bougzala, University of Tunis El-Manar, Tunisia</i>
<b>13:00-14:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>14:30-16:00</b>	<b>Parallel Sessions (2)</b>	
	<b>Parallel Session (2A): Business Environment and its impact on firms productivity in the context of convergence</b>	<b>Parallel Session (2B): Convergence of the Financial Systems and Institutions</b>
	<b>Moderator and Discussant: Maria-Inmaculada Montero-Luque, DG-trade, European Commission</b>	<b>Moderator and Discussant: Samy Mouley, Université de Tunis</b>
	Clustering, international networks and performance of firms: some complement approaches for MENA's convergence <i>Juliette Milgram, University of Granada, Spain</i>	Convergence of Banking Sector Regulations and its Impact on Bank Performances and Growth: the case for Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia <i>Rym Ayadi, CEPS, Belgium</i>
	Le climat des affaires et les performances productives comparées : Analyse sur données microéconomiques manufacturières (Algérie, Egypte, Maroc) <i>Patrick Plane, CERDI, France</i>	Financial Systems in Mediterranean Partners and the EURO-Mediterranean Partnership <i>Simon Neaime, American University of Beirut and Nidal Sabri, Beirzeit University, Palestine</i>
<b>16:00-16:15</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
<b>16:15-17:00</b>	<b>Parallel Sessions (3)</b>	
	<b>Parallel Session (3A): Growth and Convergence in the MENA region</b>	<b>Parallel Session (3B): Social Cohesion Policies and Convergence in the MENA region</b>
	<b>Moderator and Discussant: Raed Safadi, OECD</b>	<b>Moderator and Discussant: Hana' Kheireldin, ECES, Egypt</b>
	International openness and social development as endogenous determinants of growth and convergence of the countries in the MENA region <i>Jan Michalek, Warsaw University, Poland and Alfred Tovias, The Hebrew University, Israel</i>	Social cohesion policies in Mediterranean countries: an assessment of instruments and outcomes in Italy and Morocco <i>Marco Zupi and Elisenda Estruch-Puertas, CeSPI, Italy</i>
<b>17:00-17:45</b>	<b>Special Session:</b> Presentation of the TradeSift Software: A toolkit for policy makers and trade analysts <i>Michael Gasiorek, Sussex University, United Kingdom</i>	

## DAY TWO: Sunday 15 November 2009

<b>9:00-11:00</b>	<b>Plenary Session II</b> <b>Impediments to Convergence in the South Med Countries</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Jean-Louis Reiffers, President of the Scientific Committee, IM and FEMISE</i>	
	<b>Keynote Speakers:</b> <i>Mats Karlsson, Director in the World Bank's MNA region and Responsible for the Marseille Centre For Mediterranean Integration (MCFI)</i> <i>Pierre Deusy, Responsible of economic issues of the Euromed Partnership, DG Relex</i> <i>Amb. Hassan Abouyoub, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco in Rome, Italy (tbc)</i>	
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	Coffee Break	
<b>11:30-13:00</b>	<b>Parallel Session (4)</b>	
	<b>Parallel Session (4A): Capital Account liberalization and convertibility</b>	<b>Parallel Session (4B) : Poverty and Income Inequality</b>
	<b>Moderator and Discussant: Sergio Alessandrini, University of Modena, Italy</b>	<b>Moderator and Discussant: Gonzalo Escribano, AGREEM, Spain</b>
	Libéralisation du compte de capital et convertibilité intégrale : cadre de gestion macroéconomique en Tunisie et expériences comparées de pays émergents <i>Philippe Gilles, Université du Sud, Toulon-Var and Sami Mouley, University of Tunis, Tunisia</i>	Income Inequality and Poverty after Trade Liberalization in MENA Countries <i>Roby Nathanson, The Macro Center For Political Economics, Israel and Khalid Sekkat, Free University of Brussels, Belgium</i>
	Does capital account liberalization spur private capital flows, financial development and economic performance <i>Mondher Cherif, ESC SFAX, Tunisia</i>	Global food price shock and the poor in Egypt and Ukraine – a comparison of policy regimes and reform options <i>Maryla Maliszewska, CASE, Warsaw, Poland</i>
<b>13:00-14:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>14:30-16:00</b>	<b>Plenary Session III</b> <b>The Crisis and its effect on the EU-Med Convergence</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Jean-Louis Reiffers, President of the Scientific Committee, IM and FEMISE</i>	
	<b>Speakers:</b> <b>Special Event:</b> Launch of the FEMISE EU-Med report on "The Mediterranean Partner Countries facing the Crisis" <i>Jean-Louis Reiffers, President of the Scientific Committee, IM and FEMISE</i> <i>Marga Peeters, DG Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission</i>	
<b>16:00-16:15</b>	Coffee Break	
<b>16:15-18:00</b>	<b>Closing Remarks and General Assembly Meeting of the Network Members</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Ahmed Galal, President of FEMISE and ERF Managing Director</i>	
	<b>Speakers:</b> <i>Jean-Louis Ville, Chief of Unit, Aidco, European Commission</i>  <i>Ahmed Galal, President of FEMISE and ERF Managing Director</i> <i>Jean-Louis Reiffers, President of Scientific Committee, FEMISE</i> <i>Frederic Blanc, General Manager, FEMISE</i>	