



FEMISE Annual Conference

13 and 14 February 2016

Hotel Grande Bretagne

Athens, Greece

Concept note

“Two Decades after Barcelona: Rethinking the EU-Med Partnership”

I. Context

Twenty years after the Barcelona process, the EU-Med countries are still searching for channels to bring closer the two sides of the Mediterranean.

The Barcelona Process was a first step that encouraged most Mediterranean Partners' countries to open-up their industries to international competition and to adopt some economic reforms. Then a second step came with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in 2004 as a new deal going beyond the free trade agreement (FTAs) and involving development strategies, further structural reforms and implementation programmes for each country. The ENP aimed to provide support and foster stability, security and prosperity for this region.

A decade later, it becomes clear that, despite some economic progress, the situation in the region is much more complicated than it was in 1995. Undeniably, the political upheaval that many countries of the South Mediterranean witnessed in 2010 and 2011 was initially considered a progress towards democracy and stability. However, one must acknowledge that countries of the South Med stand at different distances from their fundamental democratic transitions and stability aims. Some have taken good, but difficult steps, while others witnessed the gap widening and their transformation turning into instability and violence.

Therefore, it was time for the European Commission to react and it did, by revealing its “Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy” in late 2015 where it proposed a different approach towards its neighbours who are in a complex, mixed and complicated situation. Now, the Southern countries are hoping that the new Policy will respond to their aspirations and the EU is hoping, among other things, that it will bring more stability for the region.

It comes as no surprise that this new review of the ENP has stabilisation and security as its main political priority while differentiation and greater mutual ownership are further key elements. Most importantly, this review takes into account the wishes of each country concerning the nature and scope of its partnership with the EU. All in all, it recognizes that the “old ENP’s” effort to export a single model of society to the South is not applicable anymore.



The new EU approach recognizes that complementary measures to the Neighbourhood Policies could be beneficiary. Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTAs) are under negotiations with some South Med partners. Other complementary agreements within the EU-Med region could be considered. The EU is also aware of the rising of new Global Actors that might have an effect on their relation with their Southern Partners, the main purpose is to make this effect a positive one.

This is easier said than done, as serious short-term challenges are shedding heavy clouds on this partnership and putting all efforts at risk: security issues on both sides of the Mediterranean are getting more serious then ever before and closely linked to this is the dramatic refugees' crisis that has left drastic marks in the Mediterranean.

Within this complex and rapidly changing environment for the EU-Med, the FEMISE annual conference of 2016 will have as its objective to provide a platform for debates and discussions among the different actors on how to achieve progress in the EU-Med region, what supporting tools can be used and complement agreements and how to face the challenges.

II. Structure of the conference

The conference comprises three main parts:

- (1) Three plenary sessions focusing on the main theme of the Conference;
- (2) Three thematic sessions involving the presentations of the research progress of selected projects funded by FEMISE (though the European Commission grant); and
- (3) The General Assembly meeting for members of the network.

The FEMISE annual conference is a platform for members of the network, academics, policymakers and representatives of the EU to engage in a constructive dialogue about the future of the region and the role the EU can play in the context of the new ENP.

III. Plenary Sessions:

The three plenary sessions will address the following issues:

Plenary I: Rethinking the Euromed Partnership: Fine-tuning or Reinvention?

The previous European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was no longer suited for the aspirations of the South Med Countries during their political transition. New regional realities prevail and are redefining the priorities of the region. The European Commission responded to those changes with a review of its ENP policies (in Nov 2015) following a public consultation from March to July 2015 with partner countries, international organisations, social partners, civil society and academia.

The aim of this session is to give an overall outline of the new ENP, and most importantly its assessment in terms of: how far it will achieve shared and common interests and priorities, whether it meets the differentiated aspirations and perspectives of diverse but interdependent South med countries, how will it meet the new short and long-term challenges of the South Med countries during their transition and what limitations it faces, and whether it includes all the relevant actors and stakeholders.

The session will include different views from international and South Med experts addressing these complex issues while focusing on ways to benefit the most out of this agreement.

Plenary II: Towards a new Paradigm for a mutually Beneficial EU-Med Partnership

Whatever the new name of the relationship between the Euro-Med countries, something new is needed. The elements of the new paradigm could include deeper FTAs such as the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTA), new migration agreements that could bring closer the two shores of the Mediterranean and revised investment policies that would increase the integration. Equally important, there is need to discuss different ways of handling the negotiation between the two sides of the Mediterranean.

This session will be devoted to discussing each of these dimensions, with a view to articulating their merits, constraints and feasibilities.

Plenary III: Meeting the Short Term Challenges: The Role of the EU

While security concerns, terrorism and migration have been components of the ENP since the beginning, they have recently occupied a central place in Euromed relationships. As authoritarian rulers fell during the political and social uprisings, some Euromed countries have witnessed escalating and unprecedented violence giving way to civil wars (Libya and Syria) adding to the existent tensions in the Middle East side of the Mediterranean. The emergence of new non-state actors plunged the whole region into fear of terrorism and precipitated millions of people from the South into misery and despair. This has triggered considerable migratory flows whether into neighbouring Arab countries or into European countries, which are in economic crisis and not necessarily prepared (both economically and socially) to receive this influx of migrants. According to most recent data, more than a million migrants entered Europe in the 2015, escaping wars, discrimination, and unliveable conditions. How should the EU-Med respond to these challenges, both at the humanitarian and political levels, to quickly and actively restore peace? How should it reinforce conflict prevention mechanisms on the long term and how will it deal with the migration crisis?

In all aspects, for any alternative model of the EU-Med Partnership to work, these short-term challenges need to be addressed, as they become pre-requisites for the success of the partnership. This session will address some of these challenges and potential ways to handle them.



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CONFERENCE AGENDA

"Two Decades after Barcelona: Rethinking the EU-Med Partnership"

DAY ONE: Saturday 13th of February, 2016	
08:30-09:00	<i>Registration of participants</i>
09:00-09:15	Opening Remarks and Welcome Note <i>Ahmed Galal, President & Coordinator of FEMISE and ERF Managing Director</i> <i>Patricia Augier, President of Scientific Committee & Coordinator of FEMISE, Economist at IM and Professor at Aix-Marseille University</i>
09:15-11:15	Plenary Session I: Rethinking the Euromed Partnership: Fine-Tuning or Reinvention? Moderator and Speaker: <i>Ahmed Galal, President & Coordinator of FEMISE and ERF Managing Director</i>
	<i>Sergio Alessandrini, Professor, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy</i> <i>Senén Florensa, Executive President of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)</i> <i>Elisabeth Johansson-Nogués, Research Fellow, Barcelona Institute of International Studies, Spain</i>
11:15-11:45	Coffee Break

11:45-13:30	<p>Thematic Session 1: Firms' Transition and Performance</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Alfred Steinherr, DIW, Germany</i></p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>Corporate performance in the South Mediterranean region: Explaining the role of Business constraints, institutions and culture Inma Martínez-Zarzoso, <i>Institute of International Economics, University Jaume I, Spain</i></p> <p>Spatial proximity and firm performances: how can location-based economies and policies help the transition process in the Mediterranean region? Empirical evidence from Turkey, Tunisia and Italy. Anna Ferragina, <i>CELPE (Department of Economics and Statistics- University of Salerno, Salerno), Italy</i></p> <p>The determinants of export performance of firms in MENA countries. Comparison to CEE countries and Turkey Jan Michalek, <i>University of Warsaw, Faculty of Economic Sciences, Poland</i></p> <p>Discussants:</p> <p>Patrick Plane, <i>Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Développement International (CERDI), France</i> Michael Gasiorek, <i>University of Sussex, UK</i></p>
13:30-14:30	<p>Lunch Break</p>
14:30-16:30	<p>Plenary Session II:</p> <p>Towards a New Paradigm for a Mutually Beneficial EU-Med Partnership</p> <p>Moderator and Speaker:</p> <p>Patricia Augier, <i>President of Scientific Committee & Coordinator of FEMISE, Economist at IM and Professor at Aix-Marseille University</i></p>
	<p>Peter Young, <i>Acting Head of Unit, TRADE.E3, The European Commission</i></p> <p>Vassilis Monastiriotis, <i>Associate Professor & Director of LSE Research unit on Southeast Europe, European Institute, London School of Economics, UK</i></p> <p>Raed Safadi, <i>Former Deputy Director of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate at the OECD</i></p>
16:30-16:45	<p>Coffee Break</p>

16:45-18:15	<p>Thematic Session 2: Trade Liberalization, FDI and Tourism industry in the EU-Med</p> <p>Moderator: Simon Neaime, American University of Beirut, Lebanon</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>FDI in MENA: Impact of political and trade liberalisation process, Juliette Milgram, University of Granada, Spain</p> <p>Winners and Losers in the Tourism Industry along the transition process: Evidence from South and North MED countries, Doaa Salman, October University for Modern Sciences and Arts (MSA), Egypt</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <p>Sergio Alessandrini, Professor, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy</p>
19:30	Group Dinner

DAY TWO: Sunday 14th of February, 2016	
09:30-11:30	<p>Plenary Session III:</p> <p>Meeting the Short Term Challenges: The Role of the EU</p> <p>Moderator and Speaker: Javier Albarracín, Director of Socioeconomic Development Department, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)</p>
	<p>Henry Marty-Gauquié, Director, The European Investment Bank Group (EIB), in Paris, France</p> <p>Panayotis J. Tsakonas, Professor of International Relations, Security Studies, and Foreign Policy Analysis at the University of the Aegean, Greece</p> <p>Frederica Zardo, Research Fellow, University of Turin, Department of Culture, Politics and Society, Turin, Italy</p>
11:30-12:00	Coffee Break

12:00-13:30	<p>Thematic Session 3: Inclusive Policies and the Role of Vicinity for Migration and Social Integration</p> <p>Moderator: Ramon Mahia, <i>AGREEM, The Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain</i></p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>Inequality, Intergenerational Mobility of Women Educational Attainment and Inclusive Policies in the Arab Countries, Crisitina Boboc, <i>Bucharest Academy for Economic Studies, Romania</i> and Ahmed Driouchi, <i>IEAPS, Al Akhawayn University, Morocco</i></p> <p>The role of vicinity linkages in the EU-Med region for trade growth: Focus on Migration, level of education, and social integration Andres Artal-Tur, <i>Institute of International Economics (IEI-UV), University of Valencia, Spain</i></p> <p>Discussant:</p> <p>Massoud Karshenas, <i>Professor of Economics, SOAS, University of London, UK</i></p>
13:30-14:30	<p>Lunch Break</p>
14:30-16:30	<p>Closing Remarks and FEMISE General Assembly Meeting</p>
	<p>Moderator and Speaker:</p> <p>Ahmed Galal, <i>President & Coordinator of FEMISE and ERF Managing Director</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Patricia Augier, <i>President of Scientific Committee & Coordinator of FEMISE, Economist at IM and Professor at Aix-Marseille University</i></p> <p>Vladimir Rojanski, <i>Programme Manager Private Sector Development DG NEAR, The European Commission</i></p> <p>Maryse Louis, <i>General Manager, FEMISE and Programs Manager ERF</i></p> <p>Constantin Tsakas, <i>General Secretary, FEMISE and General Manager IM</i></p>

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