



Launch of the FEMISE Euro-Mediterranean 2017 Report on¹:

“Economic Management Under Fire”

23 November 2017

Brussels, Belgium

Venue: The THON EU HOTEL

Rue de la Loi, 75, Brussels, 1040

Brussels, Belgium

At the “Germany Hall”


Enclosed:

- Agenda of the Launch
- Press Release (in English and French)



Funded by the European Union



¹  This event and this report received financial support from the European Union through the FEMISE project on "Support to Economic Research, studies and dialogues of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership". Any views expressed in this seminar are the sole responsibility of the speakers.



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AGENDA

09:30-10:00	Registration and Coffee
10:00-10:30	<p>Welcome Note and Opening Remarks</p> <p>Ibrahim Elbadawi, FEMISE President and ERF Managing Director Patricia Augier, President of Scientific Committee, FEMISE and IM</p> <p>Keynote speaker: Michael A. Köhler, Director for Neighbourhood South, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission</p>
10:30-12:30	<p>Session 1: South Med in Transition: What Policy Responses?</p> <p>Moderator: Noha El-Mikawy, Regional representative, Ford Foundation, MENA</p>
10:30–11:30	<p>Speakers</p> <p>Ibrahim Elbadawi, FEMISE President and ERF Managing Director Zafiris Tzannatos, Former Professor and chair of the Economics Department at the American University of Beirut Ishac Diwan, visiting professor at Columbia University and holds a chair at Paris Sciences et Lettres</p>
11:30-12:30	<p>Discussion Panel</p> <p>André Sapir, Professor, Université Libre de Bruxelles and Senior Fellow, Bruegel, Belgium Luigi Narbone, Advisor to Managing Director for MENA at the European External Action Service (EEAS) Irene Mingasson, Head of Unit, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission</p> <p>Floor discussion</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break
13:30-15:30	<p>Session 2: Changing Course: What Recommendations for the Region?</p> <p>Moderator: Ishac Diwan, visiting professor at Columbia University and holds a chair at Paris Sciences et Lettres</p>
13:30-14:30	<p>Speakers</p> <p>Ibrahim Elbadawi, FEMISE President and ERF Managing Director Noha El-Mikawy, Regional representative, Ford Foundation, MENA Christos Kourtelis, Lecturer of International Relations at Antalya Bilim University, Turkey Ingrid Schwaiger, Deputy Head of Unit, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) European Commission</p>

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14:30-15:30	<p>Discussion Panel from Policy Makers</p> <p>Abla Abdel-Latif, Executive Director of ECES, Chairwoman of the Presidential Advisory Council for Economic Development, Egypt</p> <p>Mouncif Aderkaoui, Directeur des Etudes et des Prévisions Financières, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Morocco</p> <p>Zouhair Elkadhi, Director, Institut Tunisien de la Compétitivité et des Etudes Quantitatives (ITCEQ), Tunisia</p> <p><i>Floor discussion</i></p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee and Networking Break
16:00-17:00	<p>Session 3: Managing the Transition of the South Med Countries</p> <p>Moderator: Patricia Augier, President of Scientific Committee of FEMISE & IM</p>
16:00-16:30	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>Thomas Lagoarde-Segot, Kedge Business School, France, FEM42-06: Twin Deficits and the Sustainability of Macroeconomic Policies in Selected European and Mediterranean Partner Countries: Post Financial and Debt Crises (AUB, Lebanon and Kedge, France)</p> <p>Doaa Salman, MSA University, Cairo, FEM42-13: External and Internal imbalances in South Mediterranean countries: Challenges and Costs. (MSA Egypt and European Institute at LSE, UK)</p>
16:30-17:00	<p>Discussants</p> <p>Mongi Boughzala, University of Tunis El-Manar, Tunisia</p> <p>Gilles Dufrenot, Professor, Aix-Marseille University, France</p> <p><i>Floor Discussion</i></p>
17:00- 17:45	<p>Session 4 Roundtable: Towards an EU-MED research Agenda on Transition</p> <p>Moderator: Sergio Alessandrini, Professor, Modena University, Italy</p>
	<p>Roundtable Panellist:</p> <p>Santiago Loranca Garcia, Head of Unit DG- ECfin - Neighbourhood Countries - Macro-Financial Assistance</p> <p>Abla Abdel-Latif, Executive Director of ECES, Chairwoman of the Presidential Advisory Council for Economic Development</p> <p>Mouncif Aderkaoui, Directeur des Etudes et des Prévisions Financières, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Morocco</p> <p>Wrap-up and Closing: Patricia Augier, President of Scientific Committee of FEMISE and IM</p>



Date : 23 November 2017

Economic Management Under Fire: How did the South Med Policy-Makers Respond to the Demands for Change?³

with funding from the European Union

The report is published on: November 23, 2017 with funding from the European Union.

FEMISE is launching its **2017 Euro-Mediterranean report** on the transition of the South Mediterranean economies. The report provides a critical analysis of the responses of selected countries of the region to the economic, social and political challenges in the wake of the uprising, and includes recommendations on how to move forward to ensure a successful transition.

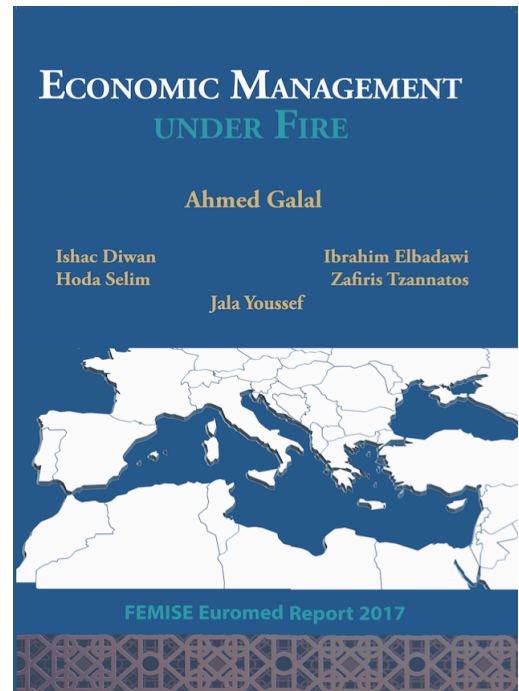
"Overall, South-Med countries are at a crossroad. They hold an enormous potential that has been held back by modest economic performance and extractive political institutions. The uprising, which began in December 2011 provided these countries an opportunity to follow a new development path", state the authors of the report.

The political transition has unavoidably taken a toll on these economies and the governments found themselves facing a number of challenges and difficult decisions to make. For example, **on the economic front**, and in an attempt to respond to popular demands and calm rising social unrest, governments responded by adopting expansionary economic policies rather than austerity measures. While this policy choice added pressure on existing budget deficits and increased public debts, it is believed that it will help reverse the economic downturn over time.



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"Seven years on, the development model does not seem to have changed much. To embark on a new course, the new strategy should aim at achieving the dual overarching objectives of consolidating the post-transition democratic polity on the one hand, while making the transition towards a dynamic and equitable economy on the other", recommended the authors – who also provide targeted policy recommendations on how to achieve this objective in the report.

In 5 chapters and through a critical assessment of the performances of five South-Med countries in transition (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia), this report attempts to answer the following questions:

- What were the immediate economic consequences of the political transition in South-Med countries?
- How well did policymakers respond to the economic and social adversities associated with the political transition?
- Based on the analysis and the likely political evolution in these countries, what can be done to bring about healthier macroeconomic balances, job creating growth and greater social inclusion?

The report is written by a group of international experts and senior macroeconomists, political economists and social economists under the management of the **Economic Research Forum (ERF, Cairo)**. **Dr. Ahmed Galal**, the editor of the report is the Chairman of the Board of the MENA Health Policy Forum and former ERF Managing Director and former FEMISE President; **Dr. Ishac Diwan** is visiting professor at Columbia University and holds a chair at Paris Sciences et Lettres; **Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi** is the current President of FEMISE and Managing Director of ERF; **Dr. Hoda Selim** is an Economist at the IMF; **Dr. Zafiris Tzannatos** is former professor and chair of the Economics Department at the American University of Beirut; and **Ms. Jala Youssef** is an economist with ERF and FEMISE.

The Euromed Report will be published on the FEMISE (www.femise.org) and the ERF (www.erf.org.eg) websites on the **23 November 2017**.

The Euromed Report is an annual publication of FEMISE that addresses themes of importance and interest to the EU-Med region. The report brings value-added to the themes it covers through in-depth analysis by economists from the North and the South of the Mediterranean, using a multidisciplinary approach. This brings a common view from the two shores of the Mediterranean and provides policy recommendations that can make a contribution to the South Med countries during their transition.

This report received financial support from the European Union through the FEMISE project on "Support to Economic Research, studies and dialogues of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership". Any views expressed in this report are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Please contact FEMISE for more information: contact@femise.org



La Gestion Economique Passée au Crible: comment les décideurs politiques du Sud de la Med. ont-ils répondu aux demandes de changement?⁴

Le rapport publié le : 23 Novembre 2017 avec un financement de l'Union européenne.

Le FEMISE lance son **rapport Euro-Méditerranéen 2017** qui porte sur la transition des économies du sud de la Méditerranée. Le rapport fournit une analyse critique des réponses proposées dans certains pays de la région pour pallier aux défis économiques, sociaux et politiques à la suite des soulèvements. Il produit des recommandations sur les moyens d'aller de l'avant pour assurer une transition réussie.

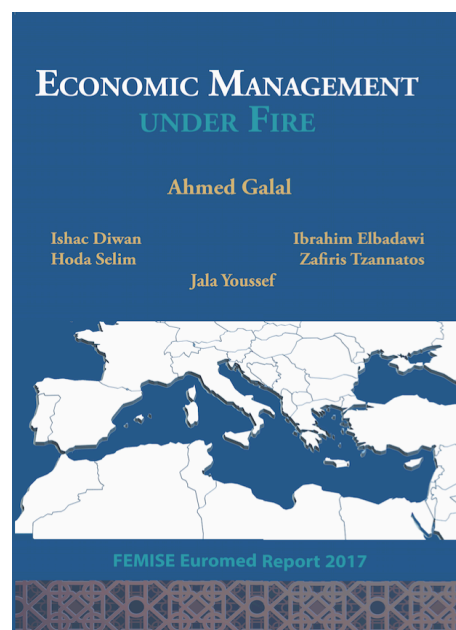
"Dans l'ensemble, les pays du Sud-Med sont à la croisée des chemins. Ils ont un potentiel énorme qui a été freiné par une performance économique modeste et des institutions politiques extractives. Le soulèvement, qui a débuté en décembre 2011, a donné à ces pays la possibilité de suivre une nouvelle voie de développement», affirment les auteurs.

La transition politique a inévitablement pesé sur ces économies et les gouvernements se sont trouvés confrontés à un nombre de défis et de décisions difficiles. Par ex., **sur le front économique** et dans une tentative de répondre aux demandes populaires et apaiser les troubles sociaux, les gouvernements ont réagi en adoptant des politiques expansionnistes plutôt que des mesures d'austérité. Bien que ce choix politique ait exercé des pressions sur les déficits budgétaires déjà existants et contribué à l'augmentation des dettes publiques, on pense qu'il aidera à restaurer le ralentissement économique à long terme.



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"Sept ans plus tard, le modèle de développement ne semble pas avoir beaucoup changé. Pour se lancer dans un nouveau cap, la nouvelle stratégie devrait, d'une part, viser un double objectif consistant à consolider la politique démocratique post-transition et d'autre part, faire la transition vers une économie dynamique et équitable", recommandent les auteurs du rapport tout en fournissant des recommandations politiques ciblées.

A travers 5 chapitres et une évaluation critique des performances de cinq pays Sud-Med en transition (Algérie, Egypte, Jordanie, Maroc et Tunisie), ce rapport tente de répondre aux questions suivantes:

- Quelles ont été les conséquences économiques immédiates suite à la transition politique dans les pays Sud-Med?
- Dans quelle mesure les décideurs ont-ils réagi aux difficultés économiques et sociales associées à la transition politique?
- Sur la base de l'analyse et de l'évolution politique probable de ces pays, que peut-on faire pour atteindre des équilibres macroéconomiques plus sains, aller vers la création d'emplois et vers une plus grande inclusion sociale?

Le rapport est rédigé par un groupe d'experts internationaux et de macroéconomistes, d'économistes politiques et d'économistes sociaux sous la direction de **Economic Research Forum (ERF, Le Caire)**. **Dr Ahmed Galal**, rédacteur en chef du rapport, est le Président du Conseil d'administration du MENA Health Policy Forum et ancien Directeur général ERF et ancien Président du FEMISE; **Dr. Ishac Diwan** est professeur invité à l'université de Columbia et titulaire d'une chaire à Paris Sciences et Lettres; Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi est le Président du FEMISE et Directeur Général d'ERF; Dr. **Hoda Selim** est économiste au FMI; **Dr. Zafiris Tzannatos** est ancien professeur et président du département d'économie à l'Université américaine de Beyrouth; et **Mme Jala Youssef** est économiste ERF et FEMISE.

Le rapport Euromed sera publié sur les sites web FEMISE (www.femise.org) et ERF (www.erf.org.eg) **le 23 novembre 2017**.

Le rapport Euromed est une publication annuelle du FEMISE qui traite des thèmes d'importance et d'intérêt pour la région Euro-Med. Le rapport apporte une véritable valeur ajoutée en termes de connaissances sur le thème couvert. Il fournit une analyse approfondie proposée par des économistes spécialisés et avec une approche pluridisciplinaire du Nord et du Sud de la Méditerranée. Cela apporte une vision commune des deux rives de la Méditerranée et des recommandations politiques qui peuvent contribuer au processus de transition des pays du Sud Med.

Ce rapport a reçu un soutien financier de l'Union européenne à travers le projet FEMISE "**Support to Economic Research, studies and dialogues of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership**". Toute opinion exprimée dans ce rapport est de la seule responsabilité des auteurs.

Pour davantage d'informations, veuillez contacter FEMISE: contact@femise.org