



## **FEMISE annual conference on: Neighbours of Neighbours: Relation and Cooperation of the EU-Med towards Africa<sup>1</sup>**

**Malta, February 7th-9th 2018**

### **I. Opening Remarks and Welcome Notes**

**Ibrahim Elbadawi**, President and Coordinator of FEMISE and ERF Managing Director, opens the conference, and begins by introducing Patricia Augier, President of the Scientific Council of FEMISE and IM and then welcomes the participants.

Mr Elbadawi then presents the theme of the conference: "neighbours of neighbours" and **stresses that EU-Med cooperation and relations with Africa are of great importance not only for the European Union but also for the Mediterranean countries.** Africa is important for the creation of public goods and for development at regional and international scales. Mr. Elbadawi takes the example of Morocco and its cooperation initiatives with Senegal and other French-speaking countries, and states that this theme will be included in the next FEMISE research agenda. According to Mr Elbadawi, all stakeholders would benefit from extensive cooperation. Africa is the biggest player in the development and has huge potential, and the Mediterranean countries are positioning themselves. This cooperation is also of positive interest in terms of research and policy.

**Patricia Augier** thanks also the participants of the conference, before stressing on the interests of a wider cooperation. On the one hand, she notes that 25 of the 27 countries in extreme poverty situation are located in sub-Saharan Africa. On the other hand, she highlights the demographic explosion experienced by the continent: average age of 18 years old, population multiplied by four by 2100 (one in three inhabitants in 2100 against one inhabitant out of six today). Patricia Augier reminds that the demographic issue was one of the themes of the conference of the previous year: the population growth and instability of the Region amplify migratory flows, which add to the climatic refugees. The security-only approach toward migration is therefore not effective.

Patricia Augier stresses the need for political awareness toward a greater regionalism so that people benefit the most from globalization. The strong demographic and economic growth is a boon for Sub-Saharan Africa, especially as the improvement of living standards in Asia leads to the relocation of multinationals to countries where wages are lower. There is therefore an opportunity to seize to create a Europe – Mediterranean - sub-Saharan Africa regionalism. Prof. Augier states that everyone has an interest in Africa's development, and that there are opportunities in terms of global value chains, trade and production networks between Euro-Med and Africa. She also recalls that private actors have a key role for trade and FDI, but that a political impetus is needed to create favourable conditions.

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She then introduces the example of Morocco by presenting a report which aim to identify opportunities for product exchange with countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and especially what products were not traded and why. High tariffs are one of the obstacles: Morocco's imports from sub-Saharan Africa are subject to higher customs duties than those from other Mediterranean countries, which are also subject to a higher taxation than imports from other from Europe and USA. For their part, the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa practice a higher customs duty for products from Morocco than for products coming from Europe or the USA. As a result, a European country has more interest in trading directly with a country in sub-Saharan Africa. The cumulation rule constitutes an additional obstacle to trade.

Another constraint lies in the inadequacy of transport infrastructure between Mediterranean countries and sub-Saharan Africa, while their role is fundamental for integration into value chains. Patricia Augier **stresses the importance of regional cooperation in the field of infrastructure for better investment efficiency**: a country will be more integrated into global value chains if its neighbours also invest in transport infrastructure. Prof. Augier also notes that insurance and risk coverage and banks also have a role to play in facilitating trade. Their effectiveness raises questions because of their lack of sufficient resources.

Patricia Augier then proposes suggestions to remove these obstacles, such as the creation of a Continental Free Trade Zone, or the creation of physical and political corridors identifying priority sectors and facilitating trade and FDI. The question of a sectorial or transversal approach needs to be addressed. She recalls that 80% of the exchanges are made between companies, and 60% take place within value chains. Integration into global value chains is therefore a necessity but also the best way to increase trade and an opportunity to strengthen vertical regional integration.

According to Patricia Augier, the Mediterranean countries would benefit even more from their relations with Europe and sub-Saharan Africa if they accelerated their own integration: the costs of their lack of integration would be even higher. Extensive cooperation with Africa thus represents a new incentive to have more integration between Mediterranean countries, as well as an opportunity for them to occupy a privileged place, allowing to create more growth.

**Clayton Bartolo** (representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, PAM) begins by thanking FEMISE and the conference participants. He affirms that the Assembly strongly believe that cooperation is a political and strategic necessity for the Mediterranean Region. Mr Bartolo notes that PAM and FEMISE are complementary because parliaments can adopt and implement policies suggested by the private sector and the connected research institutes. **He states that parliaments need the academic sector to provide the instruments to take appropriate initiatives.** Mr Bartolo recalled FEMISE's participation and contribution to the last parliamentary conference dedicated to trade facilitation and investment promotion in the Mediterranean.

He stated that **the first recommendation that could be made at this conference is better integration in relation to commercial exchanges, particularly with regard to South-South trade. Secondly, more harmonized, transparent and easier rules regarding custom fees and procedures. Another suggestion is the improvement in the scheme allowing SMEs**, which are at the heart of the economies of the Mediterranean countries, to access investment. Mr Bartolo remarks that, while funds for big projects,

especially for infrastructure, are available and easy to allocate, the procedures for SMEs to access investment are too complicated and need to be eased. Finally, one recommendation is to improve data protection, especially for e-commerce. Mr Bartolo recalled that the purpose of these conferences is to gather experts (both from the public and private sectors, and the international institutions) and members of parliament to better understand the issues and produce documents providing recommendations. Mr Bartolo underlined on this occasion that FEMISE is an institution that could provide great inputs to the international parliamentary debate.

Mr Bartolo invites FEMISE to join the PAM Academic Platform. This platform promotes knowledge transfer within the Region with the objectives of creating a regional knowledge exchange mechanism, stimulating regional cooperation among parliamentarians, academia, students and representatives of the productive sector, facilitating the mobility of professors and students in the Mediterranean Region, offering a hub enabling stakeholders to draw upon top expertise for activities on specific topics, and finally identifying areas of excellence.

Clayton Bartolo also points out that further openness and collaboration with the rest of the African continent is a long-awaited innovation that could boost EuroMed integration, facilitate trade, and assist in the management of migratory flows. He suggests building such cooperation with parliamentary, economic and financial institutions operating in Africa. Mr Bartolo concluded by thanking FEMISE once again for the invitation to open this conference, and he looks forward to a more structured cooperation between PAM and FEMISE.

## **II. Plenary Sessions**

### **Plenary I: Where are we in terms of EuroMed-African cooperation? : State of play of existing agreements and projects**

The events taking place in his neighbourhood have a lot of importance for the European Union, begins by recalling in a video message **Chrystos Stylianides**, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management. Threats as climate change, insecurity or terrorism are global issues requiring global solutions. The previous EU-AU summit in November 2017 emphasized that Africa is facing the biggest challenge of all times.

Mr. Stylianides states that investing in youth must be a priority for Africa and the European Union. The demographic dynamics of the African continent and its young population (60% of Africans are under 25) are putting increasing pressure on the education system. Education remains an essential tool against forced marriages and to facilitate employment, and therefore to stop the loss of generations. Mr Stylianides points out that the response to the crises in Africa are currently one of the most important challenges because of the confrontations, the sufferings of the populations and the catastrophic impacts on the communities. An amount of 700 million euros has been allocated for humanitarian assistance, particularly for malnutrition and population displacements.

These issues illustrate the development challenges and call for a connection between development and humanitarian aid. Mr. Stylianides recommends to take this opportunity to create an infrastructure and improve the resilience of these countries to changes, especially climate change. He also proposes to strengthen good governance principles with institutions that guarantee the rule of law and protect civil society. **He is convinced that extensive**

**cooperation between EuroMed and Sub-Saharan Africa is not only an opportunity but also a necessity.**

To see Mr. **Chrystos Stylianides**, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management video message, please click here .

Within the African Union, Regional integration in Sub-Saharan Africa takes the form of eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with varying levels of integration. **Patrick Plane**, Director of CERDI, also said that a Continental Free-trade zone and a Common Market were planned for 2017 and 2023 respectively. As a state can be a member of several regional organization, Mr. Plane speaks of a "spaghetti bowl" complicating the effectiveness of customs unions and leads to confusion about rules of origin.

Regional organizations have had little impact on the integration of African countries, but Mr Plane presents some partially successful experiences. The West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) has had a real impact thanks to a macroeconomic convergence program, with its common currency (CFA franc) which avoids currency hedging problems and allows for the convergence of inflation and budget deficits. While the results in terms of growth are not obvious, the WAEMU has had a positive impact on trade between its member countries. Today, the aim is to extend the WAEMU to the whole ECOWAS countries. Common tariffs (from 0% to 35%) was introduced in early 2015. But a deeper integration comes up against different economic and monetary policies among countries. In addition, Morocco and Tunisia are looking to join the ECOWAS to gain better access to the West African market, but the interest for ECOWAS countries is unclear.

The European Union plays an important role in regional integration. Five ECs are subject to Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) to replace terms of preference by asymmetrical agreements with free access to the European market for African states, which would have a transitional period to liberalize their economies. For the moment, these EPAs have only been the subject of agreements in principle. But they have been criticized and few countries have ratified them. There are fears that the EU products will invade the domestic markets with agricultural products and disrupt emerging sectors and their integration into value chains. Patrick Plane notes, however, that imports from emerging countries are replacing those from Europe. Another criticism concerns the loss of customs revenue that would affect the financial balance of the African states. These agreements also are debatable for the less advanced countries which already enjoy a derogatory status giving them access to the European market without any counterpart.

The results of a deeper integration should be an increase in competitiveness, an attraction of FDI, a higher growth, and an expansion of markets leading to economies of scale. The agreements could serve as an impetus for institutional regional integration. **In conclusion, Patrick Plane highlights a contradiction between the wish to form a Free-trade zone and the reluctance to implement it. Africa has an ambitious integration plan, but the implementation policy is insufficient since the interests are not always convergent.**

**Roger Albinyana**, Director of Euro-Mediterranean Policies and Regional Programmes of IEMED, begins by emphasizing that there is a growing need to integrate the African dimension into Euro-Med relations. Mediterranean countries have progressed in setting up investment and infrastructure strategies and on migration issues. He suggests to identify the nexus development-security which is obvious in this region because of the links between these two issues. There is no real political framework even if the EU is trying to boost integration, and Mr Albinyana regrets the lack of South-South integration which prevents the EU from considering South-Med countries as an actor of the dialogue with Africa. He calls for a review of the European Neighbourhood Policy which should include the importance of Sub-Saharan Africa in the UfM roadmap.

Bilateral agreements have been signed between European and Mediterranean countries, in particular concerning migration and security, themes common to both regions, and which are affected in particular by issues relating to poverty and respect of human rights. Mr Albinyana recall that migration, which is mostly intra-African, is not a sectoral problem, and that the AU is studying professional migration with the aim of setting up a free-trade zone guaranteeing the mobility of workers. A ministerial meeting is planned for 2018 on migration in the framework of the 5 + 5 dialogue. The Rabat and Khartoum processes, which include migration, border management and international protection issues for East and West African corridors, are other examples of cooperation between European and African countries. Mr Albinyana regrets that these dialogues sometimes came at the expense of international rights and human rights, and he stressed the need for a multilateral dialogue. The EU must be more effective and its member states must find agreement despite the tensions between them, particularly on political asylum issues and relocation agreements. Mr Albinyana believes that the EU should work together to find solutions approved by all countries and not impose its vision.

For Mr Albinyana, cooperation between the EU and Africa is to be favoured. **He recommends to increase the available funds, to redirect humanitarian funds (EU-Africa Fund) and to propose new instruments. He calls for a global European policy on migration. He also suggests to reform or to create an European asylum framework, notably by reforming the Dublin principle and replacing it with a principle of solidarity.** Mr Albinyana stressed that this framework must integrate the countries of origin of migrants and the countries of transit, and must favour legal migration corridors. **He also recommends that local authorities receive more competences and funding to manage migrants, and these must be directly involved in integration processes.** Roger Albinyana also calls for low-skilled migration to be taken into account, and for development and gender inequalities to be at the heart of the discussions.

## **Plenary II: Where do we want to go and how? The choice of a new paradigm for EuroMed Cooperation towards Africa and priorities to be targeted**

The dynamic is changing in Europe (Brexit, rise of populism) and on the southern shore of the Mediterranean, which suffers from a lack of sustainable development model. The growth of the Mediterranean countries has not been generating jobs and has not been for the benefit of development. Hence **Raed Safadi** (Department of Economic Development, Dubai), justifies the need for a new model, since the European Union had taken an interest

in the issues of security and stability in the South-Med region and, despite the initiatives undertaken, there is a lack of evidence of success. He also recalls that the environment in the South and East of the Mediterranean is changing. Mr Safadi regrets the tensions between the EU's neighbourhood agenda, integrating the political, economic and sociological aspects, and the bilateral relations of the Member States. In the end, the reality is not in line with the Brussels agenda.

Mr. Safadi emphasizes the benefits of having close relations between countries, but these are often at the expense of their independence: it may be necessary to give up certain competences to benefit from a rapprochement. He recalls that these relations focus in the particular issues of security and migration, but there is a desire to change the agenda toward bilateral relations and exchanges. Neighbours of neighbours must take a full part in this evolving agenda. Mr Safadi finally reminds of the obstacles and opportunities of the integration of Mediterranean countries and calls for a win-win relationship in the framework of an extended cooperation.

The EuroMed partnership suffers from institutional limits, as multiple frameworks coexist on similar issues (ENP, 5+5 dialogue, Customs Union with Turkey ...) leading to a form of dispersion. **Hassan Sentissi El Idrissi**, President of the ASMEX, stresses that Mediterranean countries have a predilection for bilateral agreements. He regrets the absence of a common cultural framework and the persistence of open conflicts (Israel-Palestine, Western Sahara ...) and traffics of all kinds across the Mediterranean countries and Sub-Saharan Africa, hindering the success of regional integration. In-depth cooperation is therefore needed.

Europe, which accounts for 72% of FDI flows to Africa, must be the locomotive of strategic investments towards this continent. Emerging powers (China, Malaysia, Morocco) came into play, challenging the historical powers (France, United Kingdom, United States). Europe, however, is back in Africa with a goal of securing energy and deploying multinationals.

**Mr. El Idrissi calls for collective actions to address common issues, drawing on the cultural and linguistic relationships connecting the continents, and including issues of co-development and respect.** Europe must realize the importance of industrialization and human development in Africa, and it is necessary to solve the problems on a global level because of their interactions (security-migration...). Mr. El Idrissi noted that the two continents are more than ever encouraged to review their cooperation, avoiding a situation where Europe is the core and South-Med countries and Sub-Saharan Africa are the peripheries. Regional integration is not an end in itself, it should not be a burden but a shared responsibility.

The increased participation of external actors, added to an overlapping of initiatives (ACP agreements, law on the growth and development of Africa, China's increasing role ...), which increase the pressure on African actors. **Mr. El Idrissi noted that, if there is a desire to attract FDI, it is necessary to question their type (solar energy?) and the sectors of interest to foreign investors.**

Shared market connectivity is needed to attract investment in infrastructure to respond to fast urbanization and population growth. Mr. El Idrissi emphasizes that this connectivity require institutions that are favourable to good governance and which make it possible to set

up these infrastructures. He recalls that the causes of the Arab Spring are transversal and emanate from the demands of youth: employment, social and economic development. He hopes that cooperation between Europe and Africa can be called "African Neighbourhood".

**Omar Abdourrahman** (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNECA, North Africa Sub-regional Office) begins to recall the existing links between Africa and Europe, and emphasizes that cooperation around the Mediterranean must connect the two continents. For Mr. Abdourrahman, industrialization, sophistication and diversification are the keys to strengthen development cooperation. He stressed that, while policies currently favour the tertiary sector, there is still room for industrialization. Africa is rich in natural resources but their transformation remains insufficient. Mr. Abdourrahman advocates a resource-based approach to integrate regional and global value chains. Resources are in Africa and technology in Europe, so it would be wise to think about a common integration in the Global Value Chain.

Mr. Abdourrahman believes that industrialization should be based on a regional rather than a competitive approach. He notes that countries often have utopian national strategies. Secondly, he stressed that the issue of human capital must also be the subject of a regional approach. Mr. Abdourrahman also claims that transport and production infrastructure must be at the heart of government efforts, and must be a vehicle for the delivery of products. He also pointed out that the issue of logistics must be taken into account, as well as the issues of financing, which are currently too fragmented and prevents the region from sufficiently holding its weight worldwide.

On Regional Integration, he highlights the launch of the Continental Free Trade Zone by Heads of State, and notes that China has already positioned itself to take advantage of this. He also recalls that, among the eight economic communities of the continent, the Arab Maghreb Union is the least operating one. Morocco is seeking to join ECOWAS, followed by Tunisia. Mr. Abdourrahman regrets that this competitive approach is detrimental to the effectiveness of AMU. He notes that we are thus returning to the challenge of moving from bilateral individual relations to regional integration, which will be the focus of discussions.

**Mr. Abdourrahman proposes to take the example of the alliance network of Morocco and to undertake actions with a sectoral approach. In terms of governance, he suggests promoting the private sector and transparency, which will have a contagion effect on other activities.**

For **Zakaria Fahim**, President of Hub Africa, the main challenge remains in the ability of SMEs to integrate regional and then global value chains, the most important points being access to finance, support to export and support to SMEs. Hub Africa is an associative project that has since become an entrepreneurial project whose main philosophy is to show that Africa can be a major player if its inhabitants take their destiny into their own hands. **Hub Africa is a driver for economic diplomacy at the service of African integration**, highlights Mr. Fahim.

Zakaria Fahim sees Africa as a continent full of opportunities with large potentials of development. It is an attractive continent, enjoying strong growth, and will soon be the most populous in the world, while neighbouring Europe is aging. **Mr. Fahim suggests to place the youth, the digital space and the logistical constraints at the heart of the concerns, and to give the floor to entrepreneurs and to support those who want to**

**get out of the wage employment, since the labour market can absorb only 20% of those young people seeking jobs.** The philosophy of Hub Africa is to develop innovation with young people, some of which have opportunities to travel or study in other countries, and Mr. Fahim proposes to establish an African Erasmus to facilitate this mobility. The African diaspora is a major actor in economic development and 80% of migration flows are intra-African, with, for example, a large sub-Saharan diaspora in Morocco, and it is necessary to integrate and value them. Zakaria Fahim then remarks that if the continent is politically divided between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, mentalities are changing, with a stronger affirmation of belonging to the same continent.

It is necessary to support open innovation **by promoting the meeting between the ideas of African startups and Euro-Mediterranean funding.** Mr. Fahim points out the existence of accelerator projects on the continent, with connections to "grandes écoles". He regrets the problem of the circulation of start-ups and regrets that financial resources are held by the older generations, and suggests finding solutions to break the isolation of youth initiatives and to seek the resources of the annuitants to accompany them. Mr Fahim also notes that the level of study of migrants to Europe has increased by 100% which highlights a problem of "brain drain", with serious consequences on the countries of departure.

**He also recommends integrating sustainable development issues, including solar and wind, as sources of sustainable energy, for example by working with Canada to help local start-ups seize opportunities for sustainable development. In conclusion, Zakaria Fahim quotes a famous African proverb: "if you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, let's go together".**

It is necessary to preserve natural heritage and cooperate in the energy sector, says **Abderrahim Ksiri**, National Coordinator of Alliance Marocaine pour le Climat et le Développement Durable (AMCDD). The AMCDD is part of a set of African networks focusing on energy and climate issues. Mr Ksiri regrets that there are too many different initiatives without overall consistency. The capacities of adaptations and actions are lacking in front of the acceleration of the rhythms and the changes, and these disturbances deepen the inequalities.

Nearly one in two Africans does not have access to electricity, while energy needs are increasing in the face of increasing demography: there is a need for 150 GW installations by 2050. Only 4% of global energy demand is coming from Africa, the continent being lagging in this sector due to a lack of capacity to attract investment and to adopt a planned national energy strategy. Inequalities in access to energy cause social, cultural and environmental imbalances, and worsen socio-economic poverty, conflict and migration. Mr. Ksiri also says that the population is relying on biomass, especially wood heating, hence speeding up deforestation. Initiatives exist, such as the pipeline project linking Nigeria, Morocco and Spain and other regional initiatives, but the results are below expectations.

Africa has a huge potential for renewable energy, with 300 GW that could be produced. Hydraulics, for example, is only used at one-fifth of its capacity. The fast developments in the renewable energy sector should allow them to become more competitive compared to subsidized fossil fuels. Despite this potential, some countries (Kenya, South Africa, Egypt, Algeria and Nigeria) wish to develop nuclear power. Mr Ksiri warns of the problem of waste management that will arise for countries with unstable and unprepared institutions, and

stresses that European countries are making enormous and very costly efforts to get out of nuclear power.

**Abderrahim Ksiri recommends not to follow the model of developed countries, responsible for global warming (Africa is responsible for only 4% of GHG emissions), before recalling the opportunities created by major international projects such as the Desertech project.** Mr. Ksiri also advises to develop renewable energies accessible to the most vulnerable populations so as not to accentuate the fracture in the access to energies, and he recommends to support small projects and to incite the investments from the population. It is necessary to build sustainable cities, to review the optimal use of resources, especially water transfers, and to develop multi-modality (transport, water, building, electricity). Mr Ksiri regrets that aid for development, mixing credits and actual aid, represents only a small part of the budget of the developed countries, and is becoming a market not accompanied by a technological transfer and a reinforcement of capacities. He concludes by noting that all North African countries are calling for cooperation.

### **Plenary III: An imperative on the agenda: Preserving the natural heritage and cooperating in the energy sector**

The pooling of public policies between neighbouring countries for renewable energies and sanitation reduces their costs and makes them more profitable, and thus leads to greater efficiency, says Patricia Augier. The challenge is the electrification of the African continent and renewable energies and digitalization have a major role to play. The European Union is the result of a long process and a "de facto solidarity". Ms. Augier notes that only one in two Africans has access to electricity while the needs are always growing. She also points out that 4% of energy demand comes from Africa, mainly from North Africa and South Africa.

Patricia Augier highlights the initiatives for the preservation of natural heritage and energy, promoted at the national level and by civil society. The challenge is to find ways to give them more visibility and coherence. She therefore recommends further cooperation with civil society and local authorities to bring greater coherence at the national level. Mrs Augier finally underlines the need to give meaning to the actions undertaken at national and local level.

**Issa Garba Tahirou** (Executive Coordinator, Civil Society Platform on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Niger) presents an initiative responding to a need to preserve the environment and to find new energy sources, while integrating women's participation. This initiative is developed in a context of climate stress: Niger being mostly desert, the climatic constraint is a major concern and has strong repercussions on agro-pastoral activities, fishing, agriculture and livestock. Niger is the second largest producer of Uranium and a major oil producer, but it is one of the poorest countries in the world (one of the lowest HDI, 70% of the population living with less than one dollar per day). Mr. Garba Tahirou emphasizes that if natural resources were managed in an inclusive way, they would contribute to the development of the country.

Climate change increases pressure on already fragile states. Niger, in addition to environment degradations, suffers from wars and conflicts, causing the displacement of millions of people to more liveable areas, causing more pressure on the ecosystem (cutting of wood, desertification, and disappearance of natural resources). Niger hosts about 300,000 refugees, and a major humanitarian crisis is affecting refugee camps. Demography is under pressure with a high birth rate, and Mr. Garba Tahirou recalls that education of women has an important role in affecting the number of children they have and their ability to raise them.

Issa Garba Tahirou présente le projet pilote de fûs de riz, dont le principal avantage est de préserver jusqu'à 850 kg de bois de chauffage et 510 kg de charbon. Ce projet inclut également la formation de forgerons pour les fours, ainsi qu'une campagne de sensibilisation et de promotion et de popularisation. M. Garba Tahirou souligne que ce projet, qui comprend des subventions et un soutien pour les femmes, peut servir d'exemple dans le contexte de la coopération avec la Méditerranée. Le prix de l'oven étant élevé, les ressources sont fournies par les contributions hebdomadaires des femmes basées sur un système de solidarité circulaire. L'objectif est de faciliter l'adaptation, de respecter la biodiversité et de fournir une formation en techniques de pépinière d'arbres pour restaurer l'environnement et la biodiversité en réintroduisant des espèces menacées ou ayant une valeur écologique ou médicinale.

Issa Garba Tahirou recommande de se concentrer sur la gouvernance, et suggère des mesures à mettre en œuvre telles que l'évaluation des compétences existantes, le renforcement des capacités des institutions et de la société civile pour limiter les crises politiques, et le maintien d'un soutien aux États fragiles. Il souligne également la nécessité de la participation de la société civile et de tenir compte de ses aspirations. Il regrette que la participation des communautés soit insuffisante et que les projets ne répondent pas à leurs besoins.

**Stéphane Pouffary** (Chief Executive Officer and Founder Honorary President of Energies 2050) begins by presenting the association Energies 2050, which focuses on the issues of renewable energies and sustainable development, and seeks to change the behavior of populations in the face of climate change by working on the transversality of development (gender, environment, energy, transport, urbanization...). On the economic side, Energies 2050 is working with FEMISE, and the two associations are co-publishing an annual report on climate change in the Mediterranean. Given the close link between natural resources and heritage, smart energy development requires a good knowledge of the territory. Africa suffers from energy poverty, which remains an imperative for its development, and adds to the cross-cutting problem of demography. Mr Pouffary reminds that a share of 80% of renewable energy in the energy mix is possible thanks to a better management of the demand and the supply, and he calls not to repeat the bad practices of the past (the energy measures focusing mainly on the supply side to the detriment of demand management).

The multiplication of actors and sometimes conflicting agendas makes cooperation complicated to implement. Stéphane Pouffary déplore un problème d'adaptation politique, en particulier pour les pays du Sud, face à l'agenda de l'action. Les accords de Paris ont introduit des contributions déterminées au niveau national, et Energies 2050 travaille avec tous les types

of actors (local governments, academics, international institutions, civil society) to help achieve these goals. But the contributions (which include an unconditional part and a conditional part depending on external aid) remain insufficient, the current trajectory does not allow to limit the rise in temperatures: the forecasts are an increase of 3.5°C instead of 2°C targeted.

The projects in which Energies 2050 took part link adaptation and mitigation, with energy access as a global subject. Stéphane Pouffary presents an example of a project addressing the problem of non-controlled production of milk because of a lack of a decentralized collect point and cold storage system. The idea is to propose hybrid mix collection points and to recreate a value chain, with a positive impact on the resource, on the access to energy, and on the economy, by creating an integral chain of adaptation and small scale contribution in response to a global problem.

Mr. Pouffary advocates for a model of adaptation to climate change with a cost-benefit analysis in terms of mitigation, and he calls for a new questioning on development policies. For the year 2018, he recommends a facilitation dialogue, and calls for solutions allowing the actors to review their ambitions upwards. He proposes in particular to territorialize the States commitments and to allow the local governments and the cities to seize these issues and competences currently dependent on the States. Mr. Pouffary also notes the importance of common language and indicators. He concludes by emphasizing the need for a multi-actor and multi-competence approach to enable a global transition of society.

Field actors, like local communities, are essential to a cooperation agenda, states **Ndiouga Sakho**, Chairman of the Committee on Urban Planning, Sustainable Development, Environment and Coastal Management of the City of Dakar. By 2050, half of the population will live in urban areas, placing the themes of natural heritage and energy preservation at the forefront, and cooperation between Europe and Africa is imperative when it comes to territorial ecological transition. It is necessary to take into account the physical, environmental, social and economic vulnerabilities of neighbouring cities because of the interactions between them. According to Mr Sakho, cooperation between neighbouring territories would give a wider geographical scale perspective and a greater efficiency.

The city of Dakar undergoes a degradation and a transformation of its natural environment. The urban environment remains fragile, due to the uncontrolled urbanization, the absence of public services, the extent of the informal sector, the deficit of infrastructures and networks within the cities, the difficulties of access to energy, and the lack of adaptation of territorial actors. Mr Sakho presents initiatives such as the initiative of the European Union and COMESA, which has set up a knowledge laboratory for sustainable and resilient territories, or the Alternative Territorial Energy Climate Plan which focuses on renewable energies, the behaviour of the citizens, the remodelling of the urban space...etc. The DKR Project focuses on the urban requalification of the city of Dakar, and includes a platform of actors and institutions allowing a synergy of actions. For Mr. Sakho, the challenge is to reinvent the city, with an appropriation by the inhabitants and new infrastructures, thanks to actions reflecting a global consideration of sustainable development, such as reforestation, green schools, sustainable rural electrification, tree nurseries in schools...

Ndiouga Sakho then emphasizes the link between natural heritage and energy. There is a need to restore protected areas affected by urbanization, to introduce measures to prevent deforestation, to protect coastal areas, and to ensure access to safe drinking water for household consumption and for agriculture. Mr. Sakho presents some measures implemented such as paving, signposts, thermal renovation of buildings, development of peri-urban agriculture, fast bus, and waste management based on a principle of circular economy with sorting, composting, reuse and recycling. Mr. Sakho also emphasizes the training for women, campaign to build an awareness to environmental culture at school, the promotion of eco-neighbourhoods, the establishment of a municipal observatory to map risk areas (where are located 90% of industries) including an alert system. An incubator has been created to foster innovative projects and green jobs creation. Mr Sakho regrets, however, that the financial resources to carry out the projects are insufficient.

Ndiouga Sakho recommends to develop multi-stakeholder partnerships and to share good practices, and to adopt a logic of global intervention, planned and shared with a goal of favouring sustainable urban development. **He proposes a partnership between the European Union and the African Union including the communities of North Africa, and suggests to improve the institutional framework with the establishment of observation networks, an exchange of experience between universities and cities, and the mobilization of financing and investment. Finally, he advises to place action around local communities and to put people at the heart of these actions, and to act locally.**

#### **Recommendations from the conference to determine the priorities and the necessary measures towards a EuroMed-African cooperation.**

- 1- Investing in youth must be a priority for Africa and the European Union.** The demographic dynamics of the African continent and its young population (60% of Africans are under 25) are putting increasing pressure on the education system. Education remains a shield against forced marriages and a defence tool against unemployment and poverty.
- 2- Cooperation opportunities with Africa must be seized** to create infrastructures, to improve the resilience of these countries in the face of climate and other challenges, and to strengthen the principles of good governance protecting civil society.
- 3- Integration must be complemented** by increased competitiveness, FDI attraction, stronger growth, and wider markets leading to economies of scale. Attracting FDI is a priority, but there is a need to focus on sectors that will help the countries develop.
- 4- Europe must become aware of the importance of industrialization and human development in Africa.** The solutions currently proposed by the EU, whether stemming from the security and migration policy, or from trade policy (by asking sub-Saharan countries to reduce their tariff protection vis-à-vis European products), are far from being up to the standards. In general, the priorities of some (development in the South) and of others (migration in the North) should be treated with a more global vision, taking into account the complexity of situations and interaction processes (industrialization-jobs). -Security-migration, etc.).
- 5- The industrialization of the African continent could go faster if it could rely on a more integrated zone** to create regional value chains and facilitate their insertion at the world level, especially in value chains run by EU firms. In this area,

Europe can help countries in a variety of ways: market knowledge, standards acquisition, technology transfer, human capital formation, investment support, infrastructure and logistics improvements, and so on.

- 6- It is urgent to have a much more active and proactive policy towards the private sector: We must put firms at the center of concerns, all over the African continent, allow the voice of entrepreneurs to be more audible, listen to their needs, change their image and give young people the envy to undertake entrepreneurial efforts. Facilitating, by all means, intra-regional trade is a way to achieve this. Open innovation must foster the meeting of ideas of African startups and Euro-Mediterranean funding.
- 7- Further **cooperation with civil society and local authorities should be encouraged** to increase national coherence and respond to the needs and providing a role and a meaning to national and local actions. **A facilitation dialogue has to be built** to propose solutions for the actors to revise their ambitions upward: territorialize the commitments of states to allow local governments and cities to seize these issues and competences currently dependent on states. This must be done in a multi-actor and multi-competence approach to enable a global transition of society.
- 8- **Economic development throughout the African continent must not be at the expense of the environment and quality of life:** It is important to restore protected areas affected by urbanization, to implement measures to combat deforestation, protect coastal areas and ensure access to drinking water for households and to meet the needs of the agricultural sector.