



## 20 YEARS OF FEMISE:

Celebrating Two Decades of Research,  
Dialogue & Euro-Med Cooperation

17 November, 2025 - Palau Llotja de Mar , Barcelona

# Speakers Bios



# WELCOMING REMARKS



**H.E. Amb. Senén Florensa,**  
**Executive President, IEMed**

**H.E. Amb. Senén Florensa** is the Executive President of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), where he also serves as Chair of the EuroMeSCo General Assembly and Director of the quarterly *afkar/ideas* and the *IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook*.

A career diplomat with the personal rank of Ambassador, he previously served in various high-level diplomatic and academic positions. Ambassador Florensa holds degrees in Economic Science and Law from the University of Barcelona and completed his PhD in Economics at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, after doctoral studies at Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne and New York University as a Fulbright scholar.

His distinguished career reflects a lifelong dedication to Euro-Mediterranean dialogue, development cooperation, and cultural exchange.



**Prof. Heba Handoussa,**  
**Acting President, FEMISE**

**Prof. Heba Handoussa** is Interim Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum (ERF) and Representative of the ERF Presidency in FEMISE. A distinguished economist and founder of Egypt Network for Integrated Development (ENID, 2012) and the Egypt Foundation for Integrated Development (El Nidaa, 2016), she has pioneered inclusive models for women's and youth empowerment in Upper Egypt.

Formerly Professor and Vice Provost at the American University in Cairo, she authored award-winning Egypt Human Development Reports and, as ERF's founding Managing Director, established the region's leading hub for policy-relevant research. She has advised the Egyptian government and served on national and international boards including the Central Bank of Egypt, the World Bank Chief Economist's Council of Eminent Persons, and UNRISD.

# 20 YEARS OF FEMISE: CELEBRATING IMPACT, INSPIRING TOMORROW



**H.E. Mr. Jaume Duch,  
Minister for EU & Foreign  
Action, Gov. of Catalonia**

**H.E. Mr. Jaume Duch Guillot** is the Minister for European Union and Foreign Action of the Government of Catalonia. A prominent Spanish politician and communicator, he has dedicated his career to advancing European integration and institutional communication.

Prior to this role, he served as Director-General for Communication and Spokesperson of the European Parliament (2017–2024), where he led the institution's global communication strategy and media relations. He began his career in 1990 as an EU official and has since held several key roles within European institutions.

Mr. Duch holds a Law degree from the University of Barcelona and has served as Associate Professor of Public International Law. His work has been recognized with several awards in communication and public service. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe.



**H.E. Amb. Nasser Kamel,  
Secretary General, Union for  
the Mediterranean (UFM)**

**H.E. Amb. Nasser Kamel** is the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) and a seasoned Egyptian diplomat with a distinguished career in international relations.

He previously served as Ambassador of Egypt to the United Kingdom (2014–2018) and Ambassador to France (2006–2012), where he contributed to the launch of the Union for the Mediterranean through the 2008 Paris Summit Joint Declaration. He also held senior positions as Assistant Minister for Arab and Middle Eastern Affairs (2012–2014) and Director of Egypt's Public Information Service (2004–2006).

Ambassador Kamel studied Political Science at Brussels University and Cairo University, and graduated from the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cairo and the École Nationale d'Administration (ENA) in Paris. He has been honored as *Grand Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite* by the Republic of France and received decorations from Belgium and Portugal.



**Mr. Stefano Sannino,**  
**Director-General, Directorate-**  
**General for the Middle East,**  
**North Africa and the Gulf (DG**  
**MENA), European**  
**Commission**

**Mr. Stefano Sannino** is an Italian diplomat and senior EU official with an extensive career in European and international affairs. Since February 2025, he has served as Director-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (DG MENA) at the European Commission.

Prior to this, he was Secretary-General of the European External Action Service (EEAS) from 2021 to 2024 and Ambassador of Italy to Spain and Andorra from 2016 to 2020. He also served as Permanent Representative of Italy to the EU, Director-General for Enlargement, and held several senior positions within the European Commission and the Italian diplomatic service.



**Prof. Patrick Plane,**  
**Emeritus Research Director in**  
**Economics, CERDI-CNR**

**Prof. Patrick Plane** is Emeritus Research Director in Economics at the Centre for Studies and Research on International Development (CERDI), part of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and He is also associate professor of the University Clermont Auvergne where he teaches different courses in relation with development economics.

He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Auvergne and has served as Head of CERDI (2001–2013) and Member of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (2010–2016).

Dr. Plane is a member of the European Development Research Network (EUDN), Co-Editor of the *Revue d'Économie du Développement*, and a resource person for the African Economic Research Consortium. His research focuses on industrial economics, competitiveness, public-private partnerships, and development policy, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa and the MENA region. He has published extensively in high-impact academic journals including *World Development*, *Journal of Development Studies*, and *Economic Modelling*.





**Dr. Raed Safadi,**  
**Partner & Chief Economist,**  
**Whiteshield**

**Dr. Raed Safadi** is Partner and Chief Economist at Whiteshield Partners, a global advisory firm based in Dubai specializing in public policy, economic strategy, and artificial intelligence.

With over three decades of experience in economic development, trade policy, and international cooperation, he previously served as Chief Economist at Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism, where he led initiatives for post-COVID-19 recovery, economic diversification, and innovation-led growth.

Before that, Dr. Safadi held senior positions at the OECD and the World Bank, advising governments and international organizations on fiscal reform, trade, and sustainable growth.

He holds a PhD in Economics from Georgetown University and has published extensively on development, trade, and globalization, including the book *Inclusive Global Value Chains*.



**Dr. Maryse Louis,**  
**General Manager, FEMISE**

**Dr. Maryse Louis** is the General Manager of the FEMISE Network, an EU-Mediterranean research and policy network of more than 100 member institutes. She oversees FEMISE's programs and partnerships aimed at strengthening EU-Med dialogue through research, outreach, and communication strategies.

Prior to her current role, Dr. Louis served as General Secretary of FEMISE and Programs Officer at the Economic Research Forum (ERF). She holds a PhD in Economics from Aix-Marseille University (France), an MA in Economic Development, and a BSc in Statistics from Cairo University.

Her research interests include innovation and knowledge economies, Water-Energy-Food nexus policies, entrepreneurship, migration, and inclusive development. She has co-authored several publications and serves as a reviewer for academic journals.

# LOOKING AHEAD: A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE & INCLUSIVE EU-MED REGION



**Prof. Samir Makdisi,**  
**Chairman of FEMISE**  
**Governance Committee & AUB**

**Prof. Samir Makdisi** is Professor Emeritus of Economics and Founding Director of the Institute of Financial Economics, at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He is a former Minister of Economy, Republic of Lebanon (1992), Deputy President of AUB (1992–1998) and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Economic Research Forum (1993–2001) and, an elected member of the Board, 2012–2022.

Recipient of several honors including the AUB medal (1998), he is widely published in academic journals and has written books in the areas of financial policies, civil conflict and democratic transitions, among others, with special reference to the Arab World. He is co-editor (with Ibrahim Elbadawi) of *Democratic Transitions in the Arab World* published by Cambridge University Press (2017). He received his PhD in Economics from Columbia University, New York.



**Dr. Roger Albinyana,**  
**Managing Director, IEMed**

**Dr. Roger Albinyana** is the Managing Director of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), where he has worked since 2016, previously serving as Director of Euro-Mediterranean Policies. He is also Associate Professor at the University of Barcelona, teaching international economic policy, and serves on several advisory bodies, including the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) and the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA).

Before joining IEMed, Dr. Albinyana held senior public service roles, including Secretary General for Foreign and EU Affairs of the Government of Catalonia and Advisor on Private Sector Development at the Union for the Mediterranean. He holds a PhD and MA in Economic History from the University of Barcelona, a BA in Economics from Pompeu Fabra University, and a BA in Business Administration and Management from the Open University of Catalonia.



**Passainte Atef,**  
**Program and Policy Officer,**  
**FEMISE**

**Passainte Atef** is a Program and Policy Officer at the FEMISE Network and Program Officer at the Economic Research Forum (ERF). In these roles, she contributes to implementing research agendas, managing multi-partner regional programs, and strengthening collaborations with institutions across the Mediterranean and MENA regions. Her work supports evidence-based dialogue and policy engagement on key development issues.

She holds a Master's degree in Economic Expertise of Development Policies and Projects from the Institute of Economic and Social Development Studies (IEDES), University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, and dual Bachelor's degrees in Economics from Cairo University and Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Her interests include research coordination and policy-oriented work focused on economic development and regional cooperation.

## UNVEILING FEMISE NEW BRAND IDENTITY & WEBSITE



**Menna Elkashif,**  
**Communication Officer,**  
**FEMISE**

**Menna Elkashif** is a communication specialist and researcher with experience across international organizations, academia, and the private sector. As Communication Officer at the FEMISE Network, she leads strategic communications, rebranding, and digital outreach across the Euro-Mediterranean region, managing high-level events and EU-funded initiatives on sustainability, youth engagement, and climate communication.

She was a University Fellow at the American University in Cairo (AUC), where she earned her MA in Journalism and Mass Communication. Her research focuses on strategic communication, sustainability, and narrative influence, and she has presented at several international conferences, including AEJMC, where she received the Top Paper Award in 2024. She has also published in leading academic journals, including the *International Communication Gazette*.



## FEMISE RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



**Prof. Michael Gasiorek,**  
**Professor of Economics**  
**University of Sussex, UK**

**Prof. Michael Gasiorek** is Professor of Economics at the University of Sussex and Director of the Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy (CITP), funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). He also serves as Co-Director of the UK Trade Policy Observatory.

His research specializes in international trade and regional integration, with a focus on supply chains, trade and development, and the policy implications of trade dynamics. Prof. Gasiorek has led numerous policy projects for the European Commission, the World Bank, and the UK Government, and previously managed InterAnalysis, a University spin-out company delivering trade policy training across Asia.

He has published extensively in leading journals such as *World Economy*, *Economic Policy*, *European Economic Review*, and *Applied Economics*, and continues to advise governments and institutions on trade policy and global economic integration.



**Dr. Insaf Guedidi,**  
**Université de Tunis, (ESSECT),**  
**Tunisia**

**Dr. Insaf Guedidi** is Assistant Professor at the Higher School of Economic and Commercial Sciences of Tunis (ESSECT), Université de Tunis, and a World Trade Organization (WTO) Chair Fellow.

She holds a PhD in Economic Sciences jointly from ESSECT and the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, and an MSc in Economic and Business Intelligence from the Higher Institute of Management of Tunis (ISGT).

Dr. Guedidi previously served as Research Fellow at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Rwanda and completed research stays at the Central Bank of Tunisia, the University Jaume I (Spain), and the Sorbonne Economics Center (CES). Her research focuses on international economics, environmental economics, economic development, macroeconomics, and global value chains.





**Dr. Abdullah Altun,**  
**Associate Professor, Gebze**  
**Technical University, Turkey**

**Dr. Abdullah Altun** is Associate Professor of Economics at Gebze Technical University, Turkey. He earned his PhD in Economics from the same university in 2017.

His research focuses on international trade and economic growth, particularly the macroeconomic impacts of global value chains (GVCs).

Dr. Altun was previously a Visiting Scholar at the Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTEM) and at the University of Warsaw (Poland). Before joining academia, he worked as a Senior Specialist in the Informatics and Information Security Research Center at the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK).



**Dr. Anna Ferragina,**  
**Associate Professor,**  
**Department of Economics &**  
**Statistics, University of**  
**Salerno, Italy**

**Dr. Anna M. Ferragina** is Associate Professor of Economic Policy and PhD Supervisor at the Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Salerno (Italy). She is a Member of the FEMISE Board and Scientific Committee, serves on the Scientific Committee of the Mediterranean Economies Report, and is a Board Member of the Journal of Economic Integration. She has coordinated and participated in research projects funded by the World Bank, European Commission, CNR, and other international and national institutions, and currently acts as Erasmus mobility coordinator at DISES (UNISA).

Her research interests include trade, innovation economics, knowledge-intensive services, regional economics, firm dynamics, and foreign direct investment (FDI), with a particular focus on the MENA region. Dr. Ferragina has published widely in peer-reviewed journals such as *World Economy*, *Journal of Technological Transfer*, and *Applied Economics*, and co-edited the book *Innovation, Globalization, and Firm Dynamics: Lessons for Enterprise Policy* (Routledge, with Erol Taymaz and Kamil Yilmaz).



**Prof. Andres Artal-Tur,**  
**Professor, UPCT, Spain**

**Prof. Andres Artal-Tur**, PhD, is Full Professor in the Department of Economics, Accounting and Finance at the Technical University of Cartagena (UPCT) and Research Associate at the Institute of International Economics, University of Valencia.

His research focuses on tourism economics, regional economics, and international trade, including topics such as tourist behaviour, cultural tourism, sustainability, and economic inequality.

Prof. Artal-Tur has published widely in international journals and edited books with Springer, Routledge, Elsevier, Emerald, and CAB International. He has also participated in numerous research and consultancy projects and has been a visiting professor at universities across Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Europe.



**Prof. Doaa Salman,**  
**Professor & Vice Dean, MSA,**  
**Egypt**

**Prof. Doaa Salman** is Professor and Head of the Economics Department at the Modern Sciences and Arts University (MSA) in Egypt, where she also serves as Vice Dean.

She holds a PhD in International Economics and has extensive teaching and professional experience at MSA, Ain Shams University, and the British University in Cairo. She has also taught within the London School of Economics programme at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport.

Prof. Salman is a Principal Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy. Her research and teaching focus on international economics, development policy, and economic education.



**Prof. Salvator Capasso,  
Director, Consiglio Nazionale  
delle Ricerche (CNR), Italy**

**Prof. Salvatore Capasso** is the Director of the Department of Human and Social Sciences, Cultural Heritage at the Italian National Research Council (CNR) and Full Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Naples Parthenope.

From 2015 to 2022, he led the CNR Institute of Studies on Mediterranean Societies. He has authored over 200 scientific publications and serves on the boards of several academic journals.

His research centres on development economics, monetary and financial economics, with particular attention to the informal economy, financial development, corruption, and Mediterranean economic dynamics.

Prof. Capasso has coordinated numerous national and international projects, held visiting positions at universities in the USA, Spain, and the UK, and has been invited as keynote speaker at conferences worldwide.