



V Medthink FORUM  
Dialogue 5+5

## WHAT PROSPECTS FOR THE 5+5 DIALOGUE IN A MEDITERRANEAN IN TRANSFORMATION? ADAPTING TOGETHER TO THE POST-COVID-19 REALITIES

Madrid, 13-14 October 2021

### INTRODUCTION

Since its inception in May 2016, the MedThink 5+5 network of think tanks of the Western Mediterranean has organised four annual fora, during which experts from the whole of the region were able to analyse the factors underpinning security and stability, as well as economic, human and sustainable development in the Western Mediterranean. The last forum was held in Malta on 1-2 July 2019 under the title: "Fostering Innovative Alliances in the Western Mediterranean: A Basin of Opportunities for a Sustainable Future".

The MedThink 5+5 also organises thematic seminars on specific topics, the last of which focused on issues such as health cooperation, the post-COVID-19 economic recovery, and women's economic participation in the Western Mediterranean. These thematic seminars provide a multidisciplinary platform of debate, contributing both to strengthening the network and to the regional integration based on a bottom-up approach.

In the context of the 2021 Spanish co-presidency of the 5+5 Dialogue and drawing on the Tunis Declaration adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the 5+5 Dialogue on 22 October 2020, the **European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)**, the **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)** are jointly organising the 5<sup>th</sup> annual forum of the MedThink 5+5 network in partnership with **Casa Árabe** in Madrid, Spain.

The forum entitled "**What prospects for the 5+5 Dialogue in a Mediterranean in transformation?**" will tackle three important transformations likely to impact the future of the Western Mediterranean: 1) the transformation of the production model; 2) the digital transition; 3) the sustainability transition. While these challenges have been gradually gaining a foothold in the region, their relevance has been considerably reaffirmed as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Indeed, the pandemic has revealed the scope of the shortcomings of our socioeconomic systems, highlighting in turn the need to move towards shorter and integrated supply chains, a digital economy, and a sustainable development, to improve the resilience in the face of future crises. Within each of these three transformations, the event will outline avenues for reflection on opportunities for sectoral cooperation in the framework of the 5+5 Dialogue, echoing the [Commitments for a new ambition in the Mediterranean](#) of the Summit of the Two Shores in June 2019 in Marseille, as well as the priorities reflected in the "[New Agenda for the Mediterranean](#)" released by the EU High Representative and the European Commission in February 2021.



Jointly organised by



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط





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PROGRAMME

Wednesday 13 October

- 12.00 **Gathering and Registration**
- 12.30 **Welcoming words**  
**Senén Florensa**, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)  
**Cristina Juarranz**, Deputy Director, Casa Árabe
- 12.40 **Keynote speeches**  
**Ángeles Moreno Bau**, State Secretary for Foreign and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Government of Spain  
**Nasser Kamel**, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)  
**Taïeb Baccouche**, Secretary General, Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)
- 13.15 **Family photo**
- 13.30 **Lunch**
- 15.00 **Roundtable** “The 5+5 Dialogue in the post-COVID-19 context: Ways forward to sustain and bolster the cooperation in the Western Mediterranean”  
While the COVID-19 pandemic has hampered the momentum triggered by some subregional initiatives (i.e. the Summit of the Two Shores convened in Marseille in June 2019 or the WestMED initiative for blue economy), the post-pandemic context could provide for the opportunity to give a fresh impetus to the cooperation in the Western Mediterranean. It is indeed timely to strengthen the cooperation framework to meet the urgency and magnitude of the mid to long-term challenges facing us, whether structural or generated by the COVID-19 crisis. Among the questions which need to be tackled is the need for a long-term tangible direction that can redound in the benefit of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. The evolution of the 5+5 Dialogue in a more inclusive format, its deepening with the unfolding of new policy areas, its cross-fertilization with the New Agenda for the Mediterranean, and the extension of



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the partnership to Africa are other ideas for consideration.

Chair

**Javier Puig**, Deputy Director General for Maghreb, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Government of Spain

Special interventions

**Omar Amghar\***, Director of the EU-Morocco Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Government of Morocco

**Daniel Schlosser**, Advisor to the Inter-ministerial Delegate for the Mediterranean, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Government of France

**Ana Helena Marques**, Director of Middle East and Maghreb Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Portugal

**Nor-Eddine Benfreha**, Director of Cooperation with the EU and European Institutions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Algeria

First reactions

**Mohammed Loulichki**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South (PCNS)

**John O'Rourke**, Ambassador, Former Head of Delegation of the European Union to Algeria, European External Action Service

**Roger Albinyana**, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

16.30

Coffee Break

17.00

**Session** "Enhancing Regional Value Chains in the Western Mediterranean: Conditions for a Win-Win Reconfiguration of the Production Model"

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a greater demand for the reorganisation of the global value chains (GVCs). In response to the crisis and the tensions generated on supply chains, nearshoring appears to be synonymous of greater resilience in face of global shocks. Consequently, strengthening regional value chains (RVCs) has gained considerable traction within the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation agenda. Benefits are clear for both northern and southern Mediterranean countries: reduced vulnerability, risk diversification for the North; job creation, transfer of knowledge, and improved competitiveness for the South. The Western Mediterranean Basin, because of the already existing trade links,



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the comparative advantages and attractiveness of the countries of the subregion, has the potential to be at the centre stage of this reconfiguration. However, many obstacles, especially in terms of business environment, protectionist pressures, infrastructures, access to finance, and ageing trade agreements, need to be addressed to make this opportunity a reality. The 5+5 Dialogue, as a political platform with sectoral dialogues, appears well-positioned to design a roadmap to overcome these barriers and contribute to foster regional integration of value chains.

Chair

**Blanca Moreno-Dodson**, Director of the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Speakers

**Jihen Boutiba**, Secretary General, Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (BUSINESSMED)

**Ghazi Ben Ahmed**, Founder and President, Mediterranean Development Initiative (MDI)

**Emmanuel Noutary**, General Delegate, ANIMA Investment Network

**Davide Tentori**, Research Fellow, Centre on Business Scenarios, Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)

First reactions

**Olivia Orozco de la Torre**, Coordinator of Education and Economics, Casa Árabe

**Luis Óscar Moreno**, Expert and former Commercial and Economic Counsellor of the Spanish Embassy in Rabat

21.00

Dinner



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Thursday 14 October

09.00

**Gathering and Registration**

09.30

**Session** “Ensuring Water Security for a Sustainable Future: Challenges for Integrated Water Management in the Western Mediterranean”

The Mediterranean is the second most affected region by climate change after the Arctic. The impacts of global warming will be more severe on water resources and ensuring water security will be the most critical issue for the next decades in the region: the availability of fresh water is expected to experience a drop from 2 to 15% with an increase in temperatures of 2°C in the future. If nothing changes, more than half of the inhabitants of the Mediterranean basin could be considered “water poor” by 2040. The consequences of such a dire scenario are manifold and threaten human security while challenging sustainable development in the region. It is therefore crucial to accelerate efforts towards a sustainable management of water resources (SDG 6). In the Western Mediterranean, the 5+5 [Water Strategy \(WSWM\)](#), launched in 2014 by Spain and Algeria, provides a roadmap to harmonise water policies through the adoption of cross-cutting goals, management criteria and operational objectives in the subregion.

**Chair**

**Octavi Quintana**, Director of the Secretariat, PRIMA Foundation

**Speakers**

**Alain Meyssonier**, President, Institut méditerranéen de l'Eau (IME)

**Ramiro Martínez Costa**, General Coordinator, Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO). Coordinator of the 5+5 Water Strategy for the Western Mediterranean

**Mosbah Helali**, Chairman, SONEDE (National Water Distribution Utility of Tunisia). Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA) - *by videoconference*

**Maroua Oueslati**, Information and Project Manager, Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the Water Sector (EMWIS)

**First reactions**

**Francisco Pedrero Salcedo**, Senior Researcher, CEBAS-CSIC. Former Coordinator, Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat)



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11.00

**Coffee Break**

11.30

**Session** "Towards Smart Western Mediterranean Cities: Harnessing the Potential of the Digital Transformation for a Sustainable Urban Development"

Western Mediterranean cities are put under pressure by an expanding number of challenges: a growing urbanization putting a strain on public urban services and urban planning, climate and environmental change, growing inequalities, the economic recession and more recently the COVID-19 health crisis. A new model of urban sustainable development is more than ever needed to help Mediterranean cities cope with these challenges. The digitalisation transformation, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, provides tools to cities to become more sustainable and resilient, through enhanced economic competitiveness and innovation, a more efficient use of resources and infrastructures, and the involvement of citizens in e-governance. Investing in "smart cities" in the Western Mediterranean, at the junction of the regional urban and digital agendas, would be a key contribution to make urban territories inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG 11).

**Chair**

**Carmen Magariños**, Director of Cooperation with Africa and Asia, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)

**Speakers**

**Aawatif Hayar**, Professor, University Hassan II of Casablanca. Chair, Casablanca IEEE Core Smart City Project – *by videoconference*

**Borhene Dhaouadi**, President, Tunisian Smart Cities

**Victoria Jiménez**, Head of Sector for Urban Development, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

**Fernando Herrero**, Director General for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Madrid City Council

**First reactions**

**Oriol Barba**, Director, MedCities



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13.00

**Concluding Remarks and Closing**

**Isidro González**, Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

**Roger Albinyana**, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

**Cristina Juarranz**, Deputy Director, Casa Árabe

13.30

**Lunch**

**Specially invited participants**

**Toufik Milat**, Ambassador of Algeria to Spain

**Riccardo Guariglia**, Ambassador of Italy to Spain

**Daniel Azzopardi**, Ambassador of Malta to Spain

**Boubacar Kane**, Ambassador of Mauritania to Spain

**Fatma Omrani Chargui**, Ambassador of Tunisia to Spain

**Manuel Gómez-Acebo**, Ambassador, Responsible for Mediterranean Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Government of Spain

**Hatem Ghemari**, Advisor for Political Affairs, Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union

**Helena Bicho**, Counsellor, Embassy of Portugal in Spain

\*to be confirmed