

Transforming the Mediterranean

12-13 June 2023

Palau de Pedralbes, Barcelona

Participants' Bios

- **Reem Al Adwan**, CLUSTER Project Manager, Business Development Center (BDC), Jordan
Reem Al-Adwan is Senior Manager with 15 years of experience in key roles related to Business Development and project management. Her areas of expertise include Youth programs, livelihood, employment, and Good Governance. Since 2006, Reem has successfully managed various projects and project components, including youth projects, employment readiness and preparedness, livelihood, community engagement, capacity development, and Good Governance. Reem is an expert in business development and specializes in defining strategic goals, liaising with business partners and stakeholders, identifying new business opportunities, and staying up-to-date with market trends.
- **Farah Al Shami**, Senior Fellow, Arab Reform Initiative (ARI)
Farah Al Shami is a development economist. She is currently a Senior Fellow at the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI), leading ARI's social protection program. She has eight years of experience, working with CSOs, academic institutes, and UN entities on advancing policy reforms in the Arab region. Her areas of expertise include conducting and managing interdisciplinary research, coordinating national and international advocacy efforts, facilitating professional consortia/communities, and leading capacity-building programs. She holds an MA in Policy Economics from Williams College (MA-USA), an MA in Economics from the American University of Beirut, and a BS in Economics from the Lebanese American University.
- **Roger Albinyana**, Managing Director, IEMed
Roger has been working at the IEMed since 2016 and as an associate professor at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Barcelona, where he teaches international economic policy. He has published numerous papers and articles in his fields of expertise. Roger is also a board member at CIDOB and a member of the Advisory Council of EMEA. Prior to joining the IEMed, Roger served as Secretary for Foreign and EU Affairs of the Government of Catalonia (2013-2016) and was a member of the EU Committee of the Regions. From 2010 to 2013 he served as advisor on private sector development at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean. He holds an 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 (UOC).

- **Gemma Aubarell**, Director of the Culture, Gender and Civil Society Department. European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
Linked to the Catalan Institute of the Mediterranean since 1989, she was Director of Programs (2000-2008) when the Institute had already become the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). She has been Head of Programme and Networks Unit of the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures (Alexandria, Egypt) 2009-2016. As Head of the Mediterranean Relations and European Networks Service at the Government of Catalonia, she has coordinated the Government's Mediterranean Strategy MedCat 2030 (2018-2023). With extensive experience in the fields of Euro-Mediterranean relations, migration policies, civil society and intercultural dialogue, she has been involved in the organization of international events such as the first Euromed Civil Forum in 1995 or the World Migration Congress in year 2004 in Barcelona. She has coordinated research teams and directed European projects in the Arab world with a special focus on the issues of education and youth.
- **Oriol Barba**, Director, MedCités
Oriol Barba is the Director of MedCities. He is an economist and political scientist with over 10 years' experience in international projects related to urban development in the Mediterranean, specially linked to city planning, climate change and local development. He has worked on multiple initiatives linked to institutional building at local level in the field of urban management. He is the author of several publications on these themes. He has an Msc in Global Politics from the London School of Economics and further developed his studies at the University of Damascus. He is proficient in Catalan, Spanish, English and French and has an advanced level of Italian and Arabic.
- **Anna Barnadas**, Secretary for Climate Action, Government of Catalonia
A biologist by training, her current work within the department of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda focuses on establishing and promoting Catalonia's climate change strategies, plans and projects based on commitments adopted within the European Union. She leads the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation in sectoral policies, and promotes climate projects and actions.
- **Núria Bedós**, Project and policy officer at the Directorate-General for Foreign Action in the Catalan Ministry for Foreign Action and European Union
Degrees in Political Sciences and Humanities at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). More than 25 years of professional experience in the field of International Relations, European and Mediterranean policies as well as in European territorial cooperation programs at local (Barcelona City Council) and regional level (Generalitat de Catalunya). In the last eight years, acquired experience in the management of governance and capitalization projects within the framework of Interreg MED (and now EURO MED) such as COM&CAP MarIna-MED, PANORAMED and now Dialogue 4 Innovation.
- **Xavier Bernard-Sans**, Secretary General, Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion
Master Degree in Geography & Territorial Strategy Implementation from Jean Jaures University (2002), Master Degree in Business Administration, EDHEC Business School (1993). Secretary General of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion since 2017. Before joining the Euroregion, Mr. Bernard-Sans worked as Managing Director of the Pyrenees Working Community (2010-2013) and the Monts d'Ardèche Natural Regional Park (2005-2010). He has also worked as Senior consultant in European project management during the period 2013-2017.

- **Vicenzo Bianco**, ARLEM Bureau member and Chair of the CIVEX Commission of the Committee of the Regions

Lawyer and International finance expert, he has served in various positions such as mayor of Catania, deputy to the Sicilian Regional Assembly, member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, President of the National Association of Italian Municipalities – ANCI and Minister of the Interior. Member of the European Committee of the regions (CoR) since its establishment in 1994, from 1997 to January 2000 he was Head of the Italian Delegation. In 2015 he was again appointed to the CoR, as Head of the Italian Delegation and member of the Bureau and vice-president. He was appointed again for the mandate 2020-2025, and was elected 1st Vice President of the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX), which he presides since 2022. At the CoR he has been rapporteur of the two Opinions on "*Reform of the common European asylum system*"; the Opinion "*Culture in a more ambitious Union: the role of regions and cities*"; the Opinion "*Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood: a new Agenda for the Mediterranean*"; the Opinion "*Reinforcing democracy and integrity of elections*". He is member of ARLEM and he was rapporteur of the Opinion on the "*Blue economy*".

- **Mercè Boy, Coordinator of the Governance for Sustainability Group. BETA Technological Centre, University of Vic**

She is an Environmental Scientist and PhD in Experimental Sciences and Sustainability. She has over 10 years of international experience in research and transfer projects in the field of sustainability. She is in the coordinator team of the Interreg Euro-MED Innovative Sustainable Economy Community and ENI CBC MED Med4Waste project, promoting green and circular economy to achieve a sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. She also participates in other national and international projects performing tasks such as community building, transferring and capitalisation of results, and policy and advocacy activities. Moreover, she is a member of the Coordination Group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform and the Union for the Mediterranean Task Force on Environment.

- **Mireia Boya**, Director General, Environmental Quality and Climate Change, Government of Catalonia.

PhD in Environmental Design from the University of Montreal (2009), degree in Environmental Sciences from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (2002) and master's in Landscape Design (University of Montreal, 2004). She has taught applied ecology at the School of Landscape Architecture at the University of Montreal; has coordinated the master's degree in landscape management and intervention at the Autonomous University of Barcelona; she has been an associate professor at Pompeu Fabra University and has collaborated with the General Directorate of Architecture and Landscape of the Catalan Government in several publications. She has also worked for the Ministry of the Environment of São Tomé and Príncipe preparing the Plan for the use and management of the Obô National Park and its pedagogical program for environmental education. She has worked as an independent environmental consultant and as head of environment, climate and energy projects in the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion. She has been a member of parliament for the CUP-CC in the Parliament of Catalonia (January 2016 – January 2018) and a councilor for Les Town Council (May 2015 – January 2016).

- **Luis Miguel Bueno Padilla**, EU Arabic Spokesperson, European External Action Service

Luis Miguel is a Spanish diplomat and has been appointed as the spokesperson of the EEAS in Arabic for the MENA region. He is the first person to ever hold this role. Before that, he worked in Brussels on

the relations of the EU with Algeria and has served in Spanish embassies in Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sudan.

- **Georgina Calvo**, European Projects Officer, Tourism Department, Diputació de Barcelona Graduated in Journalism and Tourism, and holding a Master's Degree in Business Tourism and Event's Management. With more than 10 years of experience in the tourism sector, working both in private companies oriented in different tourism activities and services, and in the regional and local administration. Currently leading the Community4Tourism project from the Tourism Department of the Barcelona Provincial Council, a project funded by the European program INTERREG Euro-MED.
- **Maria Calderó**, responsable de projectes del Grup de Governança per a la Sostenibilitat, CT BETA, Universitat de Vic – Universitat Central de Catalunya
Graduated in biotechnology (2015, University of Girona) and master in water science and technology (2016, University of Girona). PhD in the study of freshwater lakes (2023, Dundalk Institute of Technology). Since the end of 2021 I have been in charge of projects at the BETA technology center (Universitat de Vic – Universitat Central de Catalunya), within the area of governance for sustainability. Currently, together with a large internal team and Euro-Mediterranean partners, she is responsible for the thematic community project of mission 1 of the new Interreg Euro-MED program in the context of strengthening an innovative and sustainable economy to implement and coordinate regional strategies and accelerate the ecological transition.
- **Libor Chlad**, Executive Director, Directorate for Operations and Partnerships, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean
A multilingual lawyer trained in several jurisdictions, Libor has over 18 years of experience working with high-level governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental structures. He has previously managed diverse teams and complex projects with multiple stakeholders and large budgets in challenging environments of the Middle East (Security Sector Reform), Western Balkans (EU Pre-accession Assistance) and Turkey (EU Refugee Response).
- **Jean-Pierre Colin**, Vice President, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council
2014-2020: first deputy mayor in the City of La Seyne-sur-Mer; 2015-2021: regional councilor (deputy) in the Regional Council of the South Region – Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur; Since 2017: 15th vice-president of the metropolitan area of Toulon – Mediterranean Provence, responsible for vocational training; Since 2020: first deputy mayor in the City of La Seyne-sur-Mer; From July 2021: 7th vice president of finance and cooperation agreements of the Regional Council of the South Region – Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.
- **Andrea Di Girolamo**, Project Officer, Adriatic Ionian Euroregion
Andrea Di Girolamo graduated in business and economy, has a Master degree in Management of EU-Funded projects and over 15 years of experience in the field of EU Projects management. He works as project officer at the Secretariat of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, a network of regional and local authorities in Adriatic and Ionian area. Thanks to the network and EU and Interreg projects, he has built up valuable experience in territorial cooperation and governance projects focused on different thematic such as tourism sustainability and Innovation.

- **Roger G. El Ashi**, Mayor of Moukhtara and President of the Federation of Municipalities of the Higher Chouf, Lebanon
Mayor of the Municipality of Moukhtara since 1998, he is also President of the Federation of Municipalities of the Higher Chouf since 2000.
- **Fatima Zohra El Bakkali Boutaliha, Vice President of the International Cooperation Commission of the Tanger-Tetouan-AI-Hoceima Regional Council, Morocco**
Master in desecentralisation and local government, she is vicepresident of the organisation of women of the RNI party (Rassemblement national des indépendants) for the Tanger Assilah province and President of the Association Mowakaba, which works supporting women in vulnerable situations.
- **Vincent Ernoux, Coordinator, ENI CBC Med Branch Office for the Western Mediterranean**
Coordinator of the ENI CBC MED Programme BO for the Western Mediterranean since 2017, he has previously been working in other EU programs like INTERACT or the SPAIN-PORTUGAL CBC. He has also been ENI-MED programmes Liaison officer between 2010 and 2013. Between 2014 and 2017, he was EU Project Manager at the Valenciaport Foundation. He holds a master's degree in Business Administration and a master in EU Affairs.
- **Senén Florensa**, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed).
A diplomat and ambassador, Senén Florensa is currently Executive President of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). He was previously Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain to the UN and the International Organisations in Vienna (2018-2020) and Consul General of Spain in Rome from 2017 to 2018. From 2006 to 2017, he was Director General and then Executive President of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). Author or director of a long list of books and articles on Euro-Mediterranean and international affairs, he has been President of the World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies WOCMES in 2009, Secretary for International and European Affairs of the Generalitat of Catalonia and Member of the Organising Committee of the Olympic Games Barcelona 1992. During his diplomatic career, he notably served as General Director of the Institute for Cooperation with the Arab World, the Mediterranean and Developing Countries (ICMAMPD) of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (1996-2000), and as Spanish Ambassador to Tunisia (2000-2004).
- **Joana Maria Garau Muntaner**, Director General, Water Resources, Balearic Islands
Graduated in Environmental Sciences from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, and a university specialist in Environmental Management and Quality in Business from the University of the Balearic Islands. General Director of Water Resources since 2015, her experience has focused on the use of environmental indicators with different objectives. She also has experience in the implementation of management systems in the company and in the environmental assessment of the risk of water contamination. She is an expert in hydrological planning and has worked as a technician in the drafting and review of various water resources management plans.
- **Maria-Alba Gilabert**, International desk, Catalunya Ràdio.
Among others, she has covered Kosovo as special correspondent (1999 & 2008), USA/New York -Sept. 11 (2001 & 2002), Afghanistan (2001), Iraq (2003 & 2010), Arab Spring (Egypt-Morocco, Tunisia and Libya (2011), Turkey/Kurdistan (2013/2014) and Gaza (2012/2014).

- **Laury Haytayan**, MENA Senior Officer, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)
Laury Haytayan is energy policy and geopolitics expert. She is the Middle East and North Africa director at the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)- an independent, international non-profit organization that provides policy advice, research and works on advocating for better managed resources and energy transition in oil rich countries. She has several publications, and she is a regular commentator on issues related to oil and gas in Lebanon and the East Med. She was the host of the Energy Espresso podcast that dealt with everything related to the future of energy and energy transition in Lebanon and currently, she is hosting a monthly webinar on energy transition in MENA ahead of COP28. She teaches a course on the geopolitics of energy in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- **Nadim Houry**, Executive Director, Arab Reform Initiative (ARI)
Nadim Houry is an international lawyer and public policy expert with extensive experience working in the Middle East & North Africa region. He is currently the executive director of the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI), a leading regional think tank with offices in Paris, Beirut and Tunis, working for social justice, democratic reforms, and accountable institutions. Prior to ARI, Nadim started Human Rights Watch (HRW)'s office in Beirut and ran it for a decade before moving to Paris as director of HRW's Terrorism and Counter-terrorism Program. Nadim previously worked in the UN as Deputy Counsel for the Volcker Commission which conducted investigations into allegations of corruption into the Oil-for-Food Program in Iraq. He has published widely and is often quoted in local and international media. A passionate advocate for change in the region, he has addressed the Security Council and the European Parliament on challenges and opportunities in the Arab region.
- **Mahdi Khomsi**, International Relations Coordinator, BusinessMed, Tunisia
Mahdi Khomsi is the International relations Coordinator at BUSINESSMED. He coordinates BUSINESSMED's relations and activities with its partners, along with the management of the ENI CBC MED CO-funded MED4WASTE project. Prior joining BUSINESSMED, he manages several projects financed by international donors as well as USAID, Union for the Mediterranean, MEPI. Graduate of a degree in management and a Master in entrepreneurship at IHEC Carthage with a focus on Economics, Politics and international development. His working languages are English, French and Arabic.
- **Mar León**, Manager, Catalan Water Agency (ACA)
She has a degree in Environmental Sciences from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, specialised in management of the coast, public services, water and integrated quality. Extending her training with a postgraduate degree in Environmental Management in the Municipal Area of the University of Girona, among other studies. Her career began in the local world, working in the town councils of Roses and Figures or Castelló d'Empúries 2000, a company linked to the Town Council of this municipality. A new professional challenge has brought her from September 2021 to the Catalan Water Agency (ACA), a public company of the Government of Catalonia, attached to the Department of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda, in charge of planning and water management in accordance with the principles of the Water Framework Directive.
- **Alessandro Miraglia**, Team leader, Networking and Communication Facility, MedWaves
With 17 years' experience in sustainable development, gained working in 10 different countries, Mr. Miraglia has a strong expertise in advocacy and capitalisation strategies. He focuses on mainstreaming Circular Economy in the Mediterranean via networking and local ecosystem building, developing impact

communication and partnership tools to increase awareness and policy uptake of international best practices.

- **Bahia Mkhallati**, Consultant, Beyond Group, Lebanon

Bahia is a consultant at Beyond Group. She has extensive experience and skills in the fields of project management, policy research and design, data collection and analysis, and facilitating capacity building activities, across a variety of sectors in the MENA region. These sectors include youth engagement and empowerment, social and economic development, (social) entrepreneurship, sustainable development, green and circular economy, social cohesion, and preventing violent extremism, with a focus on vulnerable groups such as youth and women. She also brings more than 3 years of experience working with various stakeholders in the co-designing and implementation of sustainable solutions for meaningful change. She is also one of the contributors of the National Youth Policy Action Plan (NYPAP), that was endorsed by the Government of Lebanon in 2022. Bahia holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the American University of Beirut (AUB).

- **James Moran**, Former EU Ambassador to Egypt

Associate Senior Research Fellow at CEPS. James Moran was Principal Advisor on the Middle East and North Africa at the EU's External Action Service in Brussels in 2016-17. His long service with the European institutions was spent entirely in external relations and includes wide experience in European foreign, security, trade and development policy in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. From 2012 to 2016, he was Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and he headed the EU missions to Jordan and Yemen in 1999-2002. James was also the EU's senior coordinator in Libya during the 2011 revolution. Between 2002 and 2011, after heading the China division in Brussels, he was Asia Director from 2006-11, and the chief negotiator for a number of EU partnership agreements with China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Earlier experience in the 1980s and 90s included service with the EU Delegations in Jamaica and Ethiopia and various assignments in Brussels. Prior to joining the EU in 1983 he worked for the UK government and private sector in London. A UK national, he attended Keele, Harvard and London universities.

- **Elodie Nunes**, Executive secretary, Inter-Mediterranean Commission, Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CRPM)

Elodie Nunes has a Research background in Humanities and Languages from the University of Lyon/University of California, as well as an International Relations/European Studies specialization with a focus on Project Management from the University of Strasbourg. She has joined the team of the CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission in 2014, where she has been fulfilling the role of Executive Secretary since 2019. Activities include networking and lobbying actions with more than 35 member-regions on themes linked to: governance, territorial cooperation, blue innovation, marine energies, sustainable tourism, biodiversity protection, as well as social and youth issues, among others. All activities continuously aim at an improved cohesion for the whole of the Mediterranean basin.

- **Stéphane Nguyen**, Director for Europe and International Action, Occitania Regional Council

With more than 22 years of experience at the regions of Languedoc-Roussillon, first, and Occitane, later, Mr. Nguyen is Director for Europe and International Action since 2022. Before that, he was Director for Europe (2018-2022), Delegate Director (2016-2018), Deputy Director of European and Contractual Programs(2013-2016) and Head of service of European Funds (2005-2013).

- **Katarina Pantazi**, Representative of the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Works, Cyprus Republic

Mrs. Katerina Lambrou Pantazi was born in Famagusta, Cyprus. She holds a Diploma from the National Technical University of Athens - Dept. of Architectural Engineering and a Master in Business Administration from the University of Cyprus. She is Senior Architect in Public Works Department under the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Works of Cyprus. Her main duties, among others, include the design and coordination of large scale projects related to public buildings, such as courts, office buildings, buildings of traditional architecture, preservable buildings of exceptional architecture and energy upgrade in public buildings. She is coordinator for the several Interreg projects, such as Interreg MED project “GRASPINNO”, and Interreg Greece-Cyprus project “AYTONOMΩ”; and also she acts as the coordinator for the Recovery and Resilience Plan for the building of the New District Court of Famagusta.
- **Alicia Pérez-Porro**, Scientific Coordinator, Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF)

Dr. Perez-Porro is the Scientific Coordinator of CREAM—a public research center in Barcelona (Spain) dedicated to ecology of climate change and biodiversity— where she oversees the international relationships and MedCREAF strategy. She also sits at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) Board of Trustees, and is part of the Spanish Science Media Center advisory board. Dr. Perez-Porro holds a MSc and a PhD in Biodiversity from the University of Barcelona, conducting her doctoral research at Harvard University as a 5-year visiting scholar, and a MA in International Relations and Diplomacy from Fletcher School at Tufts University (GMAP’21). In 2018, she was awarded the Spanish Red Cross Gold Medal for her efforts advocating for gender equality as a key component of climate action. She was the President of the Association for Spanish Scientists in USA (www.ecusa.es) and the President of the Network of Spanish Researchers Abroad (RAICEX) from 2018 to 2020, a 2019 Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar, and a 2018 92Y Women inPower fellow.
- **Sergio Ponsà**, Director, BETA TC, University of Vic - Central University of Catalonia

Dr. Sergio Ponsà is a Chemical Engineer, PhD in Environmental Science and Technology. He is the Director of BETA Technological Center and Coordinator of BETA Research Group. His expertise is related to biological processes for solid waste treatment and valorisation including composting, anaerobic digestion, and biodrying, among others. He has a deep expertise in the transference of technology and knowledge since he has been involved in more than 50 private R+D+i projects with companies and public administrations. He is also currently leading and participating in several Public Research and Innovation Projects (national and international).
- **Julià Rebés**, Secretary, PRIMA Foundation

Julià Rebés, a lawyer by profession, has been involved in public initiatives, particularly those related to governance, research and innovation. Since 2018, Julià has served as the Secretary of PRIMA's Board of Trustees and has provided legal counsel to this initiative."
- **Miquel Royo**, Secretary for the Government’s Foreign Action, Government of Catalonia

Before assuming the position of Secretary for the Government’s Foreign Action, Miquel Royo worked as an advisor on international policies in the office of the President of the Generalitat, Pere Aragonès. Previously, he had been appointed Director General of Global Affairs in the Department of External Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency. From 2018 to 2020 he was part of the team at the

Catalan Government's delegation to the European Union, where he had the functions of Deputy Representative, a position he had assumed after working in Minister Maragall's cabinet in the Department of External Action. Previously, he had worked as coordinator and local advisor for Esquerra Republicana MEPs. Miquel Royo has also developed part of his professional career in the private sector, where he has worked for multinationals in the field of consulting and communication. Miquel Royo has a degree in international relations from the University of Birmingham (United Kingdom) and a master's degree in European studies from the London School of Economics.

- **Meritxell Serret i Aleu**, Minister for Foreign Action and European Union, Government of Catalonia.
She holds a BSc in Political and Administration Science and a postgraduate diploma in General Business Management. Between 2016 and 2017, she was Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food and from June 2018 onwards, she was the Delegate of the Government of Catalonia to the European Union. Member of the Parliament of Catalonia between March 2021 and December 2022, where she was deputy spokesperson for Esquerra Republicana's parliamentary group.
- **Manuel Szapiro**, Director, Representation of the European Commission in Barcelona
Director of the Regional Representation of the European Commission in Barcelona from June 1, 2021. Until then, he had been working as deputy chief of staff to the vice-president of the European Commission, Maroš Šefčovič, in charge of Inter-institutional and Prospective Affairs strategic. Before joining the European Commission, Manuel Szapiro was full professor at the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) in Maastricht and is an international advisor for Business Europe in Brussels. Since 2006, Manuel Szapiro has been a professor at the College of Europe. He has also been a professor and director of studies at Sciences Po (Paris). His publications to date include a reference book (John Harper Publishing, London, 2013) on the European Commission and recent articles on geopolitics and strategic autonomy.
- **Jordi Torrent**, Secretary General, MedPorts Association
Jordi Torrent is the Strategy Director of the Port of Barcelona. In this position he has developed the Port's IV Strategic Plan which has adapted the Port's strategy and objectives to the latest global and regional trade and logistics trends. He is particularly involved in the intermodal sector, and has designed and implemented initiatives in this field, such as the development of PPP projects of inland terminals and rail services in Spain and France. He has been involved in the Port, logistics and rail sectors for more than 10 years.
- **Laia Vinyes**, Project Officer, MedCités
Laia Vinyes Marcé is a political scientist born in Barcelona and has a Masters in Development Cooperation from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). She has worked in several organizations in the third sector and for 6 years has been dedicated to the field of resource management and European projects dedicated to cities and in favor of sustainable urban development for both European cities and those of the southern neighbourhood.



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Government of Catalonia

European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

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