



EuRoMeSCo Annual Conference 2021

CALL FOR PAPERS

The objective of this series of Papers is to contribute to evidence-based policy-making by putting forward analysis, ideas and proposals which would feed in the implementation of the Joint Communication.

Papers should have either a regional scope (i.e. relations of the EU with the Southern neighbourhood) or focus on bilateral relations of the EU with specific partner countries (in this case, paper proposals may relate to specific initiatives mentioned in the [staff working document](#) accompanying the Joint Communication).

Proposals should relate to one of the following issues covered under the five pillars of the Joint Communication:

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE RULE OF LAW

Among other issues, Paper proposals could relate to the following themes:

- **Health and social protection systems**
What has the pandemic revealed? What needs to be done to strengthen them? How can the EU cooperate with its southern Mediterranean partners in this regards?
- **Cooperation in times of crisis**
Looking back to the EU cooperation with its southern partners in times of pandemic. Lessons learned. What should be done differently if a similar crisis occurs in the future.
- **Youth and education**
Education systems governance, school dropouts, skills mismatches, youth unemployment, brain drain, people-to-people contacts in the Euro-Mediterranean region, digital education, children affected and displaced by conflict.
- **Good governance and the rule of law**
Fight against corruption, human rights, social and labour rights, social dialogue, access to justice, independence and accountability of the judiciary, digitalisation of systems and services, public administration reform, rights to privacy and data protection, gender equality, rights of persons with disabilities, improving cooperation between the European Public Prosecutors Office and southern partners, role of civil society in shaping and monitoring reforms.





STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE, BUILD PROSPERITY AND SEIZE THE DIGITAL TRANSITION

“The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all economies around the Mediterranean, exacerbating structural economic imbalances and highlighting the need for inclusive, resilient, sustainable, and connected economies. Efforts should leave no one behind and enable countries to seize trends including the twin green and digital transition, which could be accelerators of sustainable growth.”

- **Resilient economies**

Addressing balance of payment challenges, public financial management, domestic revenue mobilisation strategies, fiscal justice, the use of the Euro in the region, improving the business climate, attracting Foreign Direct Investments, social inequalities.

- **Sustainable economies**

Economic diversification, economic development planning, blue economy, social economy, integrating industrial supply chains between the EU and its Southern Neighbours, regulatory convergence, financial inclusion, industrial clusters, innovation, support to the private sector, supporting entrepreneurship, the role of diaspora, access to finance, research and innovation.

- **Connected economies**

Digital transformation (governance, policy and regulatory frameworks; infrastructure and access to enhanced, affordable and secure networks; digital literacy, skills, and entrepreneurship; digital services; e-government; e-health; e-commerce; user-centric and the ethical use of technologies; digital connections across the Mediterranean); trade (reducing non-tariff barriers and trading costs; investment facilitation; synergies with Sub-Saharan Africa in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the creation of a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM)); transport (link transport infrastructure through interoperability of rules and standards; development of the TransMediterranean Transport Network; Policy reforms objectives identified jointly under the Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP); space cooperation.

- **Inclusive economies**

Equality of opportunities and outcomes, social dialogue, social protection, addressing social and territorial inequalities, increasing women’s labour market participation and their economic empowerment, informal economy.





PEACE AND SECURITY

- **Protracted conflicts in the Mediterranean region.**
Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions in the region, cooperation on peace, conflict resolution and prevention.
Renew efforts to reach a settlement in the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP).
Mediation and stabilisation actions, building upon the recent establishment of relations between Israel and a number of Arab countries with a view to enhancing the prospects for a negotiated two-state solution.
- **Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in addressing peace, stability and development challenges in the Sahel.**
How the cooperation between the EU and its partners should address more closely peace, stability and development challenges in the Sahel region.
- **Towards a new multilateral framework.**
Address security in the Eastern Mediterranean. Joint efforts in addressing hybrid threats, cyber crime, organised crime, terrorism. Preventing and countering violent extremism.
- **Addressing cyber threats.**
Increased vulnerability of critical infrastructure. Climate-security nexus cooperation on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation as well as on civil protection and disaster risk management.
- **Judicial cooperation in civil matters.**
Judicial cooperation on civil matters to improve contract enforcement and address cross-border child abductions, child protection and maintenance obligations.
Adhesion to, and correct implementation of, the Hague Conventions on Private International Law³⁶ as a priority in the region.
- **Maritime security.**
Tailor-made EU partnership on security matters with its neighbouring countries, corresponding to respective needs and high-level political support in order to guarantee concrete, enhancing operational cooperation, including for maritime security and coastguard cooperation.





MIGRATION AND MOBILITY MIGRATION

What should comprehensive, tailor-made, balanced and mutually beneficial partnerships look like?

- **Saving lives.**
International protection; root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement; better addressing the needs of refugees and migrants hosted by southern Mediterranean countries; resettlement schemes to provide protection to the most vulnerable refugees.
- **Socio-economic opportunities** for migrants, forcibly displaced persons and host communities, including in the context of the COVID-19 recovery, with particular attention to marginalised regions.
- **Strengthening migration and asylum governance**, including border management capacity. Counter smuggling.
Cooperation on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration, voluntary returns. Legal pathways to Europe via continued efforts on resettlements and in labour mobility schemes, in particular through Talent Partnerships.
Triangular and south-south cooperation and regional cooperation.





GREEN TRANSITION: CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- **Green growth and climate action**

Climate and environmental governance, its link with public finances and fiscal initiatives, and on the monitoring of targets; carbon pricing initiatives; administrative and technical capacity to implement and enforce legislation both at the central and local levels; education and awareness raising; private sector and civil society as agents of change; urban development, green multimodal transport solutions; climate change adaptation capacities and disaster risk reduction (climate change resilience, climate-proofing investments, investing in preventive measures, nature-based solutions and risk management capacities); environmentally sustainable investments best practices (such as green taxonomies, environmental and climate disclosures, and standards and labels for green financial products (including green bonds)).

- **Energy transition and energy security.**

Renewable energy and clean hydrogen production; interconnection of electricity systems; energy efficiency; fugitive methane emissions from fossil fuel production, transport and use.

- **Resource efficiency, fight against pollution and biodiversity**

Biodiversity; deforestation and land degradation; marine and land pollution; impact of climate change on resources, especially access to water; waste disposal and recycling; sustainable consumption and production; reform of the legislative, fiscal and institutional frameworks to reduce pollution.

- **Sustainable food systems Cooperation**

Sustainable management of agriculture, fisheries; food security.

