



Consulting Southern Partners | **CAIRO** 27-28 May

Forging shared resilience in the Mediterranean
#EuroMeSCoForThePact



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In partnership with:

مركز الأهرام للدراسات السياسية والاستراتيجية
Al-Ahram Center for Political & Strategic Studies



The American
University in Cairo
School of Global Affairs
and Public Policy



EuroMeSCo Consultation Circles on the New Pact for the Mediterranean: *Consulting Southern Partners*

مركز الأهرام للدراسات السياسية والاستراتيجية
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Brief | Agenda | List of Participants

27-28 May 2025

The American University of Cairo (AUC), New Cairo

Closed-door meeting

Brief

In the framework of the EU-[European Institute of the Mediterranean \(IEMed\)](#) co-funded project [Support to Reflection and Consultations on the Pact for the Mediterranean](#), and in partnership with Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS) and the American University in Cairo (AUC), the second **EuroMeSCo Consultation Circle: Consulting Southern Partners** will take place on 27-28 May in Cairo, Egypt.

The New Pact for the Mediterranean is set to become the European Union's principal political framework for strengthening strategic cooperation with the Southern Neighbourhood partners. It aims to offer a renewed and comprehensive approach that addresses the region's complex challenges while unlocking opportunities for deeper collaboration across shared priority areas.

This consultation, held in Cairo, serves as a dedicated platform for structured dialogue with policymakers, think tankers, civil society actors, and private sector stakeholders from the Middle East. Focusing on three main dimensions that are vital to the region's long-term development: fostering economic growth through trade, investment and engagement with the private sector; empowering the next generation by aligning skills with employment and mobility opportunities; and promoting sustainable transformation through decarbonised approaches to food systems, water management, and environmental resilience.

By drawing on local knowledge, successful initiatives, and the experience of key actors, this consultation contributes directly to shaping a Pact that is grounded in the realities of the Southern Neighbourhood and designed to serve the aspirations of both shores of the Mediterranean.

Agenda

DAY 1 – Tuesday, May 27th, 2025

13:30–14:00 REGISTRATION

14:00–14:30 OPENING SESSION - THE NEW PACT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Brief The opening session will present the strategic framework of the New Pact for the Mediterranean, the European Union's proposed instrument to guide cooperation with Southern partner countries. Speakers will outline the Pact's core priorities, thematic areas, and policy tools, highlighting how it seeks to address regional challenges through a more integrated, targeted, and partnership-based approach. The session will also provide context on the broader political vision behind the Pact and set the stage for the consultations that follow.

14:00-14:10 INSTITUTIONAL OPENING

14:10-15:00 INTRODUCING THE NEW PACT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

15:00-15:10 GROUP PICTURE

15:15-18:00 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Brief These three parallel sessions invite participants from diverse sectors and institutions to engage in targeted discussions on key areas for the Mediterranean's future. Drawing from experiences, participants will reflect on what has worked in the region, how it was achieved, and why it succeeded — identifying actionable tools and initiatives to shape future EU–Southern Neighbourhood cooperation.

Group 1 **Research, innovation & technology transfer for a sustainable Mediterranean**
How to harness the power of research and innovation to bridge sustainability with growth? Participants will reflect on how to better support innovation ecosystems, mobilise funding instruments, and facilitate technology transfer between regions. The session will also examine how research-based cooperation can be scaled up to address shared challenges —such as climate change, green transition, and digital transformation— while fostering economic competitiveness and job creation across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Group 2 **Governing the WEFEE nexus in the region – balancing water, energy, food & ecosystem priorities**
How can the complex interlinkages and trade-offs between water, energy, food, and ecosystems (WEFEE) be harnessed to achieve both sustainability and security? Regional

cooperation, data sharing, and innovation are paramount in addressing systemic challenges and delivering integrated solutions for a sustainable Mediterranean future. Participants will explore policy tools, governance mechanisms, and cross-sectoral strategies needed to manage competing demands while ensuring resource efficiency, climate resilience, and equitable access to the scarce resources.

Group 3

Unlocking the full potential of the private sector for sustainable growth

This focus group will explore the critical role of the private sector in driving the double green-digital transition in the Mediterranean. From circular economy models to green bonds, climate finance, and incentive frameworks, the session will examine what it takes for businesses to move from compliance to leadership. Participants will reflect on the regulatory, legal, and financial enablers needed to unlock private investment, scale green innovation, and align profitability with sustainability. The discussion will also highlight successful examples and identify policy shifts required to create a conducive environment for private-led sustainable development.

18:00-19:00 HIGHLIGHTS & REFLECTIONS FROM THE FOCUS GROUPS

19:00-21:00 WELCOME DINNER

DAY 2 – Wednesday, May 28th, 2025

09:30–12:30 POLICY DEEP-DIVE - FORGING SHARED RESILIENCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Brief The session will begin with a presentation on the impacts of climate and environmental change on the region's coastal zones as well as on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus. This will set the stage for a series of small-group discussions, designed to foster in-depth exchanges on how cities, climate policy, and regional value chains can be more effectively connected to build shared resilience.

09:30-10:45 DATA INSIGHTS

Brief Presentation of MedECC on climate change impacts on economies in the Mediterranean, with a focus on the Middle East.

10:45-12:30 INTERACTIVE CONSULTATION CIRCLES

Brief In this interactive session, participants will actively participate in one out of three thematic groups focused on key drivers of regional development: the role of cities in tackling the impacts of climate change; ensuring a fair green transition; and examining how to enhance economic development through more sustainable approaches. Guided by facilitators, the format encourages idea exchanges between experts and actionable policy insights, while avoiding duplication across groups.

Circle 1 **Cities at the forefront**

Exploring how cities can lead climate adaptation, sustainability, and inclusive development.

Circle 2 **Ensuring social justice & inclusion**

Discussing how to ensure that green policies are equitable, just, and benefit all communities, while enabling transnational cooperation between the EU and Southern Mediterranean Partners.

Circle 3 **Envisioning resilient value chains**

Examining how short-sea shipping and regional value chains can enhance resilience and deepen regional integration through more sustainable approaches to logistics and trade.

12:30-13:30 LUNCH

13:30-14:30 OUTCOMES OF THE THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

This session will bring together the key insights and takeaways from the parallel discussions, helping to connect ideas across topics and shape a shared understanding of the region's priorities.

15:00-15:50 WRAP-UP & REFLECTIONS