



Consulting Southern Partners | **RABAT** 13-14 May

Building the Mediterranean of tomorrow
#EuroMeSCoForThePact



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



Brief | Agenda | List of Participants

13-14 May 2025
Policy Center for the New South

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 the [Policy Center for the New South \(PCNS\)](#), the first **EuroMeSCo Consultation Circle: Consulting Southern Partners** will take place on 13-14 May in Rabat, Morocco.

The New Pact for the Mediterranean is set to become the European Union's principal political framework for strengthening strategic cooperation with its 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 Rabat, serves as a dedicated platform for structured dialogue with policymakers, think tankers, civil society actors, and private sector stakeholders from North Africa. 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 13th, 2025

14:00-14:30 Registration and Welcome Coffee – Ground Floor Lounge

14:30-14:50 Introductory Remarks – 1st Floor, Master Class F1-03

Karim El Aynaoui, Executive President, Policy Center for the New South

Senen Florensa, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean

14:50-15:20 Introducing the New Pact for the Mediterranean – 1st Floor, Master Class F1-03

Stefano Sannino, Director General for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf, European Commission

15:20-15:50 Discussion – 1st Floor, Master Class F1-03

Moderator **Senen Florensa**, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean

15:50-15:55 Group photo

15:55-16:20 Coffee Break – 1st Floor Lounge

16:20-18:00 Parallel Interactive Consultation Circles: *Drawing into the Mediterranean's assets to foster inclusive growth*

Brief In this interactive session, participants will actively participate in three thematic groups focused on key drivers of regional development: lessons, gaps and opportunities analysing past cooperation frameworks, private sector engagement for regional integration, and emerging models of triangular cooperation for trade and investment. Guided by facilitators, the format encourages idea exchanges between thematic experts and actionable policy insights.

Circle 1 **Lessons, Gaps and Opportunities to Build the Mediterranean of Tomorrow**
– 1st Floor, Master Class F1-05

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.

Facilitator **Mounia Boucetta**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

Rapporteur **Abdessalam Jaldi**, Senior International Relations Specialist, Policy Center for the New South

- Circle 2* **The Private Sector's Role in Regional Integration – 1st Floor, Master Class F1-01**
Exploring how private sector engagement and business ecosystem reforms can foster inclusive and sustainable regional integration, with a focus on unlocking growth and creating shared value across the Mediterranean.
- Facilitator* **Mohammed El Razzaz**, Head of Sector, Economic development and employment, Union for the Mediterranean
- Rapporteur* **Saloi El Yamani**, Economist, Policy Center for the New South
- Circle 3* **Triangular Cooperation Models: Expanding Strategic Trade and Investment Partnerships – 1st Floor, Master Class F1-04**
Focusing on how triangular cooperation— tapping into the strategic presence of other actors in the Southern neighbourhood— can be leveraged to enhance trade and investment opportunities and mechanisms in the region.
- Facilitator* **Caterina Roggero**, Senior Associate Research Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Centre, ISPI - Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale
- Rapporteur* **Oumaya Amghar**, Technical Advisor, European Institute of the Mediterranean
- 18:00-19:00 Report Back by the Facilitators & Discussion – 1st Floor, Master Class F1-04**
- Moderator* **Roger Albinyana**, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean
- 19:45-22:00 Welcoming Dinner – La Maison Arabe, La Tour Hassan Hotel, Rabat**

DAY 2 – Wednesday, May 14th, 2025

08:30-09:00 Welcome Coffee – 1st Floor Lounge

09:00-13:00 Focus Group Discussions | Coffee Break from 11:00 to 11:30 – 1st Floor Lounge

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. Each session will foster dialogue and generate actionable insights around pressing themes that intersect youth empowerment, migration, economic cooperation, and sustainability across the region.

Group 1 **Skills for the Future – Preparing Youth for a Changing Mediterranean**
– 1st Floor, Master Class F1-05

What kind of labour market will the Mediterranean face tomorrow, and how can we ensure that young people are ready for it? This session will explore the future of skills in emerging sectors, and examine how to align education and training systems with private sector needs, innovation ecosystems, and regional labour mobility.

Facilitator **Abdelaziz Jaouani**, Senior Human Capital Development Expert, Lifelong Learning Policies, European Training Foundation

Rapporteur **Tayeb Ghazi**, Senior Economist, Policy Center for the New South

Group 2 **Enhancing EU–Southern Cooperation through Mobility and Talent Circulation –**
1st Floor, Master Class F1-01

This session explores how the EU can engage leverage mobility and circulation to strengthen ties with the Southern Neighbourhood. Discussions will focus on circular mobility, talent partnerships, remittances, and diaspora entrepreneurship as tools to boost cooperation, bridge skills gaps, and support green and digital transitions across the Mediterranean.

Facilitator **Ivan Martin**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the South

Rapporteur **Amal El Ouassif**, Senior International Relations Specialist, Policy Center for the New South

Group 3 **Ecosystems of Change: Promoting a Sustainable Model of Growth**
– 1st Floor, Master Class F1-04

Building on initiatives such as the EU–Morocco Green Partnership, this session explores how climate action, sustainable food systems, water security, and biodiversity protection can be jointly advanced. It highlights the role of the private sector in driving innovation and financing transformative solutions for a resilient and inclusive Mediterranean.

Facilitator **Yeganeh Forouheshfar**, Senior Researcher, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association-*tbc*

Rapporteur **Boutaina Lmasrar**, Junior Economist, Policy Center for the New South

13:00-14:00 **Lunch** – *Ground Floor Lounge*

14:00-15:00 **Report Back by the Facilitators & Discussion** – *1st Floor, Master Class F1-04*

Moderator **Rim Filali Mknassi**, Head of Euro-Mediterranean Policies, European Institute of the Mediterranean

15:00-15:50 **Open Discussion, Next Steps and Closing Remarks** – *1st Floor, Master Class F1-04*

Moderator **Abdelhak Bassou**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

Speakers All Contributors

15:50-16:00 **Concluding Remarks** – *1st Floor, Master Class F1-04*

Senen Florensa, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean

Karim El Aynaoui, Executive President, Policy Center for the New South

List of Participants

1. **Keltoum Ait Belhaj**, MENA Network Coordinator for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre
2. **Thami Alaoui**, Conseiller des Affaires Etrangères, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
3. **Sima Al-Khafaji**, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Finland to Morocco
4. **Roger Albinyana Saigi**, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean
5. **David Ambrus**, Deputy Chef de Mission, Embassy of Hungary to Morocco
6. **Oumaya Amghar**, Technical Advisor, European Institute of the Mediterranean
7. **Eric Asmar**, CEO, Happy Smala
8. **Sophie Autié**, European Union Delegation to Morocco
9. **Salma Badda**, Vice-President, Mediterranean Youth Council
10. **Abdeslam Badre**, Associate Professor, Mohammed V University
11. **Reda Bajoudi**, Political Advisor, Embassy of Denmark to Morocco
12. **Salaheddine Bakor**, EU Jeel Connector
13. **Kamilia Bantla**, Euromed University
14. **Houda Barakate**, Education for Employment (EFE Maroc)
15. **Abdelhak Bassou**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South
16. **Justine Belaïd**, Directorate -General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf, European Commission
17. **Aymen Belgacem**, Economist, International Monetary Fund
18. **Ahmed Ikbâl Benbrahim**, Director of development and backing - Cooperation and International Affairs, Caisse de Dépôts et de Gestion
19. **Hicham Benfeddoul**, Studies Director, Moroccan Higher Council for Education, Training and Scientific Research
20. **Wail Benjelloun**, Honorary President, Mediterranean Universities Union - Unimed
21. **Ulla Berit Basse**, Embassy of Denmark in Morocco
22. **Beatriz Betegon**, European Union Delegation to Morocco
23. **Ba Bocar**, Vice-président, Union Panafricaine de la Jeunesse
24. **Rado Bohinc**, President, Euromed University - EMUNI
25. **Hanaâ Boualaoui**, EU Jeel Connector
26. **Mounia Boucetta**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South
27. **Joan Borrell**, Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean
28. **Younes Boumehdi**, Founder and CEO, Hitradio
29. **Christine Cassiers**, European Union Delegation to Morocco
30. **Matilde Ceravolo**, European Union Delegation to Morocco
31. **Pierre Champsavoir**, Co-Founder, Happy Smala
32. **Oumnia Charfaoui**, Secrétaire des Affaires Etrangères, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
33. **Imene Cherif**, Regional Program Manager, Economic Policies for Social Justice in the MENA region chez Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
34. **Latifa Daadaoui**, Erasmus+ Office - Morocco
35. **Ornella D'Amico**, Regional chargée de mission, Agence Française de Développement
36. **Khalil Dahbi**, Research Fellow, German Institute for Global and Area Studies

37. **Zied Debbabi**, Communications Director, Businessmed
38. **Daniele Dotto**, European Union Delegation to Morocco
39. **Gaetan Ducroux**, European Union Delegation to Morocco
40. **Yahya Echattoui**, EU Jeel Connector
41. **Karim El Aynaoui**, Executive President, Policy Center for the New South
42. **Hafsa El Bekri**, Advocacy and Executive Strategy Senior Associate, Positive Agenda Advisory
43. **Chaimae El Mahdaoui**, EU Jeel Connector
44. **Bouchta El Mounni**, President, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University
45. **Amal El Ouassif**, Senior International Relations Specialist, Policy Center for the New South
46. **Abdelkader El Khissassi**, Ministre Plénipotentiaire, ministère des Affaires Etrangères
47. **Mounir El Aoufir**, Macroéconomiste, ministère de l'Inclusion Economique, de la Petite Entreprise, de l'Emploi et des Entreprises
48. **Mohammed El Razzaz**, Head of Sector, Economic Development and Employment, Union for the Mediterranean
49. **Saloi El Yamani**, Economist, Policy Center for the New South
50. **Tommaso Emiliani**, Policy Analyst & Negotiation Specialist
51. **Florian Ermacora**, Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf, European Commission
52. **Malek Fadel**, Conseillère, ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce
53. **Anas Felhi**, General Manager - North Africa, Klik Foundation
54. **Rim Filali Meknassi**, Head of Euro-Mediterranean Policies Department, European Institute of the Mediterranean
55. **Jean-Christophe Filori**, European Union Delegation to Morocco
56. **Senén Florensa**, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean
57. **Yeganeh Forouheshfar**, Senior Researcher, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association
58. **Ahmed Mohammed gain**
59. **Tayeb Ghazi**, Senior Economist, Policy Center for the New South
60. **Mohammed Ahmed Gain**, Professor, Ecole Nationale de la Gestion et du Commerce
61. **Samia Ghmimed**, EU Jeel Connector
62. **Wijdane Goubi**, EU Jeel Connector
63. **Helena Hahn**, Policy Analyst - European Diversity and Migration programme, European Policy Centre
64. **Salima Haloui**, Founding member and chairperson, Réseau des Associations des Ecoles de la Deuxième Chance Maroc
65. **El Mahdi Harmouch**, Executive Director, Moroccan Institute for Policy Analysis
66. **Jean Heilbronn**, Political Advisor, Embassy of France to Morocco
67. **Ghita Inchaouh**, Coordination Officer, European Union Delegation to Morocco
68. **Abdessalam Jaldi**, Senior International Relations Specialist, Policy Center for the New South
69. **Abdelaziz Jaouani**, Senior Human Capital Development Expert, Lifelong Learning Policies, European Training Foundation
70. **Amine Kabbaj**, Managing Director, South South Partners
71. **Tessa Katapodis**, Ambassador, Hellenic Republic to Morocco
72. **Xaver Keller**, Coordinator of Team Europe Initiative, GIZ

73. **Anna Knoll**, Head of Migration and Mobility, European Centre for Development Policy Management
74. **Marco Lagae**, Project Officer, European Institute of the Mediterranean
75. **Mehdi Lahlou**, Professor and Associate Researcher, Mohamed V University
76. **Quentin Lebegue**, Agence Française de Développement
77. **Patricia Llombart Cussac**, Ambassador, European Union Delegation to Morocco
78. **Boutaina Lmasrar**, Junior Economist, Policy Center for the New South
79. **Ana López**, Programme Officer, European Institute of the Mediterranean
80. **Mariam Lutfi**, Policy Officer for Euro-mediterranean relations, Generalitat de Catalunya
81. **Ivan Martin**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South
82. **Salaheddine Mezouar**, President, Euros Agency Africa
83. **Jasna Mileta**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Croatia in Morocco
84. **Emmanuel Noutary**, Managing Director, ANIMA Investment Network
85. **Enrique Ojeda**, Ambassador, Embassy of Spain to Morocco
86. **Paul-Henri Presset**, European Union Delegation to Morocco
87. **Caterina Roggero**, Senior Associate Research Fellow, Italian Institute for International Political Studies
88. **Imane Saidi**, Europex - Association of European Energy Exchanges
89. **Stefano Sannino**, Director General for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf, European Commission
90. **Marcello Scalisi**, Director, Mediterranean Universities Union - Unimed
91. **Andres Schlageter Tello**, Coordinator of Animal Production, International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies Zaragoza
92. **Mohamed Slassi Sennou**, President of the Governing Commission of SEF, Moroccan Higher Council for Education, Training and Scientific Research
93. **Colin Steinbach**, European External Action Service
94. **Youssef Stelate**, Erasmus Morocco Network
95. **Andrea Tinagli**, European Investment Bank, Senior Official and Principal Advisor for sustainable finance & Investments, Union for the Mediterranean
96. **Larbi Toumi**, Green Growth and Jobs Accelerator Manager, UNDP Morocco Office
97. **Sophie Willems**, Head of Economic Department, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Morocco
98. **Yassine Zegzouti**, Consultant in Power to X
99. **Zineb Znagui**, Professor at HEM Business & Engineering School
100. **Leila Zniber**, Direction des Etudes et des Précisions financières, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances.



About the European Institute of the Mediterranean

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), founded in 1989, is a think and do tank specialised in Euro-Mediterranean relations. It provides policy-oriented and evidence-based research underpinned by a genuine Euromed multidimensional and inclusive approach.

The aim of the IEMed, in accordance with the principles of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP), the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), is to stimulate reflection and action that contribute to mutual understanding, exchange and cooperation between the different Mediterranean countries, societies and cultures, and to promote the progressive construction of a space of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilisations in the Mediterranean.

The IEMed's mission is to foster effective cooperation and partnerships between the two shores of the Mediterranean, both at the institutional and civil society level. It does so in particular through leadership and boosting of regional networks of think tanks and civil society actors in the fields of security, migration, processes, socioeconomic development, political and socio-cultural processes, gender equality and intercultural dialogue.

<https://www.iemed.org/>



About the Policy Center for the New South

The Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) is a Moroccan think tank aiming to contribute to the improvement of economic and social public policies that challenge Morocco and the rest of Africa as integral parts of the global South.

The PCNS pleads for an open, accountable, and enterprising "new South" that defines its own narratives and mental maps around the Mediterranean and South Atlantic basins, as part of a forward-looking relationship with the rest of the world. Through its analytical endeavours, the think tank aims to support the development of public policies in Africa and to give the floor to experts from the South. This stance is focused on dialogue and partnership and aims to cultivate African expertise and excellence needed for the accurate analysis of African and global challenges and the suggestion of appropriate solutions.

As such, the PCNS brings together researchers, publishes their work and capitalizes on a network of renowned partners, representative of different regions of the world. The PCNS hosts a series of gatherings of different formats and scales throughout the year, the most important being the annual international conferences the "Atlantic Dialogues", the "African Peace and Security Annual Conference" (APSACO), and the "Africa Economic Symposium" (AES).

Finally, the think tank is developing a community of young leaders through the Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders program (ADEL) a space for cooperation and networking between a new generation of decision-makers from the government, business, and civil society sectors. Through this initiative, which already counts more than 450 members, the Policy Center for the New South contributes to intergenerational dialogue and the emergence of tomorrow's leaders.

www.policycenter.ma