



Closing the Circle | BRUSSELS 11-12 June

Expert voices and reflections for the New Pact
#EuroMeSCoForThePact

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EuroMeSCo Consultation Circles: *Expert voices and reflections for the new Pact for the Mediterranean*

Closing the circle

Brief | Agenda | List of Participants

11-12 June 2025

European Commission, Berlaymont building

Closed-door meeting

As one of the **largest Euro-Mediterranean policy research networks**, **EuroMeSCo** brings together over 100 think tanks and research institutes from more than 30 countries across Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. This unique and diverse network serves as a trusted platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and policy impact.

In the context of the New Pact for the Mediterranean preparations, **EuroMeSCo's Consultation Circles** aim to provide an **exclusive space** where experts, thought leaders and policymakers **collaborate, reflect, and offer strategic recommendations**. These high-level structured dialogues leverage the depth of regional expertise within the network to ensure that the voices of key stakeholders inform and shape the future of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

This initiative is organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), in its capacity as EuroMeSCo Secretariat, as part of a **project co-funded by the European Union to support the development of the New Pact for the Mediterranean**. This EU-backed effort seeks to strengthen engagement around this renewed strategy with the Southern Neighbourhood notably.

The final **EuroMeSCo Consultation Circles: Closing the circle** will take place on 11-12 June in Brussels, Belgium.

Taking advantage of the presence of Senior Officials from EU Member States and Southern partners in Brussels, and co-organised with the Civil Society Facility for the Mediterranean, this event will serve to **present the outcomes of the regional consultations** held online (Euromed Survey 15) and across Southern countries, namely in Rabat (13-14 May 2025) and Cairo (27-28 May 2025), and to **facilitate a forward-looking discussion on cross-cutting themes of the New Pact for the Mediterranean**. These include shared priorities, regional dynamics, and opportunities for more effective cooperation across the Euro-Mediterranean area, **notably on civil society engagement and security cooperation**.

Agenda

DAY 1 – Wednesday, June 11th, 2025

12:00–13:30 WORKING LUNCH – by invitation only

Brief **Shaping the EU's Narrative: Strategic Communication in the Mediterranean**

This closed-door session invites select participants to reflect on how the European Union is perceived in the Mediterranean region and how strategic communication can reinforce its influence. Discussions will assess the effectiveness of its messaging, and ways to build a more compelling and impactful narrative, ensuring that the new Pact for the Mediterranean resonates with key stakeholders and communities. Insights from EuroMed Survey 15 will guide the exchange.

13:30-14:00 REGISTRATION

14:00–14:30 OPENING SESSION

14:30-16:30 CIVIL SOCIETY FACILITY FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN: PERSPECTIVES ON THE PACT

Co-organised with the Civil Society Facility for the Mediterranean (CSFM)

Brief While the EU prioritizes investment, energy, migration, and security cooperation across the Mediterranean, these goals seem unattainable without the meaningful involvement of the civil society, as it plays a key role in ensuring accountability, impact, and inclusiveness in development efforts. This panel will explore the frameworks of implementation of a strategic, values-based approach to civil society engagement—not as an alternative to EU interests, but as a necessary pathway to achieving them.

14:30-14:50 Segment 1: Fostering an enabling environment for civil society: Towards a multi-stage engagement

Presentation of the CSFM common position paper on the new Pact for the Mediterranean

14:50-15:50 Segment 2: Including civil society: lessons from two decades of engagement

This segment will feature perspectives from civil society actors on engagement across key thematic areas—including international law and fundamental freedoms, sustainable development, human mobility, and environmental justice—followed by a curated discussion focused on concrete proposals for broader and deeper civil society engagement in and with the Southern Neighbourhood.

- Engagement on international law and human rights

- **Anne-Sophie Schaeffer** (Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders)
- **Kamel Jendoubi** (Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders)
- **Wadih Al Asmar** (EuroMed Rights)
- **Lilia Ribai** (EuroMed Rights)

- Engagement on sustainable development

- **Francesca Annetti** (Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries)
- **Alessia Tibollo** (Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries)

- Engagement on human mobility

- **Shaima Aly** (Minority Rights Group International)
- **Neil Clarke** (Minority Rights Group International)

- Engagement on environment and just energy transition

- **Nadim Houry** (Arab Reform Initiative)
- **Sarine Karajerjian** (Arab Reform Initiative)

15:50-16:20 Segment 3: Innovative approaches in engaging Civil Society around the Pact for the Mediterranean

This segment will explore how the New Pact can strengthen and expand regional partnerships between EU-based and Southern Mediterranean civil society—including diaspora networks—and enhance civil society's role in the selection, design, implementation, and governance of investment-led projects.

16:30-17:00 COFFEE BREAK

17:00-18:30 REGIONAL COOPERATION ON SECURITY: WORKING TOWARDS INCREASED STABILITY

Brief This session will focus on practical frameworks for strengthening security collaboration within the new Pact for the Mediterranean, including security sector reform, counter-trafficking, and law enforcement coordination.

Moderated by: **Michael Kohler**, Associate Fellow, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

- **Ayman Ayoub**, Head, Middle East & North Africa, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)
- **Nancy Ezzeddine**, Research Associate, Clingendael Institute
- **Katarzyna Sidło**, Senior Policy Analyst for the Middle East and North Africa, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)
- **Erwin van Veen**, Senior Research Fellow, Conflict Research Unit, Clingendael Institute

First discussants: **Sarra Messaoudi**, Regional lead, MENA Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (online)

Sarah Wolff, Professor in International Studies and Global Politics, Leiden University

18:30-20:00 NETWORKING COCKTAIL

DAY 2 – Thursday, June 12th, 2025

08:30-09:00 REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE

09:00–09:45 DATA INSIGHTS: EUROMED SURVEY 15 - REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE NEW PACT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Brief Presentation of the results from the 15th edition of the EuroMed Survey, offering evidence-based insights on perceptions, priorities, and policy expectations from stakeholders across the Mediterranean. The data will inform the ongoing development of the new Pact for the Mediterranean

- **Rim Filali Meknassi**, Head of Euro-Mediterranean Policies, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
- **Salam Kawakibi**, Director, Centre Arabe de Recherches et d'Études Politiques de Paris (CAREP)
- **Charlotta Sparre**, Deputy Director, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- **Christian-Peter Hanelt**, Senior Expert Europe, Neighbourhood and the Middle East, “Europe’s Future” program, Bertelsmann Stiftung

09:45-11:15 KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE EUROMESCO CONSULTATION CIRCLES

Brief Representatives from EuroMeSCo member institutions and consultation partners will present the main outcomes and strategic insights gathered during the different consultation circles. The session will highlight recurring themes, country-specific perspectives, and forward-looking proposals, helping to identify areas of convergence and divergence among stakeholders. These takeaways will serve as critical input for the formulation of policy recommendations and the shaping of a coherent and inclusive New Pact for the Mediterranean.

Moderated by: **Senén Florensa**, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Reporting back from Southern Partners:

- **Mohammed Loulichki**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South
- **Hanaa Ebeid**, Deputy Director, Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (online)

Reporting back on horizontal dimensions of the Pact:

- **Wadih Al Asmar**, President, EuroMed rights

- **Michael Kohler**, Associate Fellow, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
- **Joumana Brihi**, Team Leader, EU Neighbours South-*tbc*

11:15-11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30-12:15 THE REGIONAL DIMENSION OF THE NEW PACT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN: TOWARDS THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BARCELONA PROCESS

Brief This session will examine how the New Pact can build on and renew the principles of the Barcelona Process, strengthening regional cooperation and addressing shared challenges ahead of its 30th anniversary. It will particularly explore how to ensure coherence between the regional and bilateral dimensions of the pact and its synergies with other frameworks and instruments such as the UfM, GCC, LAS, AU and the EU enlargement policy, among others.

Moderated by: **Agustí Fernández de Losada Passols**, Secretary for European and Multilateral Affairs and Development Cooperation, Generalitat de Catalunya

- **Hindawi Jawad**, Head of the Permanent Representation to the EU, League of Arab States-*tbc*
- **Birgit Loeser**, Head of Regional Affairs, Middle East and North Africa, European External Action Service
- **Christian Koch**, Executive Manager, Gulf Research Center Foundation

First discussant: **Abdallah Al-Dardari**, ASG & UNDP Director for the Arab States-*tbc*

12:15-12:30 CLOSING SESSION

- **Senén Florensa**, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
- **Hélène Le Gal**, Managing Director for the Middle East and North Africa, European External Action Service (EEAS)
- **Stefano Sannino**, Director-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf, European Commission

12:30-14:00 LUNCH

Joint lunch with the Senior Officials Meeting of the Southern neighbourhood