EMNES Annual Conference 2019

Towards A Regional Integration and Employment Driven Socio-Economic Model in the Mediterranean: A Comprehensive Policy Roadmap

01 Place du Congrès, Brussels, 1000
Models to Enhance Regional Integration and Employment in the Mediterranean

The Euro-Mediterranean region brings together a diverse set of countries with different cultural backgrounds and economic, social and political realities, which are each developing at a varying pace and with variable geometry. In line with the complex dynamics of intertwined integration and disintegration characterising the region, Ayadi and Sessa 1 (2013) devised a number of alternative scenarios that could play out in Euro-Mediterranean relations by ‘Horizon 2030’, two of which were particularly interesting. In the worse-case scenario, labelled “red transition”, the Mediterranean Sea becomes a dividing line between diverse but conflicting civilisations, leading to deeper political uncertainties and mounting economic and social difficulties, as tensions escalate between, but also within, the two shores, linked by the effects of contagion in the context of a number of issues, yet without being able to resort to cooperation. In the best-case scenario, labelled “blue transition”, the Euro-Mediterranean region experiences an increasing heterogeneity where the active contribution of people, civil society and policymakers, as well as synergetic policies are built on existing areas of agreement between distinct yet related countries.

The latest developments on both shores of the Mediterranean Sea indicate that the region has been moving in the direction of the red transition. To the north, the European Union is grappling with a timid recovery from the economic crisis, with a dangerous imbalance between northern and southern European countries and the failure to find a satisfactory common response to the ongoing migration crisis. The related upsurge of nationalist sentiments, often disguised among populist claims and Brexit, has possibly turned the threat of fragmentation of the European Union from an adventurous speculation into a plausible scenario. To the south, Arab countries have witnessed disruptive social and political transformations, with both the democratic aspirations of large segments of the population and the rise of extremism in a small, yet growing minority erupting in a series of upheavals, destabilising the region’s polities, economies and societies. These dynamics led to the exacerbation of tensions in several areas of the Mediterranean Basin, such as in Syria and Libya, where civil uprisings evolved into international theatres of war and different factions pursue their contradictory agendas with little regard for human and social consequences. In light of such developments, it is difficult to argue that Euro-Mediterranean relations delivered on the promise of achieving shared prosperity through enhanced political association and economic integration. In the decades leading to the 2011 Arab uprisings, Euro-Mediterranean policymakers seemingly equated stagnation with stability, choosing to sideline human rights and, more broadly, much needed political reforms, while issues such as combatting terrorism and controlling borders dominated the agenda. On the economic front, trade negotiations led to a substantial waiving of tariffs but failed to create the conditions or the emergence of regional value chains and sustainable jobs for the educated, notwithstanding the undoubted similarities between structural characteristics that could have beenexploited by economies on both shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

Against this background, the objectives of the EMNES Annual Conference 2019 are twofold:

**Objective 1**

At the EMNES Policy Conference on the 27 June 2019 the objective is to discuss the EMNES Blue Transition Scenario 2050 and the Comprehensive Policy Roadmap towards new models of regional integration, new models for socio-economic development with a special focus on employment creation in the Mediterranean. The new policies and models developed under this research phase will guide the research agenda of EMNES in the coming years.

**Objective 2**

At the EMNES Scientific Conference on the 28 June 2019 the objective is to discuss and disseminate the results and conclusions of the work accomplished under EMNES policy research.

The EMNES Annual Conference 2019 includes EMNES Researchers, Associate Committee and Advisory Committee members, international economists and policy experts.

The Euro-Mediterranean Network of Economic Studies (EMNES) new socio-economic vision stems from the quest for long-term economic policy solutions aiming at more inclusive, sustainable and employment driven socio-economic development in the region.
EMNES research covers the following areas

- The role of institutions and labour markets;
- The role of the private sector and Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in achieving an inclusive development model;
- Social business and social inclusion;
- Entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Finance, employment and inclusive growth;
- Human capital, skill mismatches, job creation and migration;
- Macroeconomic policies, business productivity and job creation;
- Economics of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership;
- Regional integration and job creation;
- Sustainable development;
- Scenario analysis and foresight;

This list of research topics is evolving.

Progress of work: www.emnes.org
08:30 – 09:00
Registration

09:00 – 09:15
Welcome: Rym Ayadi, EMEA, CEPS
Daniel Gros, CEPS

09:15 – 09:45
Keynote Speech - Euro-mediterranean Integration And Cooperation: Achievements And Challenges
Michael Koehler, Director of Neighbourhood South, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

09:45 – 10:15
Keynote Speech - The Future of Regional Integration and EU-Med Partnership
H. E. Fathallah Sijilmassi, Former Secretary General Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

10:15 – 11:45
Panel Discussion: Regional Integration Beyond Trade?
H. E. Hala Helmy El-Saeed, Minister of Planning and Administrative Reform, Arab Republic of Egypt
H. E. Jaloul Ayed, Former Minister of Finance, Tunisia
Hamed El Etreby, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
Michael Koehler, European Commission
H. E. Ibrahim Salf, Middle East Institute (MEI)
H. E. Fathallah Sijilmassi, Former Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
Moderator: Rym Ayadi, EMEA, CEPS

11:45 – 12:15
Coffee break

12:15 – 13:00
Keynote Speech - Economic Integration of the NEAR
Simeon Djankov, World Bank

13:00 – 14:00
Lunch
14:00 – 14:45

Panel Discussion - Blue Transition Scenario in the Mediterranean and Policy Roadmap
Presentation: Rym Ayadi, EMEA and CEPS
Panel: Henrike Trautmann, European Commission
Roger Albinyana, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
Ahmet Evin, Istanbul Policy Center (IPC)
Fatima Ezzahra Mengoub, Policy Center for the New South
Moderator: Cinzia Alcidi, CEPS

14:45 – 16.00

Panel Discussion: Creating Jobs In The Mediterranean: How To Deal With Labor Markets Frictions?
Presentation: Cinzia Alcidi, CEPS
Panel: Nathalie Creste, DG Employment,
European Commission
Abdellatif Bencherifa, International University of Rabat (IUR)
Léo Vincent, HOMERe
Moderator: Nooh Alshyab, Yarmouk University (YU)

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee break

16:30 – 17:45

Panel discussion: Creating Jobs in the Mediterranean: What Role for the Private Sector?
Presentation: Chahir Zaki, FEPS
Panel: Hamed El Etreby, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
Carlos Conde, OECD
Jihen Boutiba, BUSINESSMED
Gilbert Doumit, Beyond Reform & Development (BRD)
Atilla Kaiser-Yuecel, GIZ
Moderator: Rim Mouelhi, IHEC Carthage

17:45 – 18:00

Conclusions
09:00 – 09:15
Registration

09:15 – 09:45
Keynote Speech: Drivers of Sustainability in Economics and Management
Giovanni Ferri, Università di Roma LUMSA

09:45 – 11:30
Session 1: Institutions, Macroeconomic Policies, Economic Development and Employment
Presentation 1: Macro-policies and employment, Chahir Zaki, FEPS, Cairo University
Presentation 2: Institutions and unemployment, Yacine Belarbi, CREAD
Presentation 3: Wars and economic development – Case of Syria, Elena Perra, EMNES Fellow
Presentation 4: Institutions and bureaucracy, Ahmed Badawi, Freie Universität Berlin (FUB)
Discussant: Raja Almarzoqi, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

11:30 – 11:45
Coffee break

11:45 – 13:00
Session 2: Inequality, Corruption and Financial Inclusion
Presentation 1: Inequality and corruption, Vladimír Hlásny, EMNES Fellow
Presentation 2: Financial inclusion and inequality, Soumaya Ben Khelifa, IHEC Carthage
Presentation 3: Income inequality in Tunisia, Iyad Dhaoui, ITCEQ
Discussant: Barbara Casu, Cass Business School

13:00 – 14:00
Lunch

14:00 – 14:30
Keynote Speech: Remittances: Treasure or Trap?
Ralph Chami, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

14:30 – 15:45
Session 3: Regional Integration and Trade
Presentation 1: Regional integration indicators, Ioannis Charalampidis, E3-Modelling (E3M)
Presentation 2: Quantification of BTS, Ioannis Charalampidis, E3-Modelling (E3M)
Presentation 3: The effects of non-tariff measures on wage disparity in MENA, Nora Aboushady, FEPS, Cairo University
Discussant: Giorgia Giovannetti, Università degli Studi di Firenze (UniFI)
15:45 – 16:45

Special Session: EMNES Surveys and Indicators
Presentation 1: Informality and social business survey, Jacques Charmes, Institute of Research for Development (IRD)
Rim Mouelhi, IHEC Carthage
Presentation 2: Financial inclusion survey, Sandra Challita, EMEA
Presentation 3: Entrepreneurship survey, Heba Zaki, FEPS, Cairo University
Presentation 4: Institutional uncertainty indicator, Serena Sandri, Yarmouk University (YU)
Discussion: EMNES Researchers

16:45 - 17:00

Coffee Break

17:00 – 18:00

Session 4: Labour Markets and Migration
Presentation 1: Migration and brain drain, Cinzia Alcidi, CEPS
Presentation 2: Job searching and social networks in Tunisia and Egypt, Moundir Lassassi, CREAD
Discussant: Zouhair El Kadhi, ITCEQ

18:00 – 18:15

Conclusions

EMNES Partners
- Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Belgium
- Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), Spain
- University of Cairo – Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS), Egypt
- Institut des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (IHEC), Tunisia
- Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes (UEMF), Morocco
- Yarmouk University (YU), Jordan
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- Institut Tunisiens de la Compétitivité et des Études Quantitatives (ITCEQ), Tunisia
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- Policy Centre for the New South (PCNS), Morocco
- German Jordanian University (GJU), Jordan
The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies - EMNES aims to provide a renewed vision for socio-economic development in the Mediterranean region.

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