



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

## EIB MED Conference: Boosting Investments in the Mediterranean Region

**Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

Cairo, Egypt

In pursuit of economic growth and the sustainable development goals, the European Investment Bank - the EU-Bank - has been called upon by the European Council to step up its support to the European Union's neighbourhood. The Bank's new Economic Resilience Initiative will allow the blending of funds from the donor community with EIB financing and thus scale-up blended funding in favour of critical investments through intensified EIB activity. Boosting the Mediterranean region's economic growth and resilience requires upgrading and developing social and economic infrastructure and stimulating private sector development. This conference will address the challenges and obstacles in the region, focussing on how to boost public and private investments to promote job creation, especially for young people and women, and to raise living standards.

### **Opening Session** (9h30 – 10h00)

- Mr Dario Scannapieco, Vice-President, European Investment Bank
- H.E. Dr Sahar Nasr, Minister of Investment and International Cooperation, Arab Republic of Egypt
- H.E. Mr Fathallah Sijilmassi, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean

### **Keynote Speech** (10h00 – 10h15) –

- Dr Abla Abdel-Latif, Chairwoman of the Presidential Advisory Council for Economic Development and Executive Director of the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies



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### Session I (10h15 – 11h45) – Investment and Private Sector – Improving The Business Environment

Moderator: Ms Debora Revoltella, Chief Economist, European Investment Bank

- Dr Adel Al-Sharkas, Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Jordan
- Dr Saad Andary, Vice Governor, Banque du Liban
- Mr Abderrahim Bouazza, Director General, Bank Al-Maghrib, Morocco
- Mr Akef El Maghraby, Vice Chairman, Bank Misr, Egypt
- Ms Taline Koranchelian, Director Middle East Technical Assistance Center, Middle East and Central Asia Department, International Monetary Fund
- Mr Radhi Meddeb, President, Comète Group, Tunisia

Reducing uncertainty, raising resilience to macro-economic shocks are important ingredients for sustainable economic growth in the Mediterranean region. This session will focus on current economic developments and potential drivers of economic growth in the region. The need to make growth more socially inclusive will be discussed. Barriers to investment and private sector development will be identified, based on the results of the MENA Enterprise Survey (conducted jointly by the EIB, the World Bank Group and the EBRD).

Coffee break (11h45 – 12h15)

### Session II (12h15 – 13h45) – Access to Finance – Fostering SMEs and Microentrepreneurs

Moderator: Ms Hanaa El Hilaly, Managing Director and Board Member of Amwal Financial Investments – Pioneers Holding Group

- Mr Jaloul Ayed, President, MED Confederation, Tunisia
- Ms Sophie De Caen, Deputy Regional Director, United Nations Development Programme
- Ms Ingrid Schwaiger, Deputy Head, EU programmes for South Neighbourhood, DG NEAR, European Commission
- Ms Flavia Palanza, Director Neighbouring Countries, European Investment Bank
- Mr Youssef Rouissi, Deputy General Manager, Attijariwafa Bank, Morocco
- Ms Sahar Tieby, Executive Director, Sanabel – The Microfinance Network of Arab Countries, Egypt



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The development of a vibrant private sector is essential for boosting employment, growth and economic resilience in the Mediterranean region. This session will focus on how to enable adequate access to finance for SMEs and micro-entrepreneurs, acknowledging their critical role as backbone of economic growth and job creation. The development and support for financial inclusion of low income population will be discussed as well.

**Lunchbreak** (13h45 – 15h00)

**Session III (15h00 – 16h30) – Innovation and Competitiveness – Investment Matters**

Moderator: Ms Hanaa El Hilaly, Managing Director and Board Member of Amwal Financial Investments – Pioneers Holding Group

- Ms Nathalie Climence, Head of Corporates Division, Neighbouring Countries, European Investment Bank
- Mr Khalil Laabidi, President, Tunisian Investment Authority, Tunisia
- Mr Tarek Tawfik, Chairman, Cairo Poultry Group and Deputy Chairman of the Federation of Egyptian Industries, President of the American Chamber of Commerce, Egypt
- Mr Mehdi Tazi Riffi, Chief Executive Officer, Tanger Med Special Agency, Morocco

Declining investment in recent years increasingly weighs on growth prospects for the Mediterranean region. This session will focus on the critical role of investment to promote innovation and international competitiveness of local firms. The financing needs of large corporates to strengthen their innovative capacities and competitiveness will be discussed. Moreover, the need for government action to promote competitiveness of the local economy, for instance through infrastructure investments and reducing regulatory barriers, will be assessed.

**Closing remarks** (16h30 – 17h15)

- H.E. Mr Ivan Surkos, Head of Delegation, The European Union Delegation to Egypt
- Ms Flavia Palanza, Director Neighbouring Countries, European Investment Bank

**Networking Cocktail** (17h30 – 18h30)