

Connectivity, Value Chains and the Green Transition: Promoting Multilateralism and Sustainable Growth across the Shared Mediterranean Space

by Akram Ezzamouri



ABSTRACT

This report summarises the proceedings of the international conference "Connectivity, Value Chains and the Green Transition: Promoting Multilateralism and Sustainable Growth Across the Shared Mediterranean Space" held in Rabat, Morocco, on 2 November 2022 and co-organised by the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) in the framework of the New-Med Research Network. Convened to discuss the present state of trade and connectivity between North Africa and Europe, the event benefitted from the support of the Embassy of Italy in Morocco and took place in a hybrid format at the PCNS's Headquarters in Rabat. The conference provided an opportunity to take stock of the impact of Covid-19, the green energy transition and Russia's war on Ukraine on the potential to engender more sustainable forms of multilateral cooperation, sustainable growth and integration among Mediterranean Basin states.

Mediterranean | Climate change | Food security | European Union

keywords

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by Akram Ezzamouri*

Introduction

On 2 November 2022, the New-Med Research Network and the Policy Center for the New South (PCNS), in cooperation with the Italian Embassy in Morocco, organised a one-day international conference entitled "Connectivity, Value Chains and the Green Transition: Promoting Multilateralism and Sustainable Growth Across the Shared Mediterranean Space".¹ Held in hybrid format, with scholars gathering in person at the PCNS's headquarters in Rabat and connecting remotely, the event saw the participation of 12 speakers from the broader Mediterranean. Invited participants included practitioners and policymakers, academics and diplomats, who gathered to analyse the compounding challenges of post-Covid recovery and supply chain disruptions on the potential to re-launch effective multilateral cooperation across the shared Mediterranean space.

Organised in the framework of the New-Med Research Network, a research, outreach and dissemination project run since 2014 by the Rome-based policy think tank, the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), the event fits within a broader cycle of activities conducted by the Network during 2020–2022 specifically focused on Covid-19's impact on regional connectivity and value chains and the multidimensional challenges stemming from the climate emergency in the Mediterranean.²

¹ See, Saloi El Yamani and Sabrine Emran, "Mediterranean Value Chains: Between Leveraging on the Intra-Regional Growth Opportunities and Promoting the Development", in *PCNS Opinions*, 25 November 2022, <https://www.policycenter.ma/node/7201>.

² For more information on the New-Med Research project, including past publications, volumes and reports, please consult the dedicated webpage: <https://www.new-med.net> and <https://www.iai.it/en/node/2004>. For recent New-Med publications tackling the impact of climate emergency and Covid-19

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· Summary report of the international conference "Connectivity, Value Chains and the Green Transition: Promoting Multilateralism and Sustainable Growth Across the Shared Mediterranean Space" organised in the framework of the New-Med Research Network in Rabat on 2 November 2022.

Supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna and the Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation, New-Med sets out to analyse underlining security and socio-political trends in the wider Mediterranean by combining track II and track I.5 formats and engaging with key international organisations to foster dialogue and multilateral cooperation in the area.³



Armando Barucco, Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of Morocco and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Structured around an introductory session, a key-note speech and two panel discussions, the international conference provided an opportunity to reflect on new and pre-existing challenges constraining Mediterranean Basin states from embracing the full potential of multilateral cooperation and to propose sustainable pathways to enhance connectivity across the shared Mediterranean space (see Appendix for the full conference agenda). Invited scholars, practitioners and policymakers, delved into the present state of trade, connectivity and cooperation between North Africa and Europe, taking stock of the impact that Covid-19, the green energy transition and Russia's war on Ukraine is having on opportunities for enhanced integration among Mediterranean Basin states.

Welcoming Remarks

Conference proceedings were opened by **Armando Barucco**, Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of Morocco and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, who underscored the timeliness of the conference and the relevance of examining how supply chain disruptions, such as the ones caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and

pandemic on multilateral cooperation in the Mediterranean see, Andrea Dessì and Flavia Fusco (eds), *Climate Change and Security in the Mediterranean: Exploring the Nexus, Unpacking International Policy Responses*, Rome, Nuova Cultura, 2022, <https://www.iai.it/en/node/15506>; Andrea Dessì, Daniele Fattibene and Flavia Fusco (eds), *Climate Change and Sustainability: Mediterranean Perspectives*, Rome, Nuova Cultura, 2021, <https://www.iai.it/en/node/13843>; Anis Germani and Rania Masri, "The Covid-19 Crisis and the Mediterranean Basin: Overcoming Disparities, Promoting Genuine Cooperation", in *IAI Papers*, No. 21|41 (September 2021), <https://www.iai.it/en/node/14053>; Michaël Tanchum, "Europe-Africa Connectivity Outlook 2021: Post-Covid-19 Challenges and Strategic Opportunities", in *IAI Papers*, No. 21|20 (May 2021), <https://www.iai.it/en/node/13326>.

³ Since its inception, New-Med has developed a specific focus on the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership for Co-operation, engaging with OSCE officials, the Secretariat and Mediterranean partners to examine modalities to re-launch effective multilateral cooperation. See for instance, Sandra Sacchetti, *The OSCE and Effective Multilateralism in the Mediterranean: A Comparative Analysis*, Rome, IAI, December 2021, <https://www.iai.it/en/node/14475>; Monika Wohlfeld and Fred Tanner, "Comprehensive Security and New Challenges: Strengthening the OSCE", in *IAI Papers*, No. 21|23 (May 2021), <https://www.iai.it/en/node/13457>.

subsequent Russian war on Ukraine, are impacting the global economy and Euro-Mediterranean relations.

Referring to debates on nearshoring and the regionalisation of value chains that emerged following the outbreak of Covid-19, Ambassador Barucco stressed how the future of Italian and European prosperity is strictly intertwined with that of the wider Mediterranean. In this respect, the way collaborations and investments in a key North African country like Morocco are carried out within a broader multilateral framework of cooperation are of particular relevance for the future of trade connectivity and integration in the Mediterranean. Against this backdrop, efforts aimed at reconsidering global supply chains and promoting new avenues for genuine collaboration and integration across Euro-Mediterranean states should harness current international challenges stemming from the pandemic and war in Ukraine to promote a renewed emphasis on green and sustainable energy cooperation across the shared Mediterranean space. The present urgency for European states to seek alternative energy supplies while at the same time not straying from international commitments on decarbonisation and the green energy transition provides an opportunity for enhanced forms of energy and trade integration in the Euro-Mediterranean space. That being said, Ambassador Barucco also stressed that north-south cooperation can only go so far in providing sustainable benefits in the long term. Such efforts also need to be matched by similar processes of economic and trade integration among North African states themselves, given that intra-regional integration across the southern shores of the Mediterranean still remains well below its potential and is widely recognised as an impediment to the emergence of stronger cooperative frameworks in the region and between North Africa and Europe.

In thanking participants and invited speakers, **Karim El Aynaoui**, Executive President of the Policy Center for the New South, focused his welcoming remarks on the complexity characterising the issues addressed by the present conference. El Aynaoui pointed out that the compounding challenges stemming from the post-Covid recovery, supply chain disruptions and the green energy transition require regional and interregional frameworks to make progress. This justifies the urge of enhancing dialogue and understanding between the African and European continents as well as the need to initiate a concrete discussion on the incentives framework that may favour integration and green growth in both Africa and Europe. El Aynaoui underscored the lack of proper institutional arrangements and optimal connections with decision makers when it comes to technical issues that require a regional response, calling for more efforts to be directed at developing actionable



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

policy recommendations to promote such understandings through track I and track 1.5 initiatives targeting officials and the private sector at all levels. In concluding his remarks, El Aynaoui recalled the fruitful legacy of cooperation between IAI and the PCNS, pointing to past joint research endeavours on Mediterranean energy resources and natural gas.⁴ Finally, El Aynaoui encouraged participants to reflect on pathways to anchor Africa-Europe relations in the development of new and sustainable value chains spanning the green energy, industrial and agri-food domains to promote the energy transition in the midst of a global contingency characterised by political rivalry and macroeconomic challenges.

In thanking the previous speakers for their insights and generous collaboration in co-organising and hosting the conference, **Andrea Dessi**, Scientific Director of the New-Med Research Network and Head of the Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa Programme at IAI, took the floor to introduce the overarching topic of the conference as well as the New-Med Research Network project. By briefly outlining the objectives and mandate of the network, the speaker emphasised the importance of conceptualising the Mediterranean as a shared space, enhancing a sense of unity and parity between Mediterranean Basin countries and allowing the development of genuine multilateral cooperation frameworks within the area. To this end, New-Med developed a flexible, diverse and multidisciplinary network of scholars, research centres, organisations and universities spanning the broader Mediterranean, which can help develop policy recommendations and targeted engagement efforts on a multitude of themes and topics with a high degree of academic rigour and policy relevance.



Andrea Dessi, Scientific Director of the New-Med Research Network and Head of the Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa Programme at IAI

Since its establishment in 2014, the New-Med Research Network has followed the evolution of various political, economic and social trends across the shared Mediterranean space. In this regard, the speaker noted that over the past two years New-Med focused on the climate emergency and published two edited volumes analysing the Mediterranean perspectives on climate change and sustainable development⁵ as well as the multidimensional relationship between climate change

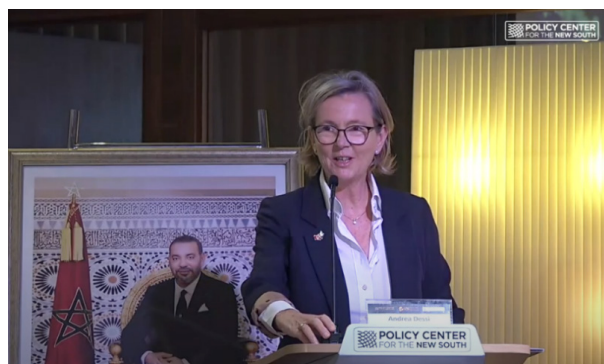
⁴ See, Silvia Colombo, Mohamed El Harrak and Nicolò Sartori (eds), *The Future of Natural Gas. Markets and Geopolitics*, Hof van Twente, Lenthe/European Energy Review, 2016, <https://www.iai.it/en/node/6340>.

⁵ See, Andrea Dessi, Daniele Fattibene and Flavia Fusco (eds) *Climate Change and Sustainability: Mediterranean Perspectives*, cit. For access to previous New-Med research outputs see, <https://www.new-med.net/category/publications>.

and security across the Mediterranean Basin.⁶ In concluding his remarks, Dessi underscored New-Med's ongoing commitment to promote fresh thinking about multilateral dialogue and collaboration in the shared Mediterranean, thanking the Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation, the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for their generous support for New-Med's research, outreach and engagement activities over recent years. Turning to the topic of the conference, Dessi stressed the need to transform present international challenges revolving around a revival of great power conflict and competition into an opportunity to re-launch genuine Euro-Mediterranean integration, underlining the complementarity of interests and threats facing both shores of the Mediterranean.

Keynote Speech

Patricia Pilar Llombart Cussac, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the European Union (EU) to the Kingdom of Morocco, delivered a keynote address focused on the shocks challenging the present political order and those initiatives aimed at supporting cooperation in the shared Mediterranean space. Delving into the specificities of the current fragmentation of the multilateral order, spanning the disruption of



Patricia Pilar Llombart Cussac, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the European Union to the Kingdom of Morocco

global value chains to the climate emergency, Ambassador Llombart Cussac called for responsible and proactive action by states, institutions, the private sector and civil society across the Mediterranean. Beyond short-term urgencies to accelerate the green transition, the current energy crisis linked to Europe's high reliance on Russian natural gas underscores the importance of making countries more secure and independent on the energy front. Against this backdrop, the EU-Morocco Green Partnership, signed on 18 October 2022, provides a model for bilateral engagement with impact also extending to the regional level, as it sets a holistic framework for cooperation and engagement to decarbonise economies, diversify energy needs and create more efficient, resilient and sustainable value chains.⁷

⁶ See, Andrea Dessi and Flavia Fusco (eds), *Climate Change and Security in the Mediterranean*, cit.

⁷ See, European Commission, *EU-Morocco Green Partnership: Commission Adopts a Key Programme to Support the Agricultural and Forestry Sectors in Morocco*, 25 October 2022 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_6362.

Turning to global trade, Ambassador Llombart Cussac highlighted the impact of critical trends such as de-globalisation and the increased weaponisation of economic interdependences, underscoring how the EU looks to the Mediterranean as a priority for new and sustainable economic and trade partnerships. In 2021, the EU proposed a New Agenda for the Mediterranean to relaunch and strengthen the strategic partnership between the European Union and its Southern Neighbourhood countries. It includes an Economic and Investment Plan to spur long-term socio-economic recovery in the Southern Neighbourhood and under the EU's new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), up to 7 billion euro for the period 2021–2027 would be allocated to its implementation, which could mobilise up to 30 billion euro in private and public investment over the next decade.⁸ Spurring private investment to support demands of the green energy transition and pairing these with the political commitment of international and regional organisations will be of pivotal importance to unleash the economic potential of the Mediterranean while at the same time ensuring sustainability and climate resilience in an area highly exposed to the threats of climate change and environmental degradation.

In concluding her speech, Ambassador Llombart Cussac pointed out that despite the EU's focus on Ukraine following the Russian invasion in February 2022, the Mediterranean remains an area of strategic importance for Europe. The EU will continue to remain engaged in this area, seeking to transform present international challenges into an opportunity to relaunch and deepen integration and cooperation across the shared Mediterranean space, while at the same time investing in long-term sustainability and environmentally friendly infrastructure that will be key to better position states and societies in the MENA for the future.

Session I: Mediterranean Value Chains: From Disruption to New Opportunities for Integration

The first panel of the conference was chaired by **Mounia Boucetta**, Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, who welcomed the audience and outlined the focus of the discussion before introducing the three invited speakers.

Connecting remotely, **Michaël Tanchum**, Professor at Universidad de Navarra and non-resident fellow in the Economics and Energy Program at the Middle East Institute in Washington, took the floor to present his paper on the food-water-energy nexus in the Western Mediterranean. In providing an overview of the opportunities and challenges for the emergence of sustainable and resilient food production value chains in the area, particular emphasis was placed on Morocco, Algeria, Italy, France and Spain in the analysis. Discussing the fragilities of the food-energy nexus, Tanchum emphasised the threats of climate change in an

⁸ See, European Commission, *Southern Neighbourhood: EU Proposes New Agenda for the Mediterranean*, 9 February 2021, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_426.

already water scarce region, while noting that a further by-product of the war in Ukraine was the rise in nitrogen mineral fertiliser prices, which impact food production both in Europe and North Africa.

Against this backdrop, the speaker highlighted the potential of Western Mediterranean countries to exploit their abundant green energy resources and minerals for fertilisers to help ensure food security and resilient supply chains in the shared Mediterranean. To allow this, Tanchum underscored the need to make use of renewable energies and green hydrogen in the production of fertilisers, also advancing a proposal to create a joint inter-governmental platform among Mediterranean Basin states specifically directed at facilitating dialogue among stakeholders involved in these sectors. Some moves have already been made in this direction as the Italian multinational natural gas services company Saipem and Alboran Hydrogen signed a memorandum of understanding on 4 March 2021 for the construction of a plant in Morocco to produce ammonia from green hydrogen.⁹ The speaker stressed that increased cooperation across the Western Mediterranean will be key to achieve new and resilient food production value chains for the broader Mediterranean, highlighting the important and possibly complementary roles that Morocco as well as other neighbours can play in these domains if present political constraints are overcome.



Michaël Tanchum, Professor at Universidad de Navarra and non-resident fellow in the Economics and Energy Program at the Middle East Institute

The second speaker on the panel, **Massimo Deandreis**, General Manager of SRM Economic Research Group, an economic research centre related to the Intesa Sanpaolo Banking Group, specialised in the Italian economy, energy issues and maritime economy in a European and Mediterranean perspective, shared his analysis of Mediterranean value chains from the angle of maritime economy, discussing how trade and maritime infrastructures can enhance integration in the shared Mediterranean. Deandreis began by outlining the general trends of trade in the world, highlighting that a vast majority of global import-export occurs in an interregional dimension. This growing trade regionalisation together with the reshoring of production of European companies from Asia¹⁰ and the progressively increased relevance gained by the Suez Canal¹¹ justify the prospect

⁹ See, Saipem, *Saipem and Alboran Hydrogen Together for Green Hydrogen Production in Italy and in the Mediterranean*, 4 March 2021, <https://www.saipem.com/en/node/1086>.

¹⁰ See, Patrick Haex and René Buck, "Strong Rise Predicted in Reshoring of Critical Parts and Final Assembly to Europe and US", in *BCI Global*, 24 March 2022, <https://bciglobal.com/en/strong-rise-predicted-in-reshoring-of-critical-parts-and-final-assembly-to-europe-and-us>.

¹¹ "Egypt's Suez Canal Revenues at \$744.8 mln in August – Authority", in *Reuters*, 8 September 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/article/egypt-suez-revenue-idINC6N2VY00X>.

of greater investments in the Mediterranean. Defining special economic zones and investments in ports, logistics and energy as key tools to improve Mediterranean supply chain integration, the speaker pointed to Morocco's Tanger Med industrial port complex as an example of success in generating a new Euro-Mediterranean supply chain.¹² Tanger Med is linked to 180 ports and 70 countries and accounts for more than 50 per cent of Moroccan export and nearly 97 per cent of export TIR truck flows majorly with destination France, Spain, Romania, Italy and Bulgaria.¹³ Deandreis underscored that, besides being mere logistics nodes, ports are also energy hubs and can play a pivotal role in the Mediterranean energy transition. This strategic position rests on their being hydrocarbon gateways, on their proximity to energy intensive industries and on their potential for sustainable energy and hydrogen production. In concluding his remark, the speaker highlighted how the development of ports in the Mediterranean can relaunch and increase cooperation between the Basin states as regards trade and connectivity.

The floor then passed to **Larabi Jaïdi**, Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South and Affiliate Professor at the Faculty of Governance, Economic and Social Sciences of the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, who addressed the main issues discussed by the panellists, focusing on the impact of climate change and water scarcity on the food-water-energy nexus. The speaker further reflected on possible modalities for developing robust trans-Mediterranean value chains for food production powered by renewable energy and green hydrogen derived fertilisers, noting the extensive potential of North Africa for such purposes. In this regard, Jaïdi identified significant opportunities for the development of resilient regional value chains in opening up the European market to agricultural and agri-food products from the southern shore of the Mediterranean and by fostering coherent agricultural policies and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.

Session II: Energy and Food Connectivity in the Mediterranean: Harnessing the Green and Digital Transitions to Promote Sustainable Growth and Integration

Chairing the proceedings of the second panel on energy connectivity in the Mediterranean, **Andrea Dessì** (New-Med/IAI) began by presenting the speakers and the topic of the session. The four participants addressed opportunities to re-launch sustainable growth and development across the Mediterranean, while improving the capacity of states and societies in the region to implement adaptation and mitigation strategies in the face of the rapidly advancing climate emergency.

¹² Jacopo Dettoni, "fDi's Global Free Zones of the Year 2020 – The Winners", in *fDi Intelligence*, 15 October 2020, <https://www.fdiintelligence.com/content/rankings-and-awards/fdis-global-free-zones-of-the-year-2020-the-winners-78955>.

¹³ Website of the Tanger Med Port Authority: *Ro-Ro*, <https://www.tangermedport.com/?p=8108>.

The first speaker and paper-giver, **Afaf Zarkik**, Economist at the Policy Center for the New South, presented her paper on the European energy crisis as a contingency offering a new resilient bargain for shared energy security in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The speaker started by outlining the radical changes experienced by the European gas supply landscape following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as well as the recent measures adopted by the EU to diversify energy supplies, with a particular emphasis on North Africa and the greater Middle East.



Afaf Zarkik, Economist at the Policy Center for the New South

Despite Europe's deep dependence on Russian energy supplies, the EU succeeded in reducing its gas demand by 7 per cent¹⁴ and managed to refill its gas storage level to 90 per cent of capacity by October 2022.¹⁵ Focusing on EU diversification efforts, which constitute one of the four actions of the REPowerEU Plan launched in May 2022,¹⁶ Zarkik listed the long term deals which the EU and certain member states (Italy and Germany) have signed with Algeria, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Israel, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates. Differently than the past, the EU included broader renewable energy agreements into these deals, which fix energy efficiency targets and provide investments in green hydrogen as well as in renewable energy generation and transmission capacity. Against this backdrop, Zarkik highlighted that the EU's external energy policy focusing not only on attracting new liquefied natural gas (LNG) or natural gas supplies, but also on favouring the green transition in partner regions, should be greeted as an important opportunity by North African countries seeking to enhance Euro-Mediterranean green cooperation and sustainable growth. Finally, the speaker underlined that the path forward for North Africa is not to try to replace Russia as a gas supplier to Europe, but to adopt domestic reforms in line with sustainability and the green transition, pointing to the EU's commitment to decrease and ultimately decarbonise its economy in the coming decades and the need to develop future-sound policies for long-term collaboration across the Euro-Mediterranean.

¹⁴ See, Ben McWilliams and Georg Zachmann, "European Natural Gas Demand Tracker", in *Bruegel Datasets*, last update 7 December 2022, <https://www.bruegel.org/node/8346>.

¹⁵ See, ENTSOG, *ENTSOG Publishes its Winter Supply Outlook 2022/23 and Winter Supply Review 2021/22*, 24 October 2022, https://www.entsog.eu/sites/default/files/2022-10/PR0280-221024_ENTSOG%20publishes%20the%20Winter%20Supply%20Outlook%202022.23%20and%20Winter%20Review%202021.22.pdf.

¹⁶ European Commission, *REPowerEU: A Plan to Rapidly Reduce Dependence on Russian Fossil Fuels and Fast forward the Green Transition*, 18 May 2022, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_3131.

The floor then passed to the second speaker on the panel, **Yassine Zegzouti**, Research Fellow at the Regional Program Energy Security and Climate Change in the Middle East and North Africa at Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. Building on the main points made by the previous speaker, Zegzouti shared some reflections on how cooperation in the Mediterranean space can be enhanced to jointly face the compounding challenges of the climate emergency, food-water-energy nexus disruptions and the green transition. The speaker underscored that joint Mediterranean efforts with the potential to enhance structured cooperation between the two shores of the Basin are to be identified in the valorisation of unexploited land in North Africa and the restoration of its fertility; in the use of environmentally friendly solutions and green biotechnology; in the application of digital technologies and data driven innovation as well as in facilitating the increase of trade and integration. As for the energy sector, Zegzouti explained that opportunities for enhanced trans-Mediterranean cooperation can find room in shared decarbonisation efforts in the area, in the use of renewable energy technologies, in the exchange of expertise and in the harmonisation of energy strategies and plans with partner countries. In concluding his talk, Zegzouti underscored the need to foster sustainable jobs and development as key ingredients to favour the energy transition and enhanced and genuine forms of integration and cooperation across Mediterranean Basin states.

The final speaker on the panel, **Emiliano Alessandri**, Scientific Advisor of New-Med Research Network and Senior External Co-operation Officer at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, joined the debate by providing pointed reactions to some of the points made by previous speakers. Delving into the points raised by the paper-giver, Alessandri stressed the necessity of addressing technological implications when picturing the shared Mediterranean as a potential hub for green energy production and exportation, without forgetting the role of hydrogen which is placed to become increasingly influential in the future energy mixes. Moreover, envisaging a robust Mediterranean partnership on renewables implies a reflection on whether the EU can provide a broad framework of incentives for companies that have a stake in mobilising their resources to the area, given the high costs and lingering challenges of the region. In concluding his remarks, the speaker underlined the importance of considering the centrality of gas in supporting the energy transition in the region – pointing to the Eastern Mediterranean in particular – but again reminded the audience of the need to keep a mindful eye on political factors of instability that still affect the Middle East and North Africa, including the Eastern Mediterranean.

Concluding Remarks

Marking the end of the international conference, **Otaviano Canuto**, Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, underscored that policy analysts should consider cost and benefits as well as the perspective of the private sector when tackling the current contingency and its deriving opportunities for enhancing cooperation in the Mediterranean. In addition, in order to revamp regional

value chains, Canuto stressed that work needs to be done in terms of business environment and infrastructure investments, as only under certain conditions will private sector investments flow to the region and help promote long-term plans for its development.¹⁷

In closing the conference, **Andrea Dessì** took the floor to again thank speakers and congratulate invited scholars for their in-depth and frank discussion on complex themes of clear contemporary relevance. In thanking the institutional partners of the conference, Dessì underlined New-Med's commitment to following up on this topic with further research, outreach and dissemination activities. New-Med looks forward to building on the fruitful collaboration put in place with the Policy Center for the New South and other organisations involved in the convening of the conference to implement further activities spanning the research, outreach and dissemination domains. In conclusion, the Scientific Director of New-Med Research Network reminded conference participants of the upcoming publication of the two research papers presented by Michaël Tanchum and Afaf Zarkik during the conference proceedings, reminding the audience and participants to remain connected with New-Med and consult new and upcoming research products on the dedicated website of the project.¹⁸

¹⁷ See, Karim El Aynaoui and Otaviano Canuto, "Bridging Green Infrastructure and Finance", in Dirk Schoenmaker and Ulrich Volz (eds), *Scaling Up Sustainable Finance and Investment in the Global South*, London, CEPR Press, 2022, p. 45-59, <https://cepr.org/publications/books-and-reports/scaling-sustainable-finance-and-investment-global-south>.

¹⁸ The papers will be published in January 2023 and will be available for download from the New-Med (<https://www.new-med.net>) and IAI (<https://www.iai.it/en/node/2004>) websites.

Conference Programme

Rabat, 2 November 2022

Opening Session

Welcoming Address

Armando Barucco, Ambassador of Italy to Morocco and Mauritania

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

Andrea Dessì, Scientific Director, New-Med Research Network/
Head of Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa Programme,
Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

Keynote Speech

Patricia Llombart Cussac, Ambassador, European Union
Delegation to the Kingdom of Morocco

Session I

Mediterranean Value Chains: From Disruption to New Opportunities for Integration

The panel addresses first the challenges posed by recent external shocks – Covid-19, climate change and the war in Ukraine – for trade, economic growth and human security across Mediterranean Basin states. It then explores means to harness these developments and transform them into opportunities for enhanced integration and the relaunching of effective multilateral cooperation in the region. Particular emphasis is directed at intra-Mediterranean industrial value chains and their potential to engender more genuine and balanced forms of integration and job creation across the shared Mediterranean space.

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

Panelists **Michaël Tanchum**, Non-Resident Scholar, Middle East
Institute – Paper giver: “The Food-Energy Nexus in the Western
Mediterranean: Opportunities and Challenges for Creating
Sustainable and Resilience Food Production Value Chains”
Massimo Deandreis, General Manager SRM Economic Research
Group, Intesa San Paolo
Larabi Jaïdi, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

Session II

Energy and Food Connectivity in the Mediterranean: Harnessing the Green and Digital Transitions to Promote Sustainable Growth and Integration

This panel addresses efforts to re-launch sustainable growth and development across the Mediterranean, while improving the capacity of states and societies in the region to implement adaptation and mitigating strategies in the face of the rapidly advancing climate emergency. Particular attention is directed at the energy and agri-food sectors, with an emphasis on new digital technologies and the promise of hydrogen and renewable energy as a means to promote new forms of integration and cooperation in the Mediterranean in light of the European Green Deal and the impending needs of the low-carbon energy transition.

- Chair **Andrea Dessì**, Scientific Director, New-Med Research Network/
Head of Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa Programme,
Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)
- Panelists **Afaf Zarkik**, Economist, Policy Center for the New South - Paper-giver: "Euro-Mediterranean Region: Towards a New Resilient Bargain for Shared Energy Security"
- Emiliano Alessandri**, Scientific Advisor, New-Med Research Network
- Yassine Zegzouti**, Research Fellow, KAS-REMENA

Concluding Remarks

Otaviano Canuto, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

Andrea Dessì, Scientific Director, New-Med Research Network/
Head of Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa Programme,
Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

The Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) is a private, independent non-profit think tank, founded in 1965 on the initiative of Altiero Spinelli. IAI seeks to promote awareness of international politics and to contribute to the advancement of European integration and multilateral cooperation. Its focus embraces topics of strategic relevance such as European integration, security and defence, international economics and global governance, energy, climate and Italian foreign policy; as well as the dynamics of cooperation and conflict in key geographical regions such as the Mediterranean and Middle East, Asia, Eurasia, Africa and the Americas. IAI publishes an English-language quarterly (*The International Spectator*), an online webzine (*AffarInternazionali*), three book series (*Global Politics and Security*, *Quaderni IAI* and *IAI Research Studies*) and some papers' series related to IAI research projects (*Documenti IAI*, *IAI Papers*, etc.).

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