

# CONNECTIVITY, VALUE CHAINS AND THE GREEN TRANSITION: PROMOTING MULTILATERALISM AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH ACROSS THE SHARED MEDITERRANEAN SPACE

A JOINT IAI-POLICY CENTER FOR THE NEW SOUTH CONFERENCE

**WEDNESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2022**  
**10:00-15:45 CET**

**Rabat - Policy Center for the New South**

Address: Suncity Complex, Al Bortokal Street - Hay Riad

**Working language: English**

*Faced with the compounding challenges of post-Covid recovery and supply chain disruptions, the green energy transition and the global implications of the Ukraine conflict, trade and connectivity across the Mediterranean is assuming even greater importance in policy circles. From renewable energy and food security, new industrial and agricultural practices, manufacturing value chains and electricity connectors, the Euro-Mediterranean space is rife with opportunities for enhanced integration. Against this backdrop, the New Med Research Network run by the Rome-based Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), and the Policy Center for the New South are pleased to announce an international conference in Rabat, Morocco to address the impact of these global disruptions on the potential to re-launch effective multilateral cooperation across the shared Mediterranean space.*

*The event will be an opportunity to reflect on the new and pre-existing challenges constraining Mediterranean Basin states from embracing the full potential of multilateral cooperation and propose sustainable pathways to enhance trade and connectivity across the shared Mediterranean space. Structured around a key-note speech and two expert panels with the participation of researchers, practitioners and policymakers, the conference will assess the present state of trade and connectivity between North Africa and Europe, taking 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.*

*With the support of*



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## AGENDA

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10:00 *Registration of Participants and Welcome Coffee*

10:30 **Welcoming Remarks**

**ARMANDO BARUCCO**, Ambassador of Italy to Morocco

**KARIM EL AYNAOUI**, Executive President, Policy Center for the New South

**ANDREA DESSI**, Head, Italian Foreign Policy Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali and Scientific Director, New-Med Research Network

10:40 **Keynote Speech**

**PATRICIA LLOMBART CUSSAC**, Ambassador, European Union Delegation to Morocco

11:15-12:30 **Panel I: Mediterranean Value Chains: From Disruption to New Opportunities for Integration**

*GUIDING QUESTIONS:*

*The panel will first address 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 will then explore 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 will be 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.*

**MICHAEL TANCHUM**, Middle East Institute – Paper: “*The Food-Energy Nexus in the Western Mediterranean: Opportunities and Challenges for Creating Sustainable and Resilience Food Production Value Chains*”

**Discussants**

**MASSIMO DEANDREIS**, General Manager SRM Economic Research Group, Intesa San Paolo

**LARABI JAÏDI**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

Chair **MOUNIA BOUCETTA**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

*Q&A with participants (30 min)*

12:30-14:00 *Buffet Lunch*

14:00-15:15 **PANEL II: ENERGY AND FOOD CONNECTIVITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: HARNESSING THE GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITIONS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND INTEGRATION**

*GUIDING QUESTIONS:*

*This panel will address 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 will be 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.*

**AFAF ZARKIK**, Economist, Policy Center for the New South - Paper: “*Euro-Mediterranean Region: Towards a New Resilient Bargain for Shared Energy Security*”

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### **Discussants**

**YASSINE ZEGZOUTI**, Research Fellow, KAS-REMENA

**EMILIANO ALESSANDRI**, Scientific Advisor, New Med Research Network

Chair **ANDREA DESSI**, Head, Italian Foreign Policy Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali and Scientific Director, New-Med Research Network

*Q&A with participants (30 min)*

### **15:15 – 15:45 Concluding Remarks**

**LARABI JAÏDI**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

**ANDREA DESSI**, Head, Italian Foreign Policy Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and Scientific Director New Med Research Network

15:45 *End of conference*

