MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (BUSINESSMED)

The European Economic and Social Committee (hereinafter "EESC") and the Union of Mediterranean Confederation of Enterprises (hereinafter "BUSINESSMED"),

Preamble

Whereas the EESC, established by the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community of 25 March 1957 (presently, the Treaties on the European Union and on the Functioning of the European Union), is the European Union's official advisory body representing civil society and, in accordance with the decision taken at the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference in Barcelona in November 1995, has the mandate to forge links between economic and social councils (ESCs) in the region through the Euromed network of Economic and Social Councils and to act as the main organiser of an annual Euromed Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions.

Whereas BUSINESSMED is a Tunisian non-governmental organization registered under the number 0902157P. BUSINESSMED is a regional professional organization, created in 2002, gathering the Confederations of employers from Member States from the Union of Mediterranean. It aims to foster multilateral cooperation with the goal of promoting foreign direct investment, socio-economic integration and dialogue within the Mediterranean basin. Its actions and projects have a social and an economic component and, given also their adherence to the Sustainable Development Goals, target gender throughout.
Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1: Objectives**

By means of this Memorandum of Understanding, the EESC and BUSINESSMED are establishing a formal framework for cooperation, the aim of which will be to enhance cooperation and promote synergies between the two bodies. This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any kind of partnership or association between the signatories and does not provide for any exclusivity in cooperation.

**Article 2: Areas of cooperation**

The EESC and BUSINESSMED agree:

1) to boost mutual cooperation between BUSINESSMED and the EESC, as the coordinator of the Euromed network of Economic and Social Councils (ESCs),

2) to support ongoing socio-economic reforms in the southern and eastern Mediterranean to build a zone of shared prosperity and promote understanding between cultures and exchanges between civil societies in line with the Barcelona Declaration of 1995.

**Article 3: Working method of cooperation**

1) The parties agree to regularly meet and ensure the exchange of information on their respective work programmes in relevant fields and to involve each other in projects and activities where cooperation between the BUSINESSMED and the EESC is advantageous, such as:
   - involvement of BUSINESSMED by proposing speakers for relevant EESC study group meetings, hearings and events, as well as for the annual Euromed Summit,
   - involvement of the EESC in BUSINESSMED seminars, conferences and other events.

2) Both parties may also organise joint events of mutual interest involving civil society stakeholders.

3) Each party supports the other party in the establishment of contacts with its members/member organizations.

4) On demand, each party can facilitate the holding of meetings of the other party by providing meeting rooms at its headquarters, when available.
Article 4: Financing

The cooperation between the EESC and BUSINESSMED will not imply the allocation of any additional funds or financial resources to support and implement activities arising from the present memorandum, each party shall cover the full costs of its participation in any aspect of the above cooperation in accordance with its own policies, rules and regulations.

Article 5: Entry into force, amendment and termination

1) This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date when the last of the two parties signs.

2) Any proposal for amendment of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be submitted to the competent authorities of both parties for approval.

3) Either party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving no less than three months’ written notice to the other party. Any such termination will be without prejudice to the orderly completion of any ongoing activity pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding as of the time of such notice.

Signed in duplicate in Brussels, on 16 June 2023

For the EESC

[Signature]
Oliver Röpke
President

For BUSINESSMED

[Signature]
Jihen Bouthil
General Secretary