



European Economic and Social Committee
External Relations Section

Thursday, 3 June 2021, 10.00-13.00
European Economic and Social Committee – Hybrid (Interactio)

Hearing in the framework of the EESC opinion on *Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood – A new Agenda for the Mediterranean*

PROGRAMME

- 10:00-10:05** **Opening – Ioannis VARDAKASTANIS**, president of the EESC's study group *on Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood – A new Agenda for the Mediterranean*
- 10:05-10:15** **Short introduction by Maria Helena DE FELIPE LEHTONEN**, rapporteur
- 10:15-11:00** **SESSION I – Joint Communication: Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood–A new agenda for the Mediterranean – EU institutions' perspective**
- **Jerome CASSIERS**, chair of working group – Maghreb-Mashrek (MAMA) covering Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Syria, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Directorate Middle East and North Africa (MENA), European External Action Service (EEAS), 7'
 - **Ilektra TSAKALIDOU**, Programme Officer, Unit B.2 (Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South), DG NEAR, European Commission, 7'
 - **Vincenzo BIANCO**, member of Catania Municipal Council, Committee of the Regions, rapporteur on (CDR 1315/2021) – Joint Communication on a renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood, 7'
- Debate, +/-20'**
- 11:00-12:15** **SESSION II – Key policy areas of the new Agenda for the Mediterranean**
- **Erwan LANNON**, Professor in European Law at the Faculty of Law, Ghent University: Human development, good governance and the rule of law, 7'
 - **Florence GAUB**, Deputy Director and MENA analyst at the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS): Peace and security, 7'
Jan SCHNEIDER, Head of Research Unit, The Expert Council on Integration and Migration (SVR): Migration and mobility, 7'

Debate, +/-20'

- **Katarzyna SIDŁO**, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department, Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE): Resilience, prosperity and digital transition, 7'
- **Marc-Antoine EYL-MAZZEGA**, Director of French Institute of International Relations (Ifri) Centre for Energy and Climate: Green transition, 7'

Debate, +/-20'

12:15-12:55 **SESSION III – Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbours: views from social partners and other civil society organisations (CSOs)**

- **Mustapha Tlili**, Executive secretary, Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC), 7'
- **Jihen BOUTIBA**, Secretary General, Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (BUSINESSMED), 7'
- **Vincent FOREST**, Advocacy Director, EuroMed Rights (tbc), 7'

Debate, +/-20'

12:55-13:00 **Closing – Ioannis VARDAKASTANIS**, president of the EESC's study group on *Renewed partnership for the Southern Neighbourhood – A new Agenda for the Mediterranean*

Working languages: EN-ES-FR-DE
Interpreting: EN-ES-FR-DE into EN-ES-FR-DE