

A new agenda for the Mediterranean: the Council approves conclusions on a renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood



The Council approved conclusions affirming the EU's determination to renew and strengthen its strategic partnership with its Southern Neighbourhood. The objective is to address common challenges, take advantage of shared opportunities and **unlock the region's economic potential for the benefit of its people.**

Spurring sustainable long-term socio-economic recovery and job creation in the Southern Neighbourhood is a key shared priority and the innovative cornerstone of the new Agenda for the Mediterranean. Working together, the EU and its Southern Neighbourhood partners can turn climate and environmental challenges, and digital transformation, into major opportunities for sustainable development, contributing to a **just and inclusive green transition**. The EU will use all its available instruments, including the NDICI-Global Europe and the European Fund for Sustainable Development plus (EFSD+), and engage with financial institutions to achieve this objective, paying particular attention to the **human dimension and opportunities for young people.**

Good governance, the promotion and protection of **human rights** and fundamental freedoms, democratic institutions and the **rule of law** are also considered to be essential for long-term stability, security and sustainable development in the region. The EU will step up its engagement on these issues, and renew its efforts on conflict prevention and resolution, as well as on cooperation on **security, migration** and the preparedness and response capacities of **healthcare systems.**

The EU intends to **strengthen the political dialogue** across the Mediterranean by setting up annual meetings of EU member states' and Southern Neighbourhood partners' foreign ministers to review progress in the implementation of the new Agenda for the Mediterranean.

The conclusions were adopted by the Council by **written procedure.**

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