DELIVERING ON THE PROMISE OF A SHARED MEDITERRANEAN

Key Policy Recommendations

Redefining Regional Security & Strategic Governance

- **Treat the Mediterranean as a shared security space** rather than a buffer zone protecting Europe from external instability.
- Shift security cooperation from border-based crisis response toward **corridor-based structural preparedness**.
- **Evaluate security cooperation** through indicators of governance, institutional resilience, cross-border crime, economic stability and environmental risk.
- **Rationalise security cooperation** through a review of existing instruments and structured partnerships with municipalities, rather than continuously expanded with new mechanisms.
- **Operationalise co-ownership** by jointly defining security priorities with Mediterranean partners and strengthening multilateral and triangular cooperation.
- **Introduce regular partner-country threat perception assessments** to include Mediterranean partners' understanding of security risks in EU planning.
- **Organise joint politico-military scenario exercises** with willing partners to test coordination and preparedness for cross-border crises.
- **Secure energy and transport corridors** by pursuing infrastructure diplomacy embedded in durable partnerships with transit and regional actors.
- **Expand maritime security cooperation** beyond border surveillance to integrate civilian-military information sharing, joint maritime domain awareness, subsea and digital infrastructure protection, and financial investigations targeting organised criminal networks.
- **Apply existing political and human-rights commitments consistently** across security partnerships, through transparent evaluation, predictable consequences for serious violations, and the willingness to review or suspend agreements where fundamental principles are breached.

Reimagining Mobility, Solidarity & Civic Agency

- **Enhance cross-Mediterranean mobility** through a common visa regime.
- **Recenter the Mediterranean geographically in the implementation** of the Pact's initiatives, prioritising Southern European and North African locations.
- **Promote polling and research initiatives** to gauge Southern and Eastern Mediterranean perceptions of the EU and its initiatives.
- **Ensure inclusivity and accessibility** in the Pact's initiative by establishing a dedicated protection framework to safeguard participants from political, legal, and digital threats.
- **Institutionalise formal channels between the Youth Parliamentary Assembly** and European and national decision-making bodies, including regular communications and feedback mechanisms.

Overarching Principles for Implementation

- **Co-ownership over conditionality**: Shift from top-down donor-recipient dynamics to joint agenda-setting.
- **Protection before projection**: Ensure that every EU external action first fulfils a strict duty of care that protects local partners from domestic reprisals or human rights violations arising from their cooperation with the EU.
- **Local grounding over centralisation**: Move beyond the centralised, state-centric bottlenecks by directing funding, programmes and dialogues directly to municipalities, local ecosystems, and regional border zones.

Read thew full policy roadmap for the implementation of the EU Pact for the Mediterranean

Observatory EU-MENA Relations

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