



7th FEMIP Conference

Tunis, 14 – 16 March 2010

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Research, Development and Innovation:
keys for sustainable development in the Mediterranean

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Welcome to the 7th FEMIP Conference

The ongoing process of modernising Mediterranean societies places the knowledge economy more than ever at the heart of national development and competitiveness strategies. It is against this background that the EIB and the Tunisian Republic are delighted to welcome you to this 7th FEMIP conference on the subject of research, development and innovation and information and communication technologies.

The knowledge economy is one of the priorities of the Union for the Mediterranean – of which Tunisia is an active member – and of the EIB in its implementation of the Lisbon strategy in Europe. This sector must enable current and future players in the Union for the Mediterranean to strengthen their position on the international stage, and it must serve as a lever for growth that will reinforce the bases of a natural and sustainable partnership.

Ever since its creation, FEMIP has fostered this cooperation and focused intently on the knowledge economy – the key to economic development and the future of younger generations. In Tunisia, major efforts are being made to strengthen and upgrade technological infrastructure. The five technology parks built with EIB support are designed to facilitate the emergence and expansion of a national scientific and technological research network. Since October 2009, moreover, FEMIP has been supporting the establishment of the country's first "business angels" network and helping to promote innovative companies. At the regional level, FEMIP provides support to research, development and innovation players at all stages of their projects, in sectors as diverse as telecommunications, biotechnology and private equity – from Morocco to Egypt, Syria, Gaza and the West Bank.



Philippe de Fontaine Vive
EIB Vice-President



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A decisive step was also recently taken with the creation of the new Centre for Mediterranean Integration in Marseille. This now brings together the EIB, the World Bank, France and five Mediterranean countries, including Tunisia, in an unprecedented debate on public policy reform in the Mediterranean region. At the Centre, the EIB is steering a dedicated programme to develop the skills of innovative entrepreneurs and identify the available financial resources in this area.

The Tunisian Republic and the EIB are happy to join forces in forging a common strategy and vision for the knowledge economy in the Mediterranean region. We are confident that this latest conference – which has brought together experts and representatives of the EU Member States, partner countries, multilateral institutions, the private sector and civil society – will foster a fruitful dialogue and lead to promising conclusions.

Our goal is to foster the emergence of a set of concrete proposals and guidelines from this exchange of ideas and experiences, ahead of the Ministerial Conference on higher education and scientific research to be held on 25 and 26 April in Slovenia.

We offer our sincere thanks to all our fellow travellers on this ambitious journey and wish you an excellent stay in Tunis.

Philippe de Fontaine Vive

Mohamed Nouri Jouini



Mohamed Nouri Jouini
*Tunisian Minister for Development
and International Cooperation*

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Sunday 14 March 2010

- 19h00** **Reception – Cocktail**
At the Regency Tunis Hotel, Les Côtes de Carthage, La Marsa

Monday 15 March 2010

- 8h30 – 9h00** **Registration and welcome coffee**

- 9h00 – 9h45** **Opening session: Consolidating the sustainable development of Research, Development and Innovation in the Mediterranean region**

- **Mohamed Nouri Jouini**, Tunisian Minister for Development and International Cooperation
- **Philippe de Fontaine Vive**, EIB Vice-President, responsible for FEMIP

- 9h45 – 11h15** **Session 1: The economics of Research, Development and Innovation: realities and challenges in the Mediterranean**

- Moderator: • **Jean-Hervé Lorenzi**, President, Cercle des Économistes, France
- Keynote speaker: • **Philippe Froissard**, Deputy head of unit, Directorate - General for Research, European Commission
- Panel: • **Mohammad Pournik**, Poverty Practice Leader, UNDP Regional Centre in Cairo
- **Jelal Ezzine**, Director General of International Cooperation, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia

- **Florian Garcia**, Economist in charge of economic development and the private sector, German technical cooperation, GTZ
- **Jean-Claude Prager**, Director, Agence pour la Diffusion de l'Information Technologique (ADIT), France

The development of a knowledge economy requires a legislative, social and economic framework conducive to innovation. The Mediterranean context displays a number of particular features, notably due to the proximity of Europe and the region's social and economic characteristics. The experience of the new EU Member States could be useful for the Mediterranean partner countries.

- 11h15 – 11h45** **Coffee break**

- 11h45 – 13h15** **Session 2: In the Mediterranean, what successful strategies for R&D by businesses can facilitate development based on an innovation economy?**

- Moderator: • **Frédéric Blanc**, Director of Studies, Forum Euroméditerranéen des Instituts de Sciences Économiques (FEMISE)
- Keynote speaker: • **Juan Diego Diaz Vega**, Marketing Director, Gamesa, Spain
- Panel: • **Mongi Hamdi**, Head, Science, Technology and ICT Branch, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); Head of the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development
- **Suk Joon Kim**, President, Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), South Korea



- **Samir Belaid**, Director General, Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis (CITET)
- **Youssef Fadil**, Head of the Research and Innovation division, Ministry of Industry, Trade and New Technologies, Morocco

The new knowledge economy is based on three pillars: the development of skills; the development of communication infrastructures; and the development of R&D and its use by businesses.

The third pillar relies on an industrial specialisation, which must be a source of innovation, permitting the strengthening of the technological base and directing FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) considered to be a major driver of growth in the FEMIP partner countries, in terms of stimulating and disseminating innovation.

This session will draw, in particular, on the experience of South Korea, with its 'business oriented' national R&D policy, as well as on the analysis of 'success stories' with a focus on sustainable development and/or businesses in the southern Mediterranean countries.

13h15 – 14h30 Lunch

14h30 – 16h00 Session 3: What network initiatives could contribute to the development of innovation in the Mediterranean and under what conditions?

Moderator: • **Jean-Eric Aubert**, Lead Specialist, The Marseille Center for Mediterranean Integration

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- Keynote speaker: • **Mohamed Frikha**, Vice-President of the High-Level Committee for Science and Technology, Prime Ministry, Tunisia
- Panel: • **Bénédict de Saint-Laurent**, General Delegate, ANIMA Investment network
- **Mefteh Amara**, Director, Bureau for Industrial Upgrading, Ministry of Industry and Technology, Tunisia
- **Ricardo Capilla Pueyo**, General Manager - Research, Development and Innovation, Department of Economy and Industry of the Galician Government, Spain
- **Aleardo Furlani**, President, INNOVA S.p.A., Italy

Through the sharing of expertise, collaborative R&D projects or the creation of clusters based on competitiveness poles, thematic and international networks are among the best vehicles for the diffusion of good practice in innovation. In addition, successful experiences with networking and mobilisation of diasporas (notably the scientific community) for the benefit of their country of origin (presentation of certain examples) have underlined the important role that these diasporas could play in stimulating innovation.

16h00 – 16h30 Coffee break

16h30 – 18h00 Session 4 : What sort of financing facilities can accompany and strengthen the innovation chain?

Moderator: • **Patrick Dubarle**, independent international consultant at the World Bank and the OECD

Keynote speaker: • **Alaya Bettaieb**, Director of Arab Academic Technology Transfer, Arab Science & Technology Foundation

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Panel:

- **Hassan Laaziri**, General Manager of the trust company, Sindibad Seed Fund, Morocco
- **Abdul Kamara**, Head of Unit, Research Department, African Development Bank
- **Selma Bellagha**, Chief Executive Officer, Alternative Capital Partners Fund, Tunisia
- **John Holloway**, Director, European Investment Fund (EIF)

The constitution of a complete innovation chain (or cluster) ranging from R&D to the creation of innovative businesses, is a decisive factor for an innovation-based economy.

Interventions, both public and private, should not neglect any link in the innovation chain. This is essential in order to maximise the efficiency of the specific systems in support of research and the creation and financing of innovative businesses.

18h00 – 18h15 **Conclusions: Action plan for the future**

- **Philippe de Fontaine Vive**, EIB Vice-President, responsible for FEMIP

18h15 – 18h30 **Closing remarks**

- **Mohamed Ghannouchi**, Prime Minister of Tunisia

Tuesday 16 March 2010

9h00 – 11h00 **Guided tour of the Pôle Elgazala des Technologies de la Communication**

for all participants in the FEMIP Conference
<http://www.elgazalacom.nat.tn/fr/index.htm>

11h00 – 13h00 **Guided tour of the Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis (CITET)**

for all participants in the FEMIP Conference
<http://www.citet.nat.tn/>



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Conference format

The conference will be **interactive**. After the opening session, which will provide a broad outline of the topics to be discussed, each session will be introduced by a moderator in the field and the panel will then comment briefly on the subject, before opening the floor to discussion with the participants.

Discussion documents prepared by the speakers will be posted on the FEMIP conference website (www.eib.org/femip/conference) and may be consulted both in the run-up to and after the conference.

Contact

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Conference venue

Regency Tunis Hotel
Les Côtes de Carthage
La Marsa

