



## A foundation to boost the integration of the AME axis

# Africa – Mediterranean – Europe

*Heads of States, who gathered in Malta on the 11th and 12th of November 2015, during the European Union-African Union summit, decided to: "Encourage further strategic reflection in order to keep promoting a regional economic integration between European countries, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries and Sub-Saharan countries".*

*This Verticale AME Foundation aims to promote the integration between Africa, the Mediterranean and Europe – AME – and to "tie up" the European and African continents through the Mediterranean.*

*Based on new partnership and coproduction values, it promotes balanced relations between Europe, the Mediterranean and Africa.*

*As a network of existing African, Mediterranean and European laboratories, the AME Verticale Foundation will be a place of prospective reflection on Euro-African relations, it will provide long-term meaningful solutions and it will develop tangible and consensual propositions for the European Union, the African Union and Heads of States, in common strategic fields.*



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Geopolitical, technological, demographic, financial and other transformations lead to increased uncertainties. Populisms and nationalisms are pushing multilateralism back. People are tense and States often favour short-term bilateral relationships.

How to avoid these deadly downturns? How to explain the relevance of new multilateral relations based on common and balanced interests? How to tackle, with the right geographical scale, the common challenges that we face, be they related to climate, security, demographics, migrations, etc.?

We offer a three-part answer:

- **Daring to think** a new relevant international space, i.e. the Africa – Mediterranean – Europe” (AME) region;
- **Daring to speak** differently to create an African desire in Europe and a European desire in Africa;
- **Daring to act** differently to boost the integration of the AME axis.



## 1 DARING TO THINK THE NEW GLOBAL REGION AFRICA – MEDITERRANEAN – EUROPE (AME)

- IPEMED showed that the multipolar world is made up of three great privileged and reciprocal zones of influence:
  - The Americas’ block, which is already quite solid;
  - The Asian countries’ block, around Japan, China, South-East Asia and Australia, which is increasingly integrated;
  - The Africa – Mediterranean – Europe block, that remains to be built, and is 30 years late compared with the other two great global regions.
- These three intercontinental blocks, that IPEMED calls the three “crescents”, are made up of mature and ageing Northern countries that cooperate with young and emerging Southern countries.
- This deep North-South regional integration is made possible through the redistribution of production and not only through trade. Win-win North-South and South-North partnerships are thus forming through coproduction and the creation of regionalised value chains.

## 2 DARING TO SPEAK TO CREATE AN AFRICAN DESIRE IN EUROPE AND A RENEWED EUROPEAN DESIRE IN AFRICA

Being geographically and culturally close, and economically complementary, Europe and Africa could contemplate a long-term integration. Together, Europe and Africa could better tackle their common challenges, i.e. youth employment, migration control, climate, security. Together, Europe and Africa could join forces to carry weight in the world in the face of the G2 (USA and China).

To do so, however, it is necessary to deeply reshape a new strong Africa – Mediterranean – Europe partnership that makes sense, with a common ambition:

- Europeans must change their behaviours, methods and tools to offer Africans **balanced relationships**;
- Africans must refuse to give up and favour autonomy, responsibility and good governance.



### 3 DARING TO ACT TO BOOST THE INTEGRATION OF THE AFRICA – MEDITERRANEAN – EUROPE AME AXIS

Following the example of what Americas implemented to “*tie up*” their economies, and of what China and South-East Asian countries implemented to deeply and definitively integrate their economies, Europe and Africa will have to adopt 4 tools that turned out to be useful:

- **A financial tool**, with a North/South intercontinental financial institution to secure investments and ensure smart capital mobility;
- **An economic tool**, with a treaty regarding coproduction and production redistribution, as well as the creation of regional value chains;
- **A consultation political body**;
- **An intellectual tool**: a foundation that aims to think the future and to offer tangible actions in order to boost North-South integration and maintain efforts in the long term. The future Post-Cotonou agreements are an opportunity to implement these 4 tools, among which the **Verticale** Foundation. They should be part of a new Africa-Europe alliance that will be valid over the 2020-2035 period.

The fourth intellectual tool, i.e. the creation of a foundation called the “Verticale AME” Africa – Mediterranean – Europe (AME) is the one we want to build.

### 4 THE “VERTICALE AME” FOUNDATION TO BOOST THE INTEGRATION OF THE AFRICA – MEDITERRANEAN – EUROPE AXIS

For the two Americas, the foundation is the ECLAC, created by the UN in 1948 for the 33 South-American countries, extended to 11 associated countries, among which the United States and Canada. The ECLAC accounts for 700 researchers and has a budget of USD 40 million per year. For Asian countries, the foundation is the ERIA, created in 2008 and gathering the 16 States of ASEAN. The ERIA federates 15 laboratories and has a budget of USD 30 million per year.

**For the AME region, there is no such thing.** No place, no network, no institution, no coordination has ever looked at the future of this region in the making.

**This is why we, think tank managers located in Paris, Cairo, Pretoria, and Rome, wish to create a Foundation under Belgium jurisdiction called “ La Verticale AME”, to boost the integration of both continents.**

**This foundation aims to:**

- Be a place of prospective reflection on Euro-African relations and a space to put forward tangible proposals and, as much as possible, consensual between the European Union, the African Union and heads of States;
- Defend the general interest of this great AME region, and the idea that the Mediterranean should be a hub between Europe and Africa;
- Bring together the private sector, public institutions and NGOs.

All these actors must share the same ethics and values.

## FIVE ACTION PROGRAMMES WERE SELECTED TO REACH THESE OBJECTIVES:

- Sharing strategic information through an AME web portal and the implementation of an interactive digital platform (**alerting**);
- Leading a network of existing think tanks, by IPEMED (**anticipating**);
- Promoting strategic recommendations and tangible projects developed by the "sectorial axes" gathering a panel of various actors: experts, business managers, institutions and political figures (**proposing**);
- Organising high-level seminars for economic and political decision-makers of the AME region (**gathering**);
- Spreading messages and common opinions during international events (**promoting**).



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