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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENTS

IPEMED AN ORIGINAL AND USEFUL ACTOR AT THE SERVICE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean region is currently going through deep transformations. With its riches, history and complexity, this space needs - today more than ever - a clear and shared vision as well as practical meaningful actions fostering prosperity for both shores of the Mediterranean.

IPEMED has been working in this direction for ten years already. All the works carried out since its creation contribute to shape this shared vision of a common future. IPEMED offered practical innovative common propositions on many issues, in the interest of both shores of the Mediterranean, such as: Méditerranée 2030 and the convergence scenario, coproduction, industry implementation, Mediterranean Energy Community, Mediterranean Water Agency, but also implementation of innovative funding to favour access to water and sanitation or support of the Social and Solidarity Economy.

The originality of IPEMED comes, on the one hand, from its method, structured around three approaches - prospective, that is to say long-term approach, capital logic and general interest, and, on the other, from its capacity to combine its reflections with political, corporate and research actors.

This trilogy is also reflected on its governance as it relies on three bodies: Political Steering Committee, Supervisory Board and Scientific Committee. All three bodies are highly involved in the Institute's actions.

Since its creation, the Political Steering Committee intended to shed light on the Institute's reflection on more political issues and to promote ideas on the international political arena. More particularly, the PSC made appeals in view of a "right to the rule of law"; it looked into shared values in the Mediterranean and,

following the Arab Springs, started a long reflection on the challenges linked to the current transitions and on the new North-South partnership to implement. In this regard, Mr Schultz, the President of the European Parliament, entrusted the PSC with a mission on the future of Euro-Mediterranean relations. The PSC also took part in the European Commission consultation on the future of the ENP.

As for the Supervisory Board, it speaks on behalf of companies, the founding members of the Institute. IPEMED considers that companies, via their capacity to take risks and create value, can lead the Mediterranean world of tomorrow. The capital is already at work. It lies at the heart of this new North-South partnership based on coproduction. It is therefore important that the Supervisory Board is actively involved in order to support IPEMED's internationalisation action by mobilising Northern and Southern companies and to take part in the Institute's reflection by bringing tangible elements to the debate.

By combining economic, political and scientific actors, IPEMED strengthens its capacity to be a "think and act tank". It carries out relevant analyses and offers practical recommendations in favour of economic integration in the Mediterranean. Besides, the result of this original approach has been quite successful. The Institute managed to build a network of trust and skills with passionate actors, involved in the construction of a common future and in the promotion of new ideas based on a shared diagnosis.

After ten years of commitment towards prosperity and peace in the Mediterranean, IPEMED offers a new vision of collaborating with the South. La Verticale Africa-Mediterranean-Europe could be the new chapter of our Institute's history.