



EMEA WEBINARS FALL CYCLE

WHAT FUTURE FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA POST COVID 19?

Thursday 08th October 2020 15:00 - 16:50 CET

Moderator:

Prof. Rym Ayadi
President, Euro-Mediterranea Economists
Association (EMEA)

Speakers:

Edward K. Brown
Senior Director, Research and Policy Engagement,
African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)

Hans Stausboll
Head of Unit, East and Horn of Africa,
Directorate-General for International Cooperation and
Development, European Commission

Mariarosa Lunati
Senior Advisor, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD

H.E. Sena Siaw-Boateng
Ambassador & Head of Mission, The Kingdom of
Belgium, The Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, The
European Union.

Discussant:

Chahir Zaki
Associate Professor of Economics at the Faculty of
Economics and Political Science, Cairo University
and EMNES



The developments in the Euro-Mediterranean region during the last decade highlight a trend towards more fragmentation, which is widening. The COVID-19 crisis put further pressure on the region and fundamentally questioned the process of regional integration, with the enforcement of lockdowns and mobility restrictions and the overall disruption of global value chains. At the same time it provided the necessity to rethink the fundamentals of regional integration in particular while the digital and green transitions are being accelerated. In view of this, in July 2020 EMEA published a study that proposes Regional Integration Matrix (RIM) to assess the regional integration process in the Euro-Mediterranean region. When assessing the performance of regional integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region, 25 years of the Barcelona Process that started in 1995, the assessment is regrettably disappointing. Besides fragmentation and increasing divides between the shores of the Mediterranean, several decades of economic integration have not materialised in the catch-up of poorer to richer countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region. During the process of regional integration, the EU played a catalyst role in North-South integration and encouraged South-South integration (through supporting the Agadir agreement, for example) but the results were abysmal. The EU-centred approach to integration is the problem, as it underpinned a preference for bilateral cooperation and competition between countries rather than cooperation and complementarities, which may not lead to the expected outcome. EMEA has further developed the new TRIS model for economic development and integration suggesting a paradigm shift in view of the on-going transitions and necessity to move to a resilient system to respond to extreme shocks such as the one of COVID-19 global pandemic.





EMEA is also exploring the EU-Africa integration process further to the announcement in March 2020 by the President of the European Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of a proposal for a new comprehensive strategy with Africa. The strategy lays the ground for the next Africa-EU Summit in Autumn 2020. In the "Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council", the European Commission pointed out that the strategy reflects the vision of the African leaders' transformative initiatives. In particular, it refers to African Union's Agenda 2063, African Visa-Free Area, Single African Digital Market, Single African Air Transport Market, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (in force since May 2019). The idea of the Commission is to define a strategy build a new partnership on five key areas: Green transition and energy access; Digital transformation; Sustainable growth and job; Peace and governance; and Migration and mobility. It is essential to notice that the EU stressed the importance of "strengthening the political-cultural and economic ties between the two continents in a multipolar world", suggesting the recognized importance of a strong partnership between the continents in order to have stronger impact in international tables. This new EU-Africa strategy proposal comes in a very peculiar year. The 2020 is the 25th year of the Barcelona Process, the ending year of the Cotonou agreement, and the 1st of July 2020 trading under AfCTA supposed to start, while the world is hit by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

At this juncture, EMEA is launching the Regional Integration Monitor (RIM) for the Mediterranean and Africa embedded in the TRIS model for development. The RIM will assess the process of regional integration over the last decades while exploring its compliance with TRIS. Further research is being done to assess the consequences of COVID-19 on the process of regional integration using the lenses of this paradigm shift.

This webinar aims to discuss the process of regional integration in the Euro-Mediterranean and Africa prior and during the COVID-19 period and will inform on future prospects.

Moderator:



Rym Ayadi

President and co-Founder
Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Professor Rym Ayadi is the Founder and President of the Euro – Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA). She is Founder and Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES). She is Senior Advisor at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS); Professor at the Business School, City University of London; and Member of the Centre for Banking Research (CBR); Chair of the European Banking Authority – Banking Stakeholders Group (EBA- BSG). She is also Associated Scholar at the Centre for Relationship Banking and Economics (CERBE) at LUMSA University in Rome.

Discussant:



Chahir Zaki

Associate Professor of Economics
Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, Cairo
University.

Dr. Chahir Zaki is a citizen of Egypt. At present, Chahir is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. In this position, Chahir teaches and conducts research on trade policy and macroeconomics. He is also the Director of the French section at the faculty. Chahir works also for the Economic Research Forum (Cairo, Egypt) as a part-time Senior Economist and as a consultant for several international organization (the World Bank and the International Trade Center (UNCTAD-WTO, Geneva) and ESCWA). He holds a B.A. in Economics from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, an M.A. in Economics from Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne. His research interests include international trade, trade policy, trade in services, applied economics and macroeconomic modeling. He has published numerous studies in the International Trade Journal, the World Trade Review, Economic Modeling and Applied Economics.



Speakers:



Edward K. Brown

Senior Director, Research and Policy
Engagement, African Center for Economic
Transformation (ACET)

Dr Edward K. Brown, currently Senior Director, Research and policy Engagements at the Africa Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), based in Accra, Ghana, has over 35 years in international development, half of which were spent at the World Bank. He started his career as a research economist at the Development Research Department at the World Bank, and later as Population Economist in the Population Health and Nutrition Department, leading high-level policy dialogue and operations in the social sector. The last 12 years prior to leaving the World Bank in 2007, were in management and leadership positions, providing overall leadership and management of country programs, formulating and carrying out country assistance strategies and strengthening partnerships with stakeholders. His main interests are in public policy, economic management (domestic resources mobilization and expenditure management), institutional and organizational reforms and development strategies. He has also worked extensively in the extractive sectors -Minerals, oil and gas, focusing issues of local content and value addition. Currently undertaking research on issues if employment, skills, and the impact of the fourth industrial revolution on the future of work. Edward has worked and travelled extensively in Africa, Western and Eastern Europe, Central and South Asia.



Hans Stausboll

Head of Unit, East and Horn of Africa,
Directorate-General for International
Cooperation and Development, European
Commission

Mr. Hans Christian Stausboll, Danish national, is a senior European Commission official with over 15 years of experience in development policy and practice, including in the field. He also has experience from other areas in the Commission.

Since 2012, as Head of Unit for Horn of Africa/East Africa and regional programmes in Eastern and Southern Africa in DG International Cooperation and Development, he steers development cooperation for Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania the regional cooperation with IGAD, EAC, COMESA, SADC and IOC.

In the period March 2018 to June 2019 he was acting Director for Western and Eastern Africa and relations with the African Union.

Before joining the Commission in 1993, he worked for the Danish Ministry of Environment. He holds a Master in History and Sports from the University of Copenhagen.



Mariarosa Lunati

Senior Advisor, Global Relations
Secretariat, OECD

Mariarosa Lunati is a Senior Advisor in the Global Relations Secretariat of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France. She provides guidance on the design and implementation of studies and capacity building activities in several policy areas, including regional integration, connectivity and value chains, statistics and data development, SMEs and entrepreneurship, and women economic empowerment. Her recent projects include a study monitoring economic integration in Euro-Mediterranean region. Prior to her current position, Mariarosa Lunati was Head of the Entrepreneurship, Productivity and Microdata Section of the OECD Statistics and Data Directorate, where she coordinated the development of entrepreneurship and business statistics and indicators, in cooperation with National Statistics Offices of OECD member and partner countries, and was responsible for issues related to researchers' access to confidential and microdata. Before that, Ms Lunati was Senior Economist at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, where she was in charge of the OECD Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship and produced reports on topics such as SME access to international markets, SME role in international value chains, high-growth enterprises, and innovative activities of SMEs. Ms. Lunati holds a Doctorate in International Law and Economics from Università Bocconi (Milan, Italy) and a Master of Arts degree in Economics from the Université Catholique de Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium).



H.E. Sena Siaw-Boateng

Ambassador & Head of Mission, The
Kingdom of Belgium, The Grand-Duchy of
Luxembourg, The European Union.

Her Excellency Mrs. Harriet Sena Siaw-Boateng has since 15th March, 2019 held the position of Ambassador of Ghana to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Head of Mission to the European Union. Prior to that, she served as Chef de Cabinet at the Office of the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFA & RI).

Ambassador Sena Siaw-Boateng began her Foreign Service career in 1997 as an Assistant Director in the Policy Planning and Research Bureau of MFA & RI. She rose through the ranks and attained the grade of Director (FSO A1) in 2013. From July, 2013, to February, 2016, she held the position of Director of the Africa and Regional Integration Bureau, with oversight responsibility for the ECOWAS National Unit and the African Union (AU) Unit.

Between 2016 and 2017, she served as Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at the Ghana High Commission in Pretoria, South Africa. She also held the position of Minister-Counsellor and the first female Head of Chancery at the Ghana High Commission in London, United Kingdom, from 2008 to 2011.

Ambassador Sena Siaw-Boateng is a product of Achimota School and the University of Ghana, both in Accra. She was a Chevening Scholar at Oxford University, UK. She is a qualified Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Ghana. She also speaks French and Spanish fluently.

SAVE THE DATE: Next webinar taking place on October 22nd at 15:00 CET
on Debt Transparency in the Mediterranean and Africa.



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