Scenarios for the Mediterranean Region Report Predicts Large Gains for Competitiveness

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Lucy Jay-Kennedy, Senior Media Manager, Tel.: +962 (0)77 673 8542;
E-mail: lucy.jaykennedy@weforum.org

- Scenario report sketches out challenging futures for the Mediterranean region, based on long-term uncertainties related to the development of regional politics, regional resource management and the regional labour market.
- Complementarities across the region to address these long-term challenges have so far been underexplored. Regional cooperation could hold large gains for the region's competitiveness.
- The full report is available at http://www.weforum.org/Mediterranean-Scenarios

Amman, Jordan, 21 October 2011 – The World Economic Forum today launched the *Scenarios for the Mediterranean Region* report at the World Economic Forum Special Meeting on Economic Growth and Job Creation in the Arab World, taking place on 21-23 October 2011 at the Dead Sea, Jordan.

The *Scenarios for the Mediterranean Region* report explores three possible futures for the region, based on long-term uncertainties related to the development of regional politics, regional resource management and the regional labour market.

MediterrAfrica rising describes a scenario in which Europe turns increasingly inward as it struggles to deal with long-term demographic challenges, while southern Mediterranean countries look to sub-Saharan Africa for new opportunities for growth and substantially increase south-south integration.

Resource famine depicts a world where robust growth occurs across the Mediterranean as governments prioritize economic growth over sustainable resource management, resulting in severe shortages of food, water and energy, and accompanying social crises across much of the region.

Green mobility describes a scenario in which Mediterranean governments give a new lease on life to political and economic integration with the creation of an integrated regional labour market and the advent of a regional renewable energy partnership – but only following a challenging period where competitiveness suffers across both northern and southern Mediterranean countries.

Whichever scenario may materialize, cooperation and complementarities offer potentially large gains for the region's competitiveness. If managed well, the common challenges related to regional politics, regional resource management and the regional labour market could become a source of complementarities, growth and development that none of the stakeholders have, so far, managed to exploit.

Some of the questions explored in the 18-month lead-up were: Will the Mediterranean of 2030 be a hub of sustainable energy and labour integration, or will a focus on short-term economic growth jeopardize its long-term sustainable development? How will the Mediterranean be positioned in a world of rapidly shifting economic power?

The Mediterranean today is a highly fragmented region, with one of the sharpest divides in GDP per capita worldwide. North-south trade in the region is strong, but southern Mediterranean countries have one of the world's lowest levels of trade integration between neighbouring countries. Mediterranean countries range from 18th to 98th among the 142 countries assessed in the World Economic Forum's competitiveness ranking.

Jordanian Radio and Television (JRTV) is the Host Broadcaster of this Meeting.

For more information about the Special Meeting, please visit http://www.weforum.org/events/special-meeting-economic-growth-and-job-creation-arab-world.

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