



# Neighbourhood South

## Glossary



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## Glossary

Relations between the EU and the countries on its Southern flank go back a long way, from 1995 when the Euro-Med Partnership (Barcelona Process) was launched. Since then these partner countries have become part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), developed after the EU's enlargement in 2004, and participate in the Union for the Mediterranean, set up in 2008. The Southern countries participating in the ENP and getting support from its financial arm, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) are: [Algeria](#), [Egypt](#), [Israel](#), [Jordan](#), [Libya](#), [Lebanon](#), [Morocco](#), [Occupied Palestinian Territory](#), [Syria](#)\* and [Tunisia](#). For anyone trying to understand the policy or to cover relations, the language and terms used in this partnership can sometimes be perplexing.

The EU Neighbourhood Info Centre has put together the Neighbourhood South Glossary that explains terms relating to this relationship in a simple language, with links to where one can find out more, mainly on EU sites. It is available in English, French and Arabic.

Other glossaries and guides are also available on the EU Neighbourhood Info Centre website, in a section regularly updated. These are: the [EU Neighbourhood glossary](#) in A to Z format, the [Eastern Partnership glossary](#), a EuropeAid [glossary](#) for civil society and development aid; [Thematic](#) glossaries prepared by various Directorates General on issues ranging from education to business; [Eurojargon](#) that explains words used in daily EU talk ('eurospeak'); an EU [glossary](#) explaining technical and legal terms; an EC thematic [index](#) with general terms; and [Acronyms](#) of EC Directorates-General and Services

\* At the time this publication was prepared EU Cooperation with Syria was suspended due to the political situation in the country; however, since in principle Syria is eligible for cooperation under the ENPI, activities may be taken up again once the situation improves.



**Agadir Agreement** Egypt Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia decided in February 2004 to set up a regional free-trade area, reinforcing South-South cooperation, with EU encouragement and support. The [Agadir Agreement](#), as it is known, commits the parties to removing most trade tariffs between them and intensifying economic cooperation by bringing into line their legislation on standards and customs procedures. It is open to accession by other countries. An Info Centre feature [here](#).

**Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF)** The ALF runs the largest and most diverse Network of civil society organizations involved in the promotion of intercultural dialogue across the Mediterranean. From its very beginning, the ALF was conceived as a Network of National Networks, established in each of the 43 countries of the [Union for the Mediterranean](#) and bringing together more than 3000 civil society organizations who share the values of the Foundation. Each Network is headed by an institution or civil society organization which participates in the development and implementation of the Foundation's programme. Co-financed by the 43 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Commission, it is ruled by a Board of Governors composed by representatives of those countries.

**Arab Spring and EU response** Since the first demonstrations in Tunisia in December 2010, a wave of popular discontent has shaken the Arab world, with people calling for dignity, democracy, and social justice. Despite the unexpected magnitude of these uprisings, widely known as the "Arab Spring" the EU has been quick to recognise the challenges of the political and economic transition faced by the region as a whole. It has also recognised the need to adopt a new approach to relations with its Southern neighbours. Info Centre [interview](#) and [video interview](#).

**Barcelona Process** In November 1995 the EU Foreign Ministers and their counterparts from neighbouring Mediterranean countries agreed on an institutionalised partnership. At this meeting, which took place in Barcelona, the [Barcelona Declaration](#) was adopted. The three main dimensions of this Partnership cover: a [Political and Security Dialogue](#), an [Economic and Financial Partnership](#), and the [Social, Cultural and Human Partnership](#). Since July 2008, the Euro-Med Partnership has been re-launched as the [Union for the Mediterranean](#), with the aim of infusing new vitality and raising the political level of the strategic relationship between the EU and its southern neighbours while maintaining the acquis of its predecessor, the [Barcelona Process](#).

**Budget support** Involves policy dialogue, financial transfers to the national treasury of the partner country, performance assessment and capacity-building, based on partnership and mutual accountability. It should not be seen as an end in itself, but as a means of delivering better aid and achieving sustainable development objectives by fostering partner countries' ownership of development policies and reforms. It addresses the source, not just the symptoms, of under-development, and provides the strongest platform that the EU has to engage in a broad policy dialogue with its partner countries on key development issues. An Info Centre interview [here](#).



**Convention on preferential rules of origin** The regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin will help develop growth and economic prosperity for the region and facilitate regional integration. It aims at replacing the current pan-Euro-Mediterranean system of cumulation of origin based on individual protocols applicable between two partner countries, with a single legal instrument in the form of a regional convention on preferential rules of origin.

**Country Reports** Prepared by the Commission at the outset of the ENP process, they assessed the political and economic situation as well as institutional and sectoral aspects in each neighbouring country, to determine when and how it was possible to deepen relations. Country Reports were submitted to the Council which decided whether to proceed to the next stage of relations. The country reports can be found by clicking [here](#).

**Covenant of Mayors** The Covenant of Mayors is the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities in the fight against climate change. It is based on a voluntary commitment by **signatories** to meet and exceed the EU 20% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction objective through increased energy efficiency and development of renewable energy sources. It is open to local authorities in countries outside the European Union and has a number of signatories in the European Neighbourhood.

**Cross Border Cooperation (CBC)** Under the ENPI, the CBC component finances joint programmes bringing together regions of EU Member States and partner countries sharing a common border. It aims to promote a coherent and integrated approach to regional development, to deal with common challenges, guarantee effectiveness and security at the external borders and encourage local cooperation. CBC is co-financed by the [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#). Two types of programmes are established: bilateral programmes covering a common land border (or short sea crossing), and multilateral programmes covering a sea basin. The CBC concerns Eastern Europe, the southern Caucasus and the Southern Mediterranean. More specifically Algeria, Armenia, the Palestinian Authority, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Moldova, Russia, Syria, Tunisia, and Ukraine. A CBC hands on [guide](#) for implementing projects is available online, as well as an Info Centre [interview](#), and three features on CBC projects, from [Russia](#), the [Ukrainian Carpathians](#), and [Odessa](#) in Ukraine.

**Euro-Med Partnership** Another term used to describe the Barcelona Process, referring to the relationship and cooperation between the EU and its partners in the Southern Mediterranean. More explanations can be found in the document named "The Euro-Med Partnership explained – [12 Q&A](#)" (July 2008).

**European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** The EBRD fosters transition to market economies and provides project financing for banks, industries and businesses, both new ventures and investments in existing companies. It also works with publicly owned companies. Each of its projects is tailored to the needs of the client and to the specific situation of the country, region and sector. The EBRD is owned by 61 countries, the European Union and the European Investment Bank.



**Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM)** A consultative assembly which aims at bringing a regional and local dimension to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. It gathers [84 Members](#) from the EU and its 16 Mediterranean partners who are representatives of regions and local bodies holding a regional or local authority mandate. The inaugural ARLEM meeting took place on 21 January 2010 at the Pedralbes Palace in Barcelona, Spain.

**European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)** A consultative body to the EU and a bridge between Europe and organized civil society.

**Euromed** The EESC was invited by the 1995 Barcelona Declaration to take initiatives in “establishing links with its Mediterranean counterparts and equivalent bodies”.

**European Investment Bank (EIB)** Set up by the EU to provide investment loans and grants. Member States are the shareholders and its Board of Governors is composed of the Finance Ministers of these States. [FEMIP](#) (Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership) - The financial arm of the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the Southern Neighbours. See below for more on FEMIP.

**European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)** From 1 January 2007 onwards, as part of the reform of EC assistance instruments, the MEDA (South), TACIS (East) and various other financial instruments have been replaced by a single instrument, the ENPI. The ENPI is designed to target sustainable development and approximation to EU policies and standards – supporting the agreed priorities in the ENP Action Plans (as well as the Strategic Partnership with Russia, which was previously also covered by the TACIS programme). For this budgetary period (2007-2013), approximately €12 billion in EC funding are available to support reforms in these neighbouring partner states.

- [ENPI South](#) A term used since the [European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument](#) replaced the financial instrument known as MEDA in 2007. It refers to the countries from the Southern Mediterranean that are benefitting from the ENPI.

**European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)** Designed by the EU in 2011 when an overall substantial increase in funding for Neighbourhood partners was announced, this Instrument has a proposed budget of €18.2 billion for the period 2014-2020. In line with the principles of differentiation and “more for more”, the ENI will support the strengthening of relations with partner countries and bring tangible benefits to both the EU and its partners in areas such as democracy and human rights, the rule of law, good governance, sustainable economic and social development and progressive economic integration in the EU single market. The ENI is part of an overall package of geographic and thematic instruments, worth €96,249.4 million for the period 2014-2020 (current prices) and is expected to be adopted by the European Parliament.

**European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)** It was developed after the EU’s enlargement in 2004 with 10 new countries, in order to avoid the emergence of new dividing lines in Europe. Through it, the EU offers its neighbours a privileged relationship, building upon a mutual commitment to common values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development). The ENP goes beyond existing relationships to



offer a deeper political relationship and economic integration through reforms as a means of achieving peace, stability and economic prosperity. The level of ambition of the relationship will depend on the extent to which these values are shared. The ENP covers the EU's immediate neighbours by land or sea, namely: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. Although Russia is also an EU neighbour, [relations](#) are developed through a [Strategic Partnership](#) (this link does not work, better to link to the EEAS official Russia page) covering four "common spaces". Info Centre [interview](#) with ENP Commissioner.

- [New ENP \(more-for-more approach – see below\)](#) The [renewed ENP](#), as it is also known, was the culmination of an extensive review and consultation with governments and civil society organisations both within the EU and in the 16 ENP partner countries to Europe's South and East.

**[European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture & Rural Development \(ENPARD\)](#)** This is a policy initiative, part of the EU's commitment to inclusive growth and stability in its Neighbourhood, which recognises the potential importance of agriculture in terms of food security, sustainable production and rural employment.

**[EU offshore protocol](#)** Aims to complement the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean, signed by the EU, Italy, Greece, Spain, France, Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus, as well as 14 other non-EU Mediterranean countries, as regards exploration and exploitation activities. It covers a wide range of exploration and exploitation activities and touches upon permit requirements, the removal of abandoned or disused installations, the use and removal of harmful substances, and safety, contingency planning and monitoring.

**[Export Helpdesk](#)** An online helpdesk service informing governments, exporters and trade associations in developing countries on EU import systems and procedures. The Export Helpdesk provides detailed information on the preferential arrangements in place between the EU and developing countries and also offers information on requirements to export and market goods in the EU, internal taxes applicable in every EU country and product-specific legal or market requirements, import tariffs and other import measures, as well as trade statistics and useful links. The European Union is the world's largest single market and by far the most important trading partner for developing countries.

**[FEMIP](#)** The European Investment Bank's dedicated arm that brings together the whole range of its services provided to assist the economic development of the Mediterranean partner countries. Operational since October 2002, [FEMIP](#) is now the key player in the economic and financial partnership between the EU and the Mediterranean.

**[Free Trade Area \(FTA\)](#)** The key objective of the trade partnership is the creation of a deep Euro-Mediterranean FTA, which aims at substantially liberalising trade between both the EU and Southern Mediterranean countries (North-South), and Southern Mediterranean countries themselves (South-South).



**FP7** the Research Framework Programmes are the main instrument at EU level aimed specifically at supporting research and development. They have two major strategic objectives: strengthening Europe's scientific and technological base and supporting its international competitiveness and EU policies, through research cooperation among Member States and with international partners.

**Financial instruments** The EU supports the neighbourhood countries through different means ranging from Instruments designed for the region to more general grants, service contracts etc. for which countries, organizations and others are eligible. Some of the instruments are: [Twinning](#), [TAIEX](#), [SIGMA](#) and [Governance Facility](#). More information can be found on the following links: ENP [funding](#) page, EuropeAid [funding](#) page, Info Centre [guide](#) to Cooperation Instruments and tools. Info Centre [interview](#) on the instruments.

**Frontex** The European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex) promotes, coordinates and develops European border management in line with the EU fundamental rights charter applying the concept of Integrated Border Management. Frontex helps border authorities from different EU countries work together. The agency was set up in 2004 to reinforce and streamline cooperation between national border authorities and has several operational areas which are defined in the founding [Frontex Regulation](#) and a [subsequent amendment](#).

**Horizon 2020 initiative** H2020 aims to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020 by tackling the sources of pollution that account for around 80 percent of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean. It is one of the key initiatives endorsed by the [Union for the Mediterranean](#) (UfM) at its launch in Paris in 2008 and in order to implement and monitor actions three working groups were created: Investments for Pollution Reduction, Capacity Building and Review, Monitoring and Research. Info Centre [interview](#) and [feature](#).

**Inter-regional cooperation** Most assistance managed by EuropeAid is channeled through national and regional programmes covered by the EU's European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI). However, an Inter-regional Programme (IRP) has also been established to support the ENPI southern and eastern regions. Such a programme is required because some aid activities can be managed more efficiently and flexibly at inter-regional level.



**MEDA Programme** This was the financial instrument through which EU assistance was allocated to the Mediterranean countries. The [European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument](#) replaced MEDA in 2007.

**Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP)** The [MSP](#) is a flagship initiative of the [Union for the Mediterranean](#) (UfM). It was adopted by the [UfM Paris declaration](#) as one of its key priorities, which involves not only renewable energy policy, production and transmission, but also the promotion of energy efficiency. It also targets the build-up of [20 GW of renewable energy](#) productive capacity by 2020.

**More-for-more approach** A principle on which the Commission is placing increased emphasis in its relations with the Neighbours (also known as [new ENP](#)) through which only those partners determinedly embarking on political reforms and respecting shared universal values of human rights, democracy and rule of law are being offered those elements that relate to the most ambitious aspects of the EU offer, notably economic integration, mobility of people, as well as, indeed, a greater EU financial support. Info Centre interview with ENP Commissioner [here](#).

**Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility** Targeted at reinforcing the role of civil society across the Neighbourhood region it was set up to provide funding for non-state actors. €22 million is foreseen between 2011 and 2013. The Facility has three aims: Strengthening capacity of civil society, through exchanges of good practice and training, to promote national reform and increase public accountability, to enable them to become stronger actors in driving reform at national level and stronger partners in the implementation of ENP objectives; strengthening non-state actors through support to regional and country projects, by supplementing the funding available through thematic programmes and instruments; promoting an inclusive approach to reforms by increasing the involvement of non-state actors in national policy dialogue and in the implementation of bilateral programmes. National Indicative Programme (NIP): An assistance programming document that refers to developments in bilateral relations and in the country itself, as well as the pace of implementation of agreements, while it goes into detail about the goals of each priority agreed. Drafted by the European Commission in consultation with the partner country governments, Member States and other international donors and civil society organizations, following the Mid-Term Review of the Country Strategy Papers (CSP). Country NIPs South from [here](#).

**Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF)** An innovative financial instrument of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) that blends loans and grants to finance investments for the Neighbourhood. Its primary objective is to kick-start key infrastructure projects that require considerable financial resources, as well as to support private sector development in the Neighbourhood region. Info Centre [Interview](#) and features from [Morocco](#), [Armenia](#) and [Moldova](#).

**Neighbourhood Library** Developed by the EU Neighbourhood Info Centre, the Library is a user-friendly online database bringing together the key documents that guide EU relations with the ENP and ENPI partner countries. Documents can be downloaded in their original language (mainly English or French) as well as any other language versions in which they are available. Additionally, the EU



Neighbourhood Info Centre has translated into the relevant local languages a selection of key documents governing regional and bilateral relations. As unofficial translations, these have no legal value (see Disclaimer). Each document has a short description in English, and links to all the language versions available.

**Regional Cooperation** The EU's programmes for regional cooperation complement national assistance programmes, tackle challenges with a regional dimension and promote interstate co-operation on issues of mutual interest. The EU considers cooperation with its regional partners – and between the partners themselves – to be an important political objective.

**Regional Cooperation South** The funding of project and programmes that turn decisions taken on a political level into actions on the ground, always within the framework of the three cooperation areas agreed. The priority areas for regional co-operation have been defined in the European Commission's [Regional Strategy Paper \(2007-2013\)](#) and [Regional Indicative Programme \(2007-2010\) for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership](#). They are: [Peace, justice, and security](#); [Sustainable economic development](#); [Bringing people together](#). More information can be found in the Regional Programme [brochure](#) (2008) and EuropeAid's [Info Notes](#) on projects funded (2008).

**SPRING Programme (Support to Partnership, Reform and Inclusive Growth)**

Designed in response to the events of the Arab Spring, initiatives supported by SPRING will focus specifically on two of the renewed EU policies in the region, aiming to respond to the pressing socio-economic challenges faced by partners in the region and to support them in their transition to democracy. €350 million has been allocated for the period 2011-2012. Support provided will be tailored to the needs of each country, based on an assessment of its progress in building democracy and applying the 'more for more' principle – the more a country progresses in its democratic reforms and institutional building, the more support it can expect from the SPRING programme. All Southern Neighbourhood partner countries will benefit from the programme.

**Southern Partners/ Mediterranean Partners** EU relations with the countries of the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East have been developing through the [Euro-Mediterranean Partnership](#), which was established by the Barcelona Declaration in 1995. More recently, the [European Neighbourhood Policy](#) (ENP) has begun to map out relations between the EU and these regions. These two expressions are used when referring to the partners from this region.



**Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)** The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, formerly known as the Barcelona Process, was re-launched in July 2008 as the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) at the [Paris Summit for the Mediterranean](#) and endorsed at the [Marseille Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Foreign Affairs](#) in November of the same year. The UfM includes all 27 EU member states and 16 partners across the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East. The aim is to infuse a new vitality into the Partnership and raise the political level. While maintaining the acquis of the [Barcelona Process](#), the UfM offers more balanced governance, increased visibility to its citizens and a commitment to tangible, regional and trans-national projects.

- **UfM co-presidency** The UfM has a rotating co-presidency with one EU president and one president representing the Mediterranean partners. As from March 2012 the EU High Representative took over the co-presidency for meetings of Foreign Ministers, while the European Commission took over for Ministerial Meetings that solely concern matters falling within areas of exclusive EU competence.
- **UfM Secretariat** In March 2010, the Barcelona Headquarters of the UfM opened. They are housed in the emblematic Palacio de Pedralbes, once the Barcelona residence of the Spanish royal family. The Secretariat will make proposals for joint initiatives to be decided by the political bodies and ensure the follow-up of project related decisions of the Summit, according to an EU [press release](#). The Secretariat has a Secretary General.
- **UfM Parliamentary Assembly (PA-UfM)** The Euro-Mediterranean parliamentary Assembly was officially established in Athens on 22-23 March 2004 as the parliamentary dimension of the Partnership set up by the Barcelona Declaration of November 1995. It consists of 280 members: 130 EU members (81 members from the twenty-seven EU national Parliaments - three from each Parliament - and 49 members from the European Parliament), 10 members from new European Mediterranean partner countries (two for each delegation from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Monaco and Montenegro), 130 members from the ten countries on the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey), and 10 members from Mauritania.
- **UfM Guarantee Network** The credit guarantee agencies for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in March 2012 at the premises of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, launching a Euro-Med Guarantee System Network (EMGN). The MoU is the first step towards the crystallisation of an upcoming project entitled Euro-Mediterranean Guarantee Network (EMGN).

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