

UEAPME adheres to the 20+20 Barcelona Declaration

11/25/2015 - Ms. De Felipe, Vice-President of UEAPME, signs the Declaration in Barcelona

20 years ago, 15 member countries of the European Union (EU) and 12 Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCS) established the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, also known as the Barcelona Process. Now, 20 years later, we are celebrating this 20th Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Integration Process, again in Barcelona and in the framework of the IX Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders.

In this context, and during the official opening of the MEDA Week, several Euro-Mediterranean Business Support Organisations, sectorial organizations and representatives of the civil society formulated 20 concrete initiatives for boosting the economy in the Mediterranean and which are gathered in the so called “20+20 Barcelona Declaration”.

This Declaration, a clear response to the challenges of the Mediterranean private sector, was signed by Ms. de Felipe in the name of the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME) on November 25th 2015.

Other adherents of the Declarations are ASCAME, EUROCHAMBRES, GUCCIAAC, EMDC Foundation, EABC, GACIC, BUSINESSMED, ANIMA, ACIM, MEDCRUISE, IESMED, ESMED, FERRMED, FMBA, MEDFRANCHISE, MHRA, UMG, MEDCITIES, INSULEUR, OCEMO, RMEI and FEMOZA.

The 20 initiatives are:

1. Ensuring the transition of the private sector from a spectator to an actor.
2. Reinforcing the competitiveness of the Mediterranean private sector.
3. Boosting the entrepreneurial spirit and the innovation in the Mediterranean.
4. Reinforcing the role of key actors such as women, young people, through vocational training and entrepreneurship education.
5. Encouraging the contribution of diasporas and migrants in the economic development.
6. Making up for the lack for private investments in the region.
7. Committing the Mediterranean private sector towards the good governance.
8. Supporting the social and solidarity economy (SSE) enterprises in the Mediterranean.
9. Encouraging the private sector to preserve the economic, natural, cultural and social heritage of the Mediterranean and to move towards sustainable economy.
10. Calling on the Mediterranean private sector to actively engage towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.
11. Promoting a model of sustainable and competitive Mediterranean cities.
12. Improving the cooperation between the EU Southern Neighborhood Policy and the UfM activities.
13. Unifying the promotion and finance of the Mediterranean MSEs/SMEs.
14. Promoting a Mediterranean Development Bank.
15. Fostering Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in the region.
16. Consolidating Social Corporate Responsibility (SCR) in the region.
17. Fostering the promotion of arbitration in the Mediterranean.
18. Promoting a Mediterranean Tourism Agency and reinforcing the Mediterranean Brand.
19. Supporting the integrated transport and multimodal network in the Mediterranean.
20. Diversifying the sectors of the Mediterranean economy.