

# BUSINESS FORUM

HOTEL PARCO DEI PRINCIPI – SFORZA ROOMS D+E

NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> 2018

## THE IMPERATIVE OF GROWTH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION: WHY INFRASTRUCTURE MATTERS

### PROGRAMME

**MED – ROME MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUES** is the annual high-level initiative promoted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and ISPI, engaging prominent leaders of Mediterranean governments, business, civil society, media and academia. It aims at drafting a “positive agenda” for the Mediterranean by stimulating debate and promoting new ideas, rethinking traditional approaches and addressing shared challenges at both the regional and the international level.

This year MED will once again be preceded by a series of sectorial forums that will bring together selected networks, which will later join the conference, turning Rome into a global hub for high-level dialogues on the Mediterranean. In particular, institutional actors, experts, civil servants, representatives of the business community and the media, think tanks, etc. will be offered the opportunity to come together and discuss viable options to enhance intraregional cooperation.

In this context, the **preMED Business Forum** - organised by ISPI and Confindustria, in cooperation with McKinsey & Company as knowledge partner - aims to bring together a selected group of **business and institutional representatives**, from throughout the Mediterranean region to exchange ideas, experiences and best practices. It has been conceived as an open dialogue ensuring a high interaction and **exchange of views among participants** on the role that infrastructure can play in fostering local development, the attractiveness of Mediterranean countries, the relevance of international financial institutions and best practices to attract quality investments in infrastructure.

The Forum will be held at the same venue as MED: Grand Hotel Parco dei Principi, Via Frescobaldi 5, Rome – Farnese Room. **The working languages are English and Italian.**

#### 8.30 Registration

#### 9.00 Opening

- *Keynote speech:* Dario SCANNAPIECO, Vice President, European Investment Bank; President, EIF

ORGANIZED BY

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### 9.30 First Session - Infrastructure investment as a development strategy in the region

This session is aimed at providing evidence of infrastructure investment as a driver of growth, competitiveness, and social well-being; explaining how infrastructure that fosters mobility, power, and communications can reshape geopolitics; identifying conditions that support the financing of infrastructure.

- What factors increase the probability that infrastructure investment is a key driver of economic development?
- What are the current regional trends in infrastructure investment?
- When does infrastructure investment reshape geopolitics? And how does geopolitics foster/obstacle infrastructure investment?
- Which models / instruments enable investment in infrastructure?
- What role do international institutions and, in particular, multilateral development banks play?

*Chair:* Carlo SECCHI, Vice President, ISPI, Italy; European Coordinator for infrastructural Priority Projects (TEN-T), European Commission

*Kick-off speeches:*

- Stefano NAPOLETANO, Senior Partner, McKinsey & Company, Italy
- Antonella BALDINO, Chief Business Officer, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Italy

*Med voices:*

- Kamel GHRIBI, Chairman GK Investment Holding Sa, Tunisia
- Maryam KHANSARI, General Manager, Herison Construction Company; International Relations Manager, Association of Construction Companies, Iran

*Comments and Debate*

### 11.00 Second Session – Smart cities: Digital solutions for a more sustainable development

After a decade of experimentation, smart cities are entering a new phase. Although only a part of what goes into making a city great, digital solutions have proven to be the most powerful and cost-effective additions in recent years.

- What is the impact of Smart City applications in different dimensions?
- Who are the main players involved in the value-chain?
- Are there different models of “smartness” determined by different local conditions and objectives?
- What challenges must still be overcome?

*Chair:* Vincenzo ERCOLE, Head of International Business Development for the Italian Construction Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

*Kick-off speeches:*

- Nicola SANDRI, Partner, McKinsey & Company, Italy
- Paolo GLISENTI, Commissioner General EXPO 2020 Dubai, Italy

*Med Voices:*

- Marwan HAYEK, Chairman & CEO, Alfa Mobile, Lebanon
- Raya Haffar EL HASSAN, Chairwoman, Tripoli Special Economic Zone and Former Minister of Finance, Lebanon
- Elham HASSANZADEH, Managing Director, Energy Pioneers, United Kingdom

*Comments and Debate*

### 12.30 Conclusion

- Vincenzo DE LUCA, Director-General for the Promotion of the Italian Economic System, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy