

*Celebrating the  
Mediterranean*

**DAY OF THE  
MEDITERRANEAN**

NOVEMBER 28

**Press  
Dossier**



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

**mediterraneanday.com**  
**#MediterraneanDay**



The UfM Secretariat  
is co-funded by the  
EUROPEAN UNION

# 3 continents

More than  
**480 MILLION PEOPLE**  
live in the Mediterranean,  
820 million in UfM  
countries

Sources: EEA briefing

## Celebrating the first annual Day of the Mediterranean

**28<sup>th</sup> November 2021 will mark the first annual celebration of the Day of the Mediterranean, recognising Mediterranean culture and embracing the rich diversity of the region.**

[mediterraeanday.com](http://mediterraeanday.com)  
[#MediterraneanDay](https://twitter.com/MediterraneanDay)

**In November 2020, the 42 Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean declared the 28<sup>th</sup> of November as the official Day of the Mediterranean,** to be marked annually, calling upon everyone that identifies with the Mediterranean to celebrate the lasting legacy of this age-old agora of cultural dialogue, wisdom and humanism.

**Home to more than 480 million people living across 3 continents, with a coastline of 46,000km,** the region offers a wealth of human and natural diversity unparalleled anywhere else in the world. Communities and cultures have long exchanged ideas, trade and learning across this common sea, and this Day aims to strengthen these ties, promote dialogue and highlight achievements in the region, as well as showcasing issues of interest and mobilising political will and resources to address shared challenges.

“The Mediterranean is our home and our livelihood, our history and our future,” said **UfM Secretary General, Nasser Kamel**. “We’re facing great challenges as a region but we also hold great potential, and the Day of the Mediterranean is a fantastic opportunity to rejoice in all that we have done and can do if we work together.”

Commemorating the anniversary of the Barcelona Process, which launched the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership on this date in 1995, the Day aims to shine a spotlight on regional achievements and initiatives undertaken by governments, international and regional organisations, international finance institutions, development agencies, civil society and private sector organisations – anyone and everyone working to enhance cooperation and integration in the area.

The ultimate objective of the Day is to celebrate our diversity, show that our similarities outweigh our differences, and to foster a sense of togetherness and community.

**Now let’s celebrate!**

For any questions or interviews,  
please contact:

**Communication and media**  
**T+34 935 214 137 / M+34 603 016 729**  
[media@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:media@ufmsecretariat.org)

# More information

## The Barcelona Process

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1995, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EU and 12 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries held the first Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Barcelona. They signed an agreement to launch the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Process, a new dialogue framework born from a desire to build the Mediterranean region into a space of shared peace, stability, security and prosperity.

The Barcelona Declaration defined the main objectives of the partnership, split into three main themes, or “baskets”: political and security basket; economic and financial basket; social, cultural and human basket.

## The Union for the Mediterranean

The Union for the Mediterranean was born from a continuation of the desire for regional integration and cohesion. The UfM brings together 42 European and Southern Mediterranean countries to work together on an equal footing under a North-South Co-Presidency, currently held by the EU and Jordan. It aims to enhance regional cooperation, dialogue and the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives with tangible impact on the lives of citizens.



Union for the Mediterranean  
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الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

### 42 Member States

27 EU members and 15 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Their Senior Officials meet regularly to oversee and coordinate the activities of the UfM.

### 2 Co-Presidents

The EU and Jordan have assumed the Northern and Southern Co-Presidency since 2012, embodying the UfM principle of co-ownership.

### 1 Secretariat

Based in Barcelona, the Secretariat is the operational platform of the UfM.

### Milestones

**1995:** Barcelona Process

**2008:** Launch of the Union for the Mediterranean

**2010:** Creation of the UfM Secretariat

**2011 - present:** 50+ projects labelled; UfM Regional Forum; UfM Roadmap; UfM - EU Neighbourhood policy; UfM - UN Observer Status

**Nov 2020:** UfM Member States declare the Day of the Mediterranean

# FAQ



Morocco

## Why do we mark the Day of the Mediterranean?

The Day of the Mediterranean aims at **fostering a common Mediterranean identity**. The cultural dimension is an important component of the celebration as this Day provides the opportunity to hold local, national and international events, exhibitions and festivals across the region.

The Mediterranean day also provides a **yearly unique momentum** to increase the visibility of a **positive agenda in the Mediterranean** and the overall regional efforts undertaken by governments, international and regional organisations, development agencies, private sector, civil society and all the stakeholders that work daily to enhance cooperation and integration in the area. It is the occasion to **showcase issues of interest, mobilise political will** and resources to **address challenges**, and **celebrate achievements** in the region.

The **Day of the Mediterranean** is thus a precious reminder of this commitment, to continue - despite the challenges that may come our way - moving forward and ahead **together**.

“With the objective to foster a common Mediterranean identity and increase the visibility and ownership of regional cooperation, we declared the 28<sup>th</sup> of November as the Day of the Mediterranean. Coinciding with the date of the Barcelona Declaration, the Day of the Mediterranean will provide the opportunity to hold cultural events across the region with a view to strengthening ties, promoting intercultural exchanges and dialogue and embracing the diversity of the region.”

**Official conclusion of the 5<sup>th</sup> UfM Regional Forum, 2020.**

## Why the 28<sup>th</sup> of November?

On the **28<sup>th</sup> of November 1995**, the Barcelona Process was born out of a vocation to convert the Mediterranean region into a common space for shared socio-economic progress and dialogue between peoples.

## Who is it for?

Everyone! Organisations working in the field of cooperation and development, media organisations and representatives, public and private entities, right down to the citizens who live and work in the Mediterranean area.



@ufmsecretariat



/ufmsecretariat



Union for the Mediterranean



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*Only two of 49  
UNESCO-RECOGNIZED  
CULTURAL SITES AROUND  
THE MEDITERRANEAN  
SEA ARE SAFE from  
climate change*

*There were 5 MILLION  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS  
in the region in 2020*

*Approximately 1/3 OF  
THE MEDITERRANEAN  
POPULATION is  
concentrated in  
coastal areas*

*60% OF THE  
MENA POPULATION  
is under  
30 years old*

# Get involved

## Brand your show

The official Day of the Mediterranean logo is available in many languages → if your language is missing, please contact us and we will be happy to provide it.

If you have an idea for a larger segment or feature on the Day, or on an aspect of the Mediterranean that could form part of the celebrations, let us know! We can provide quotes, interviews and contributions from our roster of experts and partners.

If you would like to be an official partner of the Day of the Mediterranean, please do **get in touch:**  
[media@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:media@ufmsecretariat.org)

We would be more than happy to include your logo on the website, and to promote and reshare your content.

**Join the conversation on social media with the official hashtag:**  
**#MediterraneanDay**

We are encouraging public and private sector partners across the region to host events, competitions, festivals,

open days, exhibitions, debates and discussions. Add or find an event close to you in the directory [here](#).

## Interviews and Further Information

### Voices of the Mediterranean

This Day is not just an opportunity to look back and take stock of what has been achieved. **It is also a timely opportunity to remember what makes us Mediterranean**, what unites us and forges our common identity. To do so, we were lucky to count on the collaboration of eminent policy-makers, musicians, Michelin-starred chefs, businesswomen and much more, who confided in us about what makes them Mediterranean and shared their hopes for the future of our region. **The raw footage of their testimony with translation is available for all media.**

### Download Videos



MAÏSSA BEY, writer (Algeria)

OUIDED BOUCHAMAOU, 2015 Nobel Peace Prize co-laureate (Tunisia)

HUSSEIN FAHMY, actor, film director and humanitarian ambassador (Egypt)

ALAN GEAAM, Michelin-starred chef (France-Lebanon)

LINA KHALIFEH, Taekwondo champion and founder (Jordania)

NOORA ABDEEN-KHALIFEH, designer, businesswoman (Palestine)

ARA MALIKIAN, musician and violinist (Lebanon)

BERTRAND PICCARD, psychiatrist, aviator and balloonist (Switzerland)

MARIA SNOUSSI, Professor at the Department of Earth Sciences of Mohammed V University in Rabat (Morocco)

Testimonies available of Voices of the Mediterranean

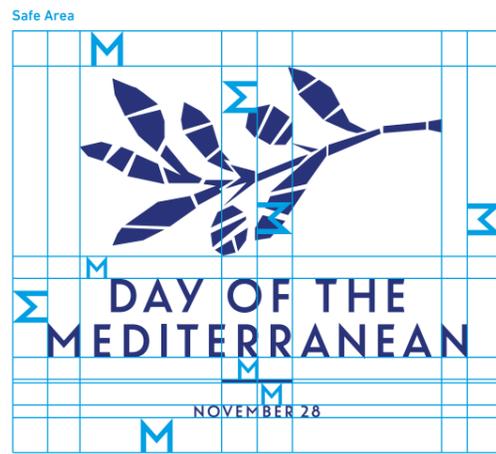
## Experts

UfM Secretary General Nasser Kamel, the UfM's roster of experts, and experts from the wider Mediterranean ecosystem remain at your disposal for any further comments or questions, as well as project promoters for more than 50 supported initiatives. Please contact us at [media@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:media@ufmsecretariat.org)

Our areas of expertise:

- **Energy and Climate Action**
- **Water, Environment and Blue Economy**
- **Social & Civil Affairs**
- **Economic Development and Employment**
- **Transport & Urban Development**
- **Higher Education and Research**

You can find a full list of our institutional partners and project promoters [here](#).



Get involved

Turkey



**#MedMeSmile** Do you feel like we don't hear enough about the good things happening in our region? So do we! That's why the UfM launched this hashtag to share positive news stories from all over the region. Help us bring visibility to the people making our region a better place, and share the smiles!

DOWNLOAD

The Mediterranean basin, **EXTENDING OVER MORE THAN 2 MILLION SQUARE KILOMETRES**, is the world's second-largest biodiversity hotspot

The Mediterranean has **46,000KM OF COASTLINE**

**80% OF JOBS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION** are created by SMEs

It is estimated that up to **TWO BILLION BIRDS MIGRATE** to or through the Mediterranean region every year

The Mediterranean region is the **NUMBER 1 TOURISM DESTINATION** in the world

The Mediterranean holds **18% OF THE WORLD'S MARINE FLORA, AND 28% ARE ENDEMIC SPECIES** (unique to the region)

One of the world's busiest shipping routes: **AROUND 1/3 OF THE WORLD'S TOTAL MERCHANT SHIPPING CROSSES THE SEA** each year



# Celebrating the Mediterranean



[mediterraneanday.com](http://mediterraneanday.com)



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