



EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR STRATEGIC POLICY

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POLICY PAPER · PP 04 / 2026

# **An Eastern Mediterranean Compact for Security, Energy and Connectivity**

A practical diplomatic framework for maritime stability, resilient  
infrastructure and shared economic benefit.

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Rome · August 2026

Public release · Prepared for policy and diplomatic audiences  
Issued by CERAX - European Organisation for Strategic Policy

## POLICY PAPER

# An Eastern Mediterranean Compact for Security, Energy and Connectivity

*A practical diplomatic framework for maritime stability, resilient infrastructure and shared economic benefit.*

## EXECUTIVE JUDGEMENT

*The Eastern Mediterranean needs a project-based compact that separates immediate cooperation on maritime safety, energy and connectivity from disputes that require longer political negotiation, while ensuring that practical gains do not prejudice legal positions.*

## KEY FINDINGS

- Regional escalation can disrupt energy, shipping, airspace and migration management simultaneously.
- Practical projects can create incentives for restraint when they are legally neutral and transparently governed.
- Energy cooperation should include grids, storage, efficiency and infrastructure security rather than depend on a single export concept.
- A durable framework needs structured participation from governments, the EU, commercial operators and affected communities.

## A region of connected exposure

The Eastern Mediterranean links European security to Middle Eastern conflict, maritime commerce, energy systems and climate pressure. Policy is often organised around separate files even when a single escalation affects them together. A compact should begin with a shared risk register covering navigation, airspace, ports, cables, energy facilities, emergency response and uncontrolled displacement.

## Cooperation without prejudice

Many politically useful projects fail because participants fear that technical cooperation will be interpreted as concession on sovereignty or maritime claims. Agreements should state explicitly that participation does not alter legal positions. This allows joint search and rescue, pollution response, cable protection, grid planning and crisis communication to proceed while formal disputes remain subject to established diplomatic and legal channels.

## A balanced economic offer

Energy should be treated as a system of generation, grids, storage, efficiency, shipping and industrial demand. Projects should be selected for resilience and mutual benefit, with transparent procurement and local economic participation. The EU can add value through finance, standards, technical expertise and a predictable link to the wider Pact for the Mediterranean.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 01 Launch an Eastern Mediterranean risk register and annual civil-protection exercise.
- 02 Create legally neutral working groups on cables, grids, search and rescue and port security.
- 03 Use shared transparency standards for cross-border energy and infrastructure projects.
- 04 Establish a standing regional crisis-communication network supported by the EU.
- 05 Publish annual delivery results under the Pact for the Mediterranean.

## DECISION AND MONITORING MATRIX

| Priority                                                                                     | Decision horizon | Evidence of progress           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Launch an Eastern Mediterranean risk register and annual civil-protection exercise.          | 0-90 days        | Maritime incident frequency    |
| Create legally neutral working groups on cables, grids, search and rescue and port security. | 3-12 months      | Cross-border project delivery  |
| Use shared transparency standards for cross-border energy and infrastructure projects.       | 12-36 months     | Crisis-communication use       |
| Establish a standing regional crisis-communication network supported by the EU.              | Continuous       | Infrastructure outage duration |
| Publish annual delivery results under the Pact for the Mediterranean.                        | Annual review    | Maritime incident frequency    |

## INDICATORS TO WATCH

- Maritime incident frequency
- Cross-border project delivery
- Crisis-communication use
- Infrastructure outage duration

## SOURCES AND METHOD

This publication distinguishes verified institutional evidence from CERAX interpretation and forward-looking judgement. Principal public sources are listed below; all recommendations are the institutional judgement of CERAX.

- European Commission, Pact for the Mediterranean
- European Council conclusions on the Middle East, 19 March 2026



European Organisation for Strategic Policy

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Policy Paper · PP 04 / 2026 · Public release  
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*Independent analysis. Diplomatic judgement. European perspective.*