

European Neighbourhood Policy from a Southern Perspective

MENA Transition and International Response:
Challenges and Prospects
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Background and Introduction:

- This paper discusses the role of ENP as a device for integration between EU and SMCs.
- The article is more economic and specifically trade oriented.
- We start from the assumption that deep integration is not always good for development as empirical evidence shows.

A Glimpse on the History of EU-South Mediterranean Countries (SMCs) Economic and Trade Agreements

- Several trade agreements since the 1970s
- Several changes in mode of cooperation, without clear direction and aim
- ENP itself changed
- Deep integration should be a mean and not an end as stated in ENP
- What is meant by deep integration

What is ENP from an EU perspective?

A Southern Understanding

- Security and stability device for EU and its neighbours
- Political documents, whereas AAs remain the main institutional binding agreements
- Trying to include the specificity of each country into consideration
- Including Action Plans.

Main Pitfalls in the ENP from SMCs perspective

- Wrong design and incentives of Action Plans
- Diverting attention from Barcelona and AAs
- So many priorities imply no priority
- Deep integration should be limited to trade
- Ownership of SMCs should be considered

- The Action Plans did not carry more details than what we know from the AAs. They came vague including words like working on harmonization or streamlining without specific dates set or deadlines.
- The deep integration aspect could have been achieved without adoption of ENP whereas the market access issues were already part of the built-in agenda of the AAs, however they were either vaguely mentioned or postponed to future negotiations.

- Some scholars view ENP as a complementary device for the AAs providing a mean for eclectic deep integration.
- Some other scholars are skeptic and view ENP too wide (no focus on specific targets).
- Action Plans, even before they start being implemented in SMCs are falling short of expectations, as they do not represent any form of real action plans (they lack means of implementation and specific time dimension).
- Moreover, ENP has acted so far on the policy/regulatory aspect of deep integration setting and designing aims of cooperation through joint programs, whereas the infrastructure aspect (including labs, equipments, etc.).

Table : Aspects of Deep Integration in the Association Agreement and Action Plan* between Egypt and the EU

	Association Agreement	Action Plan
Tariffs / quotas	X	
Standards: (SPS, TBT)	X	X
Investment	X	XX
IPR	X	X
Trade facilitation (mainly transport)	X	X
Trade defence	X	X
Services	X	X
Network industries (mainly energy)	X	XX
Govt procurement	X	X
Comp. policy	X	X
Dispute settlement	X	X

* If one X is included in the Action Plan then it replicates to a large extent what has been mentioned under the AA. If XX is included, then this implies that there has been some kind of extra deepening efforts.

Conclusion

- EU needs to revisit what is SMCs
- EU needs to define what is deep integration
- EU needs to set its priorities in dealing with SMCs
- Deep integration is a trade concept and not a political and human right concept.

Thank you