Building a Water Smart Economy in the Euro-Mediterranean Area - The Role of Business

UN Global Compact Network Italia

Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum 2026 · 29 September – 2 October · La Nuvola, Rome

KEY INFORMATION

Date	30 September 2026
Time	09.30 – 11.00
Room	Giordano
Format	Presentation / Panel discussion
Language(s)	English

SUMMARY

Water is becoming an increasingly strategic issue for the resilience and competitiveness of economies across the Mediterranean. This session will present the findings of the research Building a Water Smart Economy in the Euro-Mediterranean Area: The Role of Business, exploring how businesses can contribute to sustainable water management and more resilient productive systems.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

09:30	Filippo Bettini, President	UN Global Compact Network Italia	Speaker
09:37	TBD	Ministero dell'Ambiente e della sicurezza energetica	Speaker / Panelist]
09:45	Carlo Cici, Partner and Head of Sustainability Practice	The European House Ambrosetti]	Speaker
10.05	Agnese Cecchini, Editor	Direttore Responsabile di CanaleEnergia e di CH4 H2O e Direttore Editoriale del Gruppo Italia Energia tor	Moderator
10:05	Elena Guarnone, Head of Sustainability	Edison SpA	Panelist
10:05	Rachel Kolbe Semhoun, Head of Sustainable Sourcing & Nature Initiatives	Kering	Panelist
10:05	Stavros Keramitsopoulos, Head of Operations & Water Resources Management	Nestos Hydroelectric Power Complex, Public Power Corporation S.A. (PPC S.A.)	Panelist
10:05	Ezgi Yavuzyılmaz, Sustainability Supervisor	We Soda	Panelist

10:50	Daniela Bernacchi, Executive Director	UN Global Compact Network Italy	Speaker

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The Mediterranean is increasingly exposed to water-related challenges driven by climate change, droughts, changing precipitation patterns and growing demand. Water stress is becoming a strategic issue for economies, affecting food systems, energy, industry and business resilience. Against this backdrop, the session explores the role of businesses in addressing water-related risks and contributing to more resilient and sustainable productive systems, while strengthening cooperation across the Mediterranean.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Present key findings from the research and highlight the main water-related challenges and opportunities for businesses across the Mediterranean.

Objective 2: Raise awareness of the links between water security, climate resilience and economic competitiveness.

Objective 3: Provide a business perspective on the research findings through a panel discussion featuring companies from different countries and sectors, highlighting how water-related challenges and opportunities vary across business contexts and geographical settings.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Business leaders and sustainability professionals

Policymakers and public institutions

Representatives of UN Global Compact Country Networks

Water, climate and sustainability experts

Civil society and other relevant stakeholders

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Increased awareness of the strategic relevance of water security for business resilience and competitiveness across the Mediterranean.

Exchange of experiences and perspectives among companies from different sectors and countries involved in the research.

Identification of potential areas for further cooperation and follow-up action among businesses, institutions and other stakeholders.