

***Digital Connectivity and Mediterranean:  
Investment Opportunities, Innovation and Sustainable Development***

***23-24 January 2025***

***Marina Convention Center, Palermo  
via Filippo Patti n. 30 c/o Molo Trapezoidale***

**DAY 1**

09.00/ 09.45	<b>ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS</b>
09.45/ 10.45	<p><b>OPENING SESSION</b></p> <p><b>Welcome:</b> Renato Schifani, President of the Sicilian Region Roberto Lagalla, Mayor of Palermo</p> <p><b>Opening Remarks:</b> Adolfo Urso, Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy, Italy Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy (written message) Stefano Sannino, Director-General, DG MENA, European Commission Pasi Hellman, Under-Secretary of State for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Nino Amadore, journalist, Il Sole 24 Ore</p>
10.45/ 11.45	<p><b>SESSION I</b></p> <p><b>CONNECTING THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE MEDITERRANEAN</b></p> <p><b>Keynote speech:</b> Mourad Bourehla, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Italy</p> <p><b>Interventions:</b> Tomas Lamanauskas, Deputy Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations</p>

	<p>Eva Spina, Head of Department for Digital, Connectivity and New Technologies, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, Italy</p> <p>Thibaud Kleiner, Director for Policy Strategy and Outreach, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, European Commission</p> <p>Enrico Maria Bagnasco, CEO, Sparkle</p> <p>Renato Brunetti, President of the Board of Directors, UNITIRRENO</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Silja Leinonen, Senior Adviser, Innovation and Digital Development, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland</p>
11.45/ 12.10	<b>Coffee break</b>
12.10/ 13.30	<p><b>SESSION II</b></p> <p><b>MAJOR DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS</b></p> <p><b>Interventions:</b></p> <p>Franco Accordino, Head of Unit Investment in High-Capacity Networks, DG CNECT, European Commission</p> <p>Ruta Zarnauskaite, Head of Unit, Neighbourhood South, Economic Investment Plan DG NEAR (future DG MENA), European Commission</p> <p>Norman Albi, CEO, MEDUSA</p> <p>Fabio Panunzi Capuano, Executive Vice President Business Development, Sparkle</p> <p>Raul Gil Boronat, Executive Vice President Transmission, Prysmian</p> <p>Mathilde Maury, Director, International Policy and Government Affairs, Nokia</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Giulio Gentile, Head of Sector, DG NEAR (future DG MENA), European Commission</p>
13.30/ 14.45	<b>Lunch break</b>
14.45/ 15.45	<p><b>SESSION III</b></p> <p><b>INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS</b></p> <p><b>Keynote speech:</b></p> <p>Walid Al Lafi, Minister of State for Communication and Political Affairs, Libya</p>

	<p><b>Interventions:</b></p> <p>Marco Rusconi, Director, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)</p> <p>Carla Montesi, Director Green Deal and Digital Agenda, DG INTPA, European Commission</p> <p>Biagio Di Terlizzi, Vice Director, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute (CIHEAM) Bari, Italy</p> <p>Thomas Fryer, Head, International relations, GÉANT</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Sandro Bazzanella, Global Coordinator, Digital for Development Hub</p>
<p>15.45/ 16.45</p>	<p><b>SESSION IV</b></p> <p><b>FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS TO SUPPORT MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Keynote speech:</b></p> <p>Gelsomina Vigliotti, Vice-President, European Investment Bank</p> <p><b>Interventions:</b></p> <p>Jaakko Kangasniemi, CEO FINNFUND, Finland</p> <p>Paolo Lombardo, Director of International Development Cooperation, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), Italy</p> <p>Fulvio Capurso, Head of Sector, DG NEAR (future DG MENA), European Commission</p> <p>Valerio Perinelli, Chief Business Officer, SACE, Italy</p> <p>Carl Elmstam, Chief Digital Investments, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Sweden</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Andrea Leone, DG INTPA, European Commission</p>

**DAY 2**

09.00/ 09.30	<b>ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS</b>
09.30/ 11.00	<b>Welcome Remarks:</b> Edmondo Tamajo, Councilor for Productive Activities, Sicilian Region
	<b>SESSION I</b> <b>DIGITAL COOPERATION AND THE MEDITERRANEAN</b>
	<b>Interventions:</b> Stefano Lo Savio, Head of Unit, Finance for Development, Environment and Digital, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy Sandro Bazzanella, Global Coordinator, Digital for Development Hub (D4D Hub) Timo Müller, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Morocco, Germany Irene Seco Serra, Directorate for Cooperation with Africa and Asia, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), Spain Raffaele Del Monaco, Head of Strategic Communication and External Relations, Entopan Massimiliano Costa, CEO, Develhope <b>Moderator:</b> Filippo Lonardo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
11.00/ 11.15	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.15/ 12.30	<b>SESSION II</b> <b>A PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE ON DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY</b>
	Pietro Piccinetti, CEO, Infratel Pierluigi Milella, Captain, Italian Coastguard Headquarters, National focal point 5G-MASS project, Italy Sebastiano Toffaletti, Secretary General, European Digital SME Alliance Kamil El Khatib, Digital Expert, Agence Française de Développement, France Antonio Sfameli, Government & Policy Advocacy, Europe Middle East and Africa, ERICSSON



	<p>Marco Brancati, SVP Engineering, Technology &amp; Innovation, Leonardo Space Division</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Carmelo Frittitta, Director General, Department Productive Activities, Sicilian Region</p>
12.30/ 14.30	<b>Lunch break</b>
14.30/ 17.30	<b>Site visit to the Sparkle Data Center Sicily Hub Via Ugo La Malfa, 99, Palermo</b>

