

**NEWS – ECIPE PRESS RELEASE – NEW POLICY BRIEF**

# **Trade in the Great Sea: A Brief State of Play of EU-Southern Neighbourhood Trade Relations**

*By Jan Micallef, Senior Fellow at ECIPE*

**Brussels, 21 May 2024** - The Mediterranean region, a dynamic economic hub, holds vast growth potential. A newly released [Policy Brief](#) delves into the intricate trade dynamics between the European Union (EU) and Southern Neighbourhood Countries (SNCs) and lays the groundwork for future discussions on optimising EU-SNC trade relations.

The author analyses historical ties and current bilateral agreements. While these agreements share similarities, variances in scale and scope are evident. Nonetheless, the paper highlights positive developments in trade relations since 1995, primarily driven by free trade agreements within Association Agreements (AAs).

However, despite these advancements, Jan Micallef, the author, raises concerns about untapped potential. "While trade between the EU and SNCs has yielded mutual benefits, there's room for substantial enhancement. The current trade regime, while beneficial, requires upgrading to maximise benefits for all parties involved", he highlights.

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