

Governance cooperation for sustainable development in the Mediterranean

The Role of the Mediterranean in a New International Order

Workshop | University of Sassari | 10 July 2025

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1. Conflict

Conflict and the environment

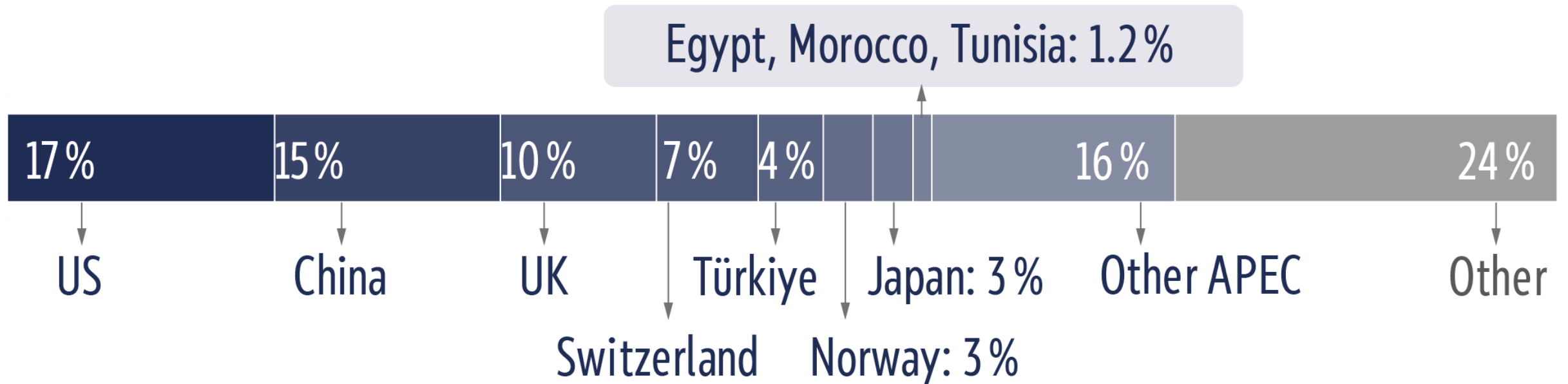
- **Diverting funds:** Security Action for Europe (SAFE) loan instrument: 150 billion euros
 - Raised on capital markets
 - Widening EIB lending to defence and security
 - Private capital
 - Challenges for other public spending sectors
- **Italy:** 57% majority either 'somewhat' or 'strongly' opposed, to increasing national defence spending, and only 17% supporting a rise in spending.
 - Outlier among 12 countries surveyed: Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom (European Council on Foreign Relations survey, 2025)
- **Florence:** low-emission zones and new NATO base

2. Trade

a. Differential tariff impacts

EU main trade partners

Trade in goods, exports plus imports, 2024



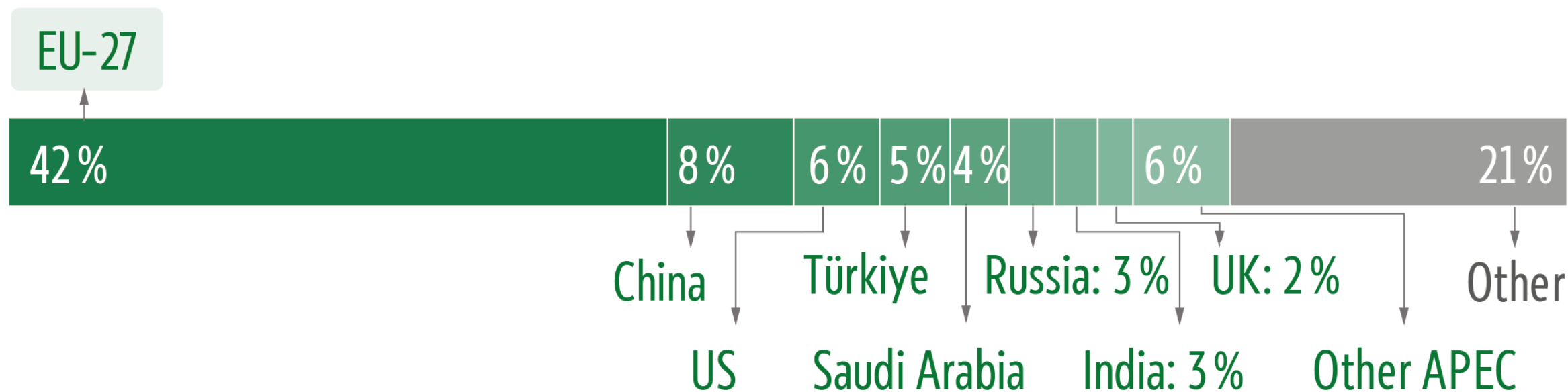
Data source: Eurostat Comext.

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

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Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia main trade partners

Trade in goods, exports plus imports, 2023



Data source: IMF.

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

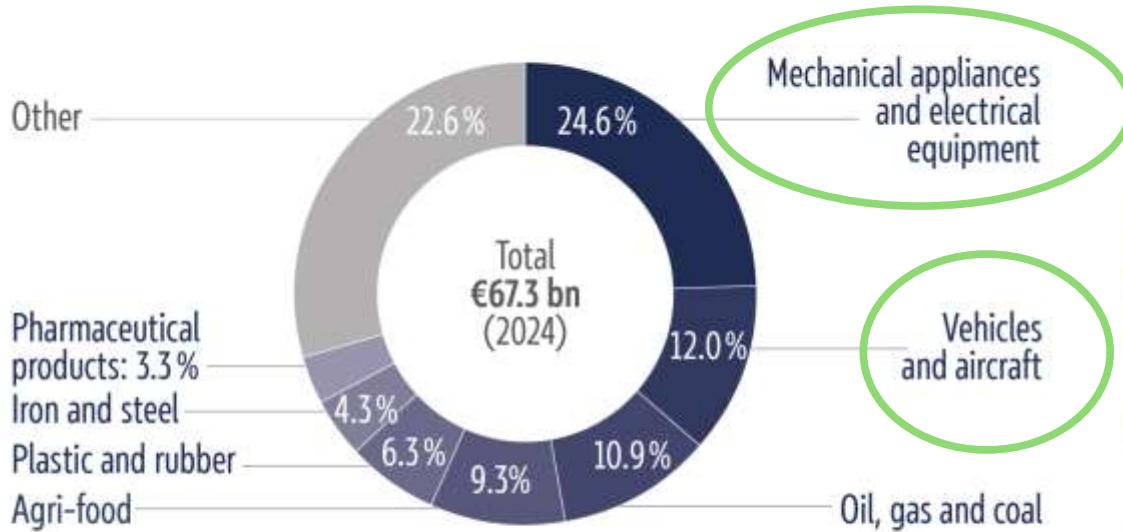
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2. Trade

b. Trade in goods

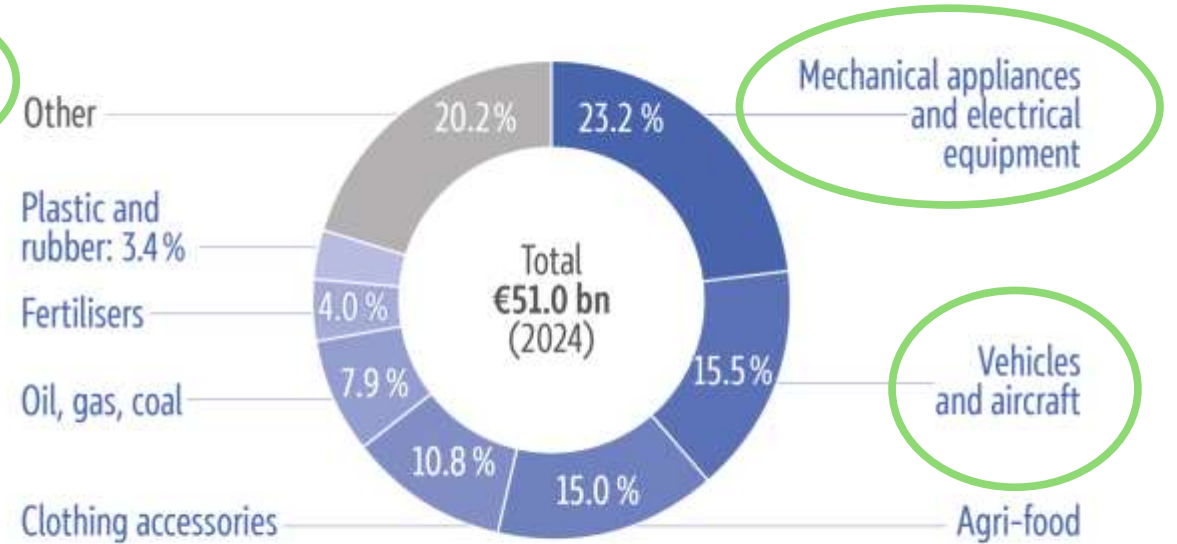
EU exports of goods to Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia (2024)



Data source: Eurostat.

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service
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EU imports of goods from Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia



Data source: Eurostat.

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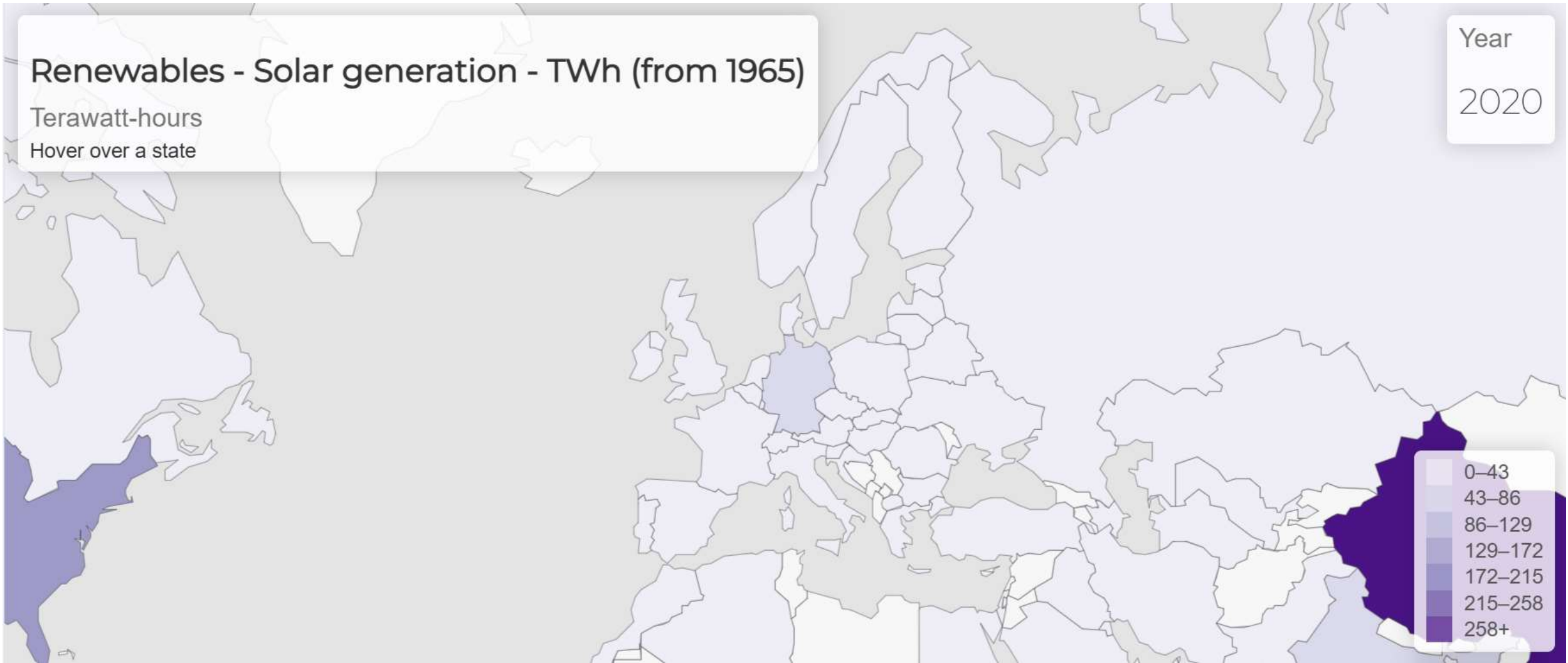
Renewables - Solar generation - TWh (from 1965)

Terawatt-hours

Hover over a state

Year

2020



Behind the data: What exports?

- 2004-2024: 72% increase in waste exports from EU to non-EU
 - 2023: 35 million tonnes
 - 49% (17 million tonnes): non-OECD
- Waste Shipments Regulation (2024)
- From November 2026: 2.5-year ban on plastic exports to non-OECD
- From May 2027: exports subject to explicit request by recipient country + review and approval by EU
- Requests submitted so far: Bangladesh, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **Egypt**, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Moldova, **Monaco**, **Morocco**, Nigeria, North-Macedonia, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Taiwan¹, Thailand, Togo, **Tunisia**, Ukraine, Vietnam

2. Trade

c. Trade in services

EU imports of services from Egypt and Morocco*

Top 5 services, 2023, in € billion



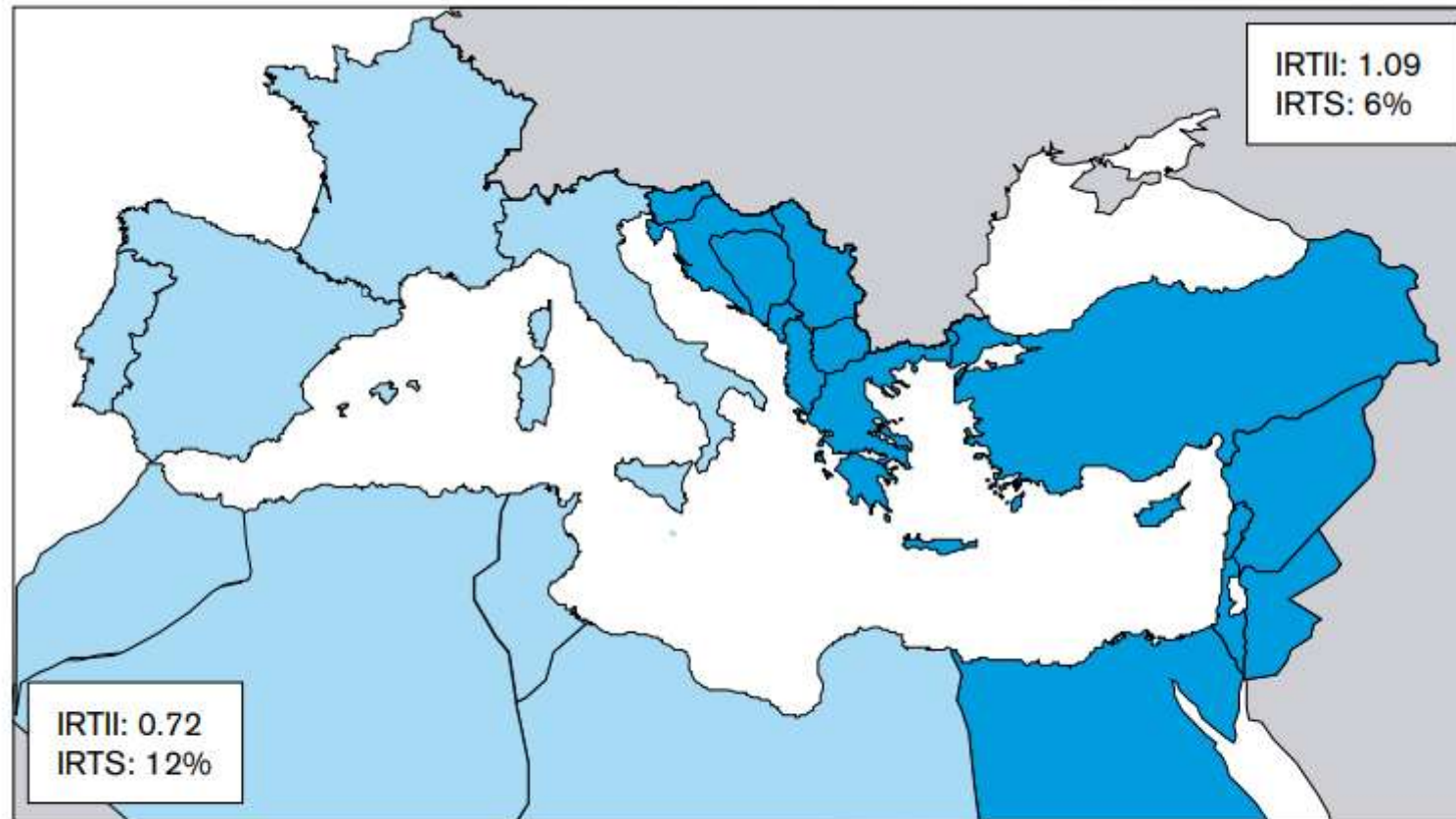
Data source: Eurostat bop_its6_det.

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2. Trade

d. Integration

Intra-regional Trade Intensity Index (IRTII, 2022) Intra-regional Trade Shares (IRTS, 2022) East and West Mediterranean

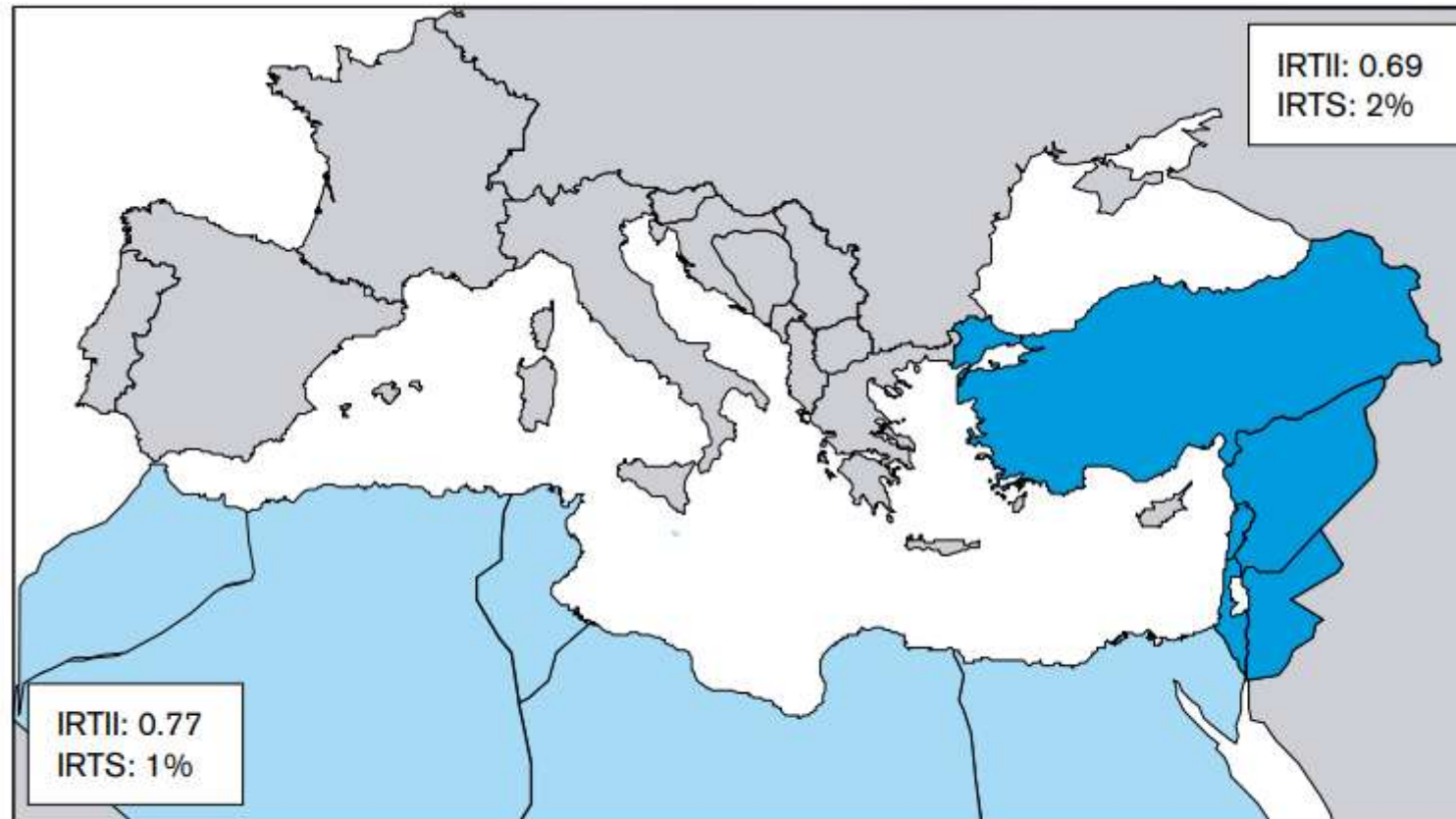


Intra-Med trade: \$818 billion in 2022: 25% Inter sub-regions
63% Intra West
12% Intra East

[IEMe](#)

[d](#)

Intra-regional Trade Intensity Index (IRTII, 2022) Intra-regional Trade Shares (IRTS, 2022) Middle East and North Africa

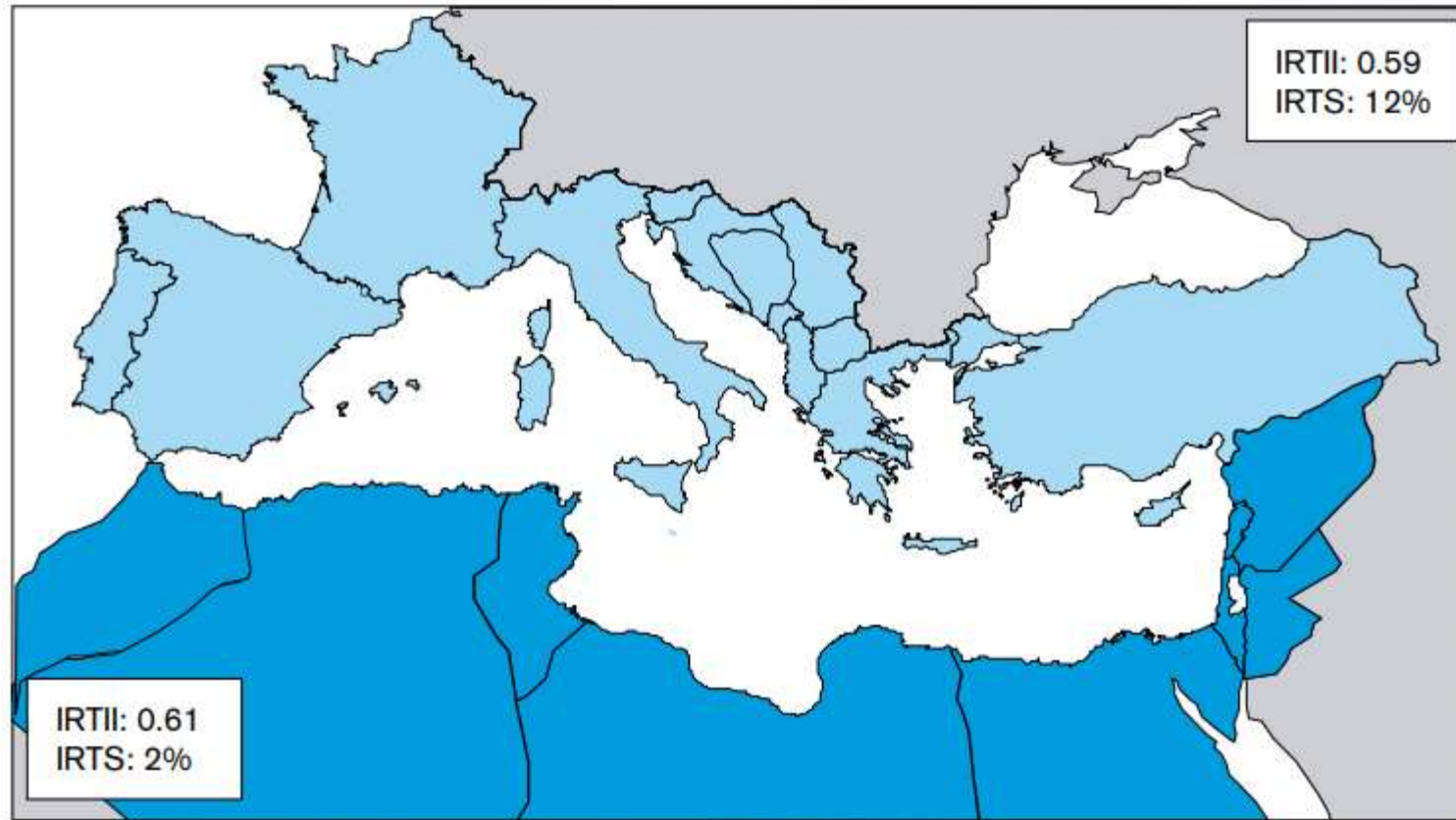


Intra-Med trade: \$818 billion in 2022: 3.1% Inter sub-regions
2.2% Intra Middle East
0.8% Inter North Africa

[IEMe](#)

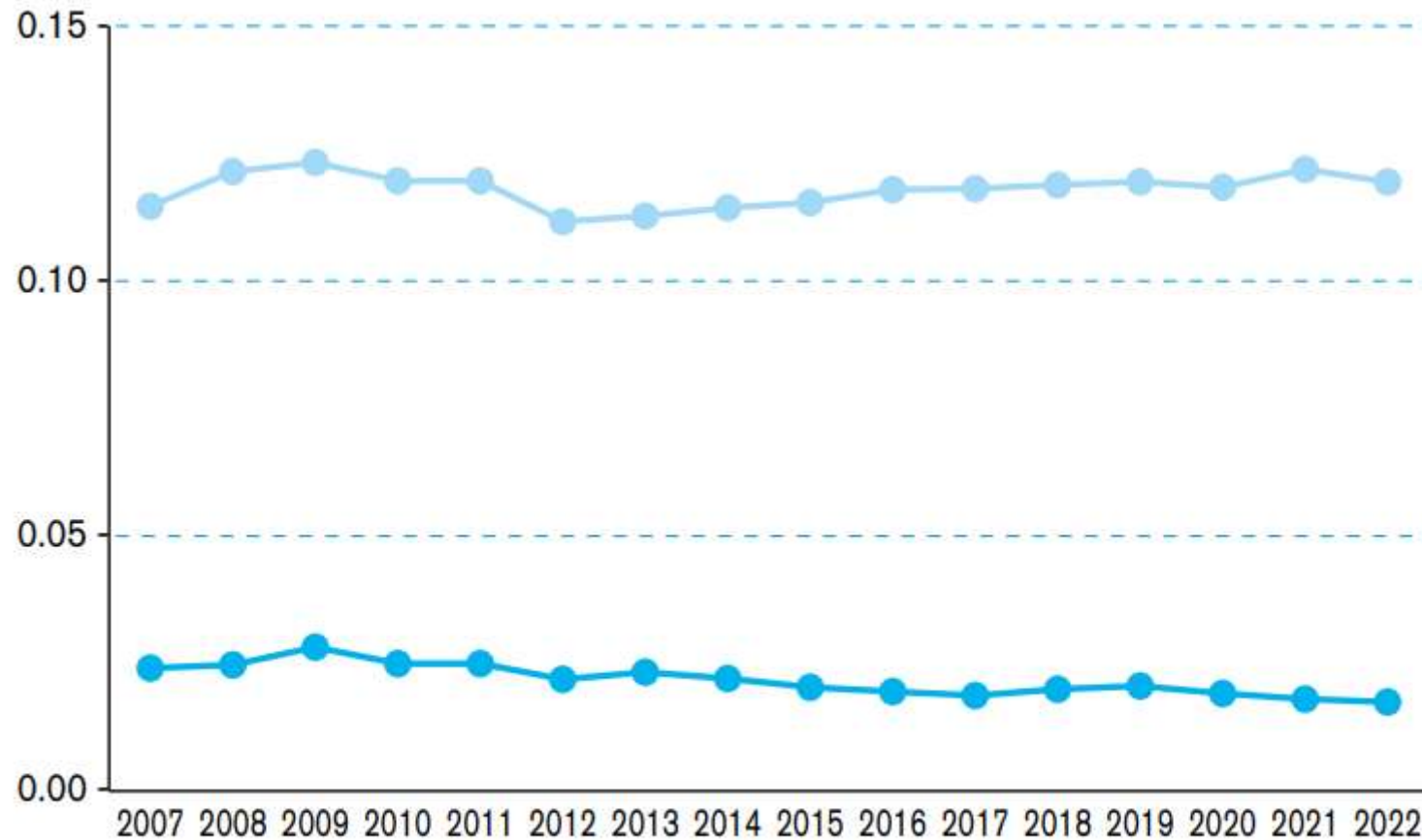
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Intra-regional Trade Intensity Index (IRTII, 2022) Intra-regional Trade Shares (IRTS, 2022) North and South Mediterranean



Intra-Med trade: \$818 billion in 2022: 26% Inter sub regions
73% North Mediterranean
2% South Mediterranean

Intra-regional Trade Shares (IRTS, 2022) North and South Mediterranean



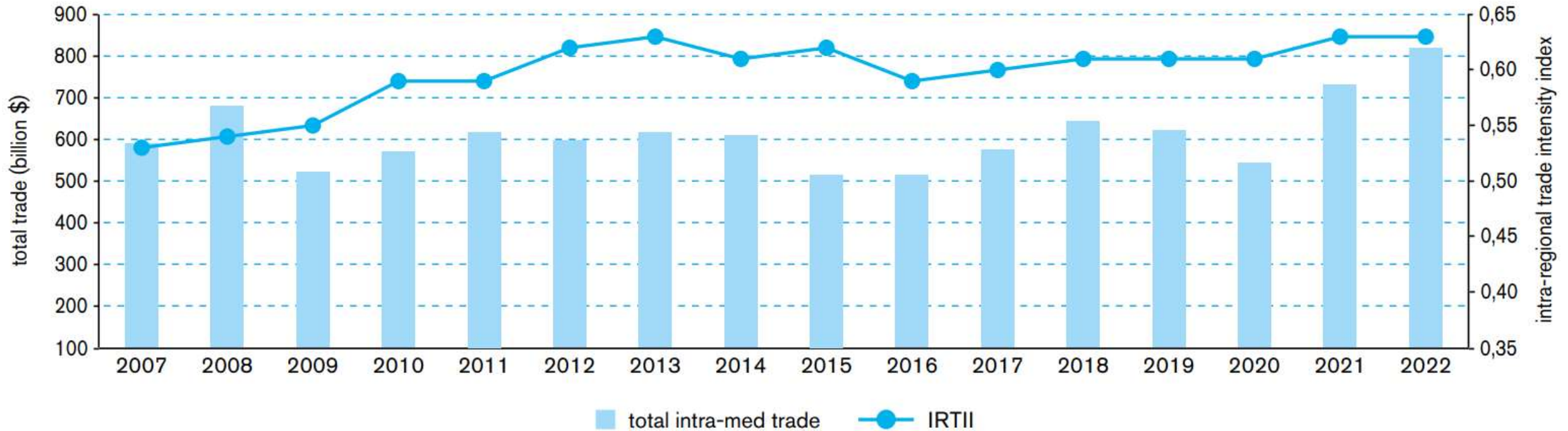
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—●— North

—●— South

Intra-Mediterranean Total Trade and Intra-regional Trade Intensity Index (IRTII) 2007-2022



Trade: Actions

- Goods: Potential for sectoral cooperation on mechanical and electrical goods, vehicles, and aircraft
- Services: Need for coordinated policies and strategies for sustainable and *regenerative* tourism and travel
- Energy: Potential for coordinated regional adoption of renewables
- Waste: Ongoing attempts to rectify serious wrongdoings and rebuild citizen trust
- Integration: Intra-regional divisions

3. Citizens, knowledge, and governance in the Mediterranean

Citizens, knowledge, and governance: Identity

- Social similarities: Some non-EU Mediterranean states: human development and equality indices not very different from some EU MSs
- Growing share of travel and exchange
- Public awareness and sensitivity to shared culture and history, to global injustices, and to new geopolitical dynamics
- Shifting perception of, and associations with, the EU
- Need opportunities for shared governance structures, at various levels, to bring this into practice
- Mediterranean:
 - More than a diet; need for robust data and knowledge
 - Global Flourishing Study
 - Balance, optimism, freedom, mastery
 - Promoting good, hope, gratitude, love, forgiveness, delayed gratification
 - Social relationships and support, belonging, place satisfaction, trust

Citizens, knowledge, and governance: Actions

- Sectoral cooperation outlined earlier
- University partnerships:
 - Double degrees
 - A Mediterranean 'Erasmus': Al Idrisi
 - Joint research funding, addressing weaknesses of traditional projects
 - Environmental and social data partnerships between similar climates and economies
- Financing and action through local governance partnerships:
 - Evidence of sub-national regions taking geopolitical positions
 - Building on twin cities/regions

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