



VALLETTA - MALTA

MED 9 ENERGY MINISTERIAL SUMMIT

18th May 2023

JOINT STATEMENT

We, the EU Med countries of Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain are coming together on the occasion of the first MED 9 Energy Ministerial summit of the Southern Countries of the European Union held in Malta on 18 May 2023. We are hereby confirming our commitment to ensure continuous efforts to improve energy security, energy affordability and to accelerate the transition towards renewable energy. This aligns with the European Union's (EU) collective climate neutrality target to be reached by 2050.

Beyond the challenges that exist in the Mediterranean region, we are committed to work as a region to build up clean, secure and diversified energy sources across the region.

In addition to this statement, we are also seeking to:

1. Establish a common platform for dialogue to ensure that energy issues remain at the forefront of a strengthened Mediterranean cooperation framework in an effort to phase out fossil fuels.
2. Prioritise the investments towards the deployment of renewable energy solutions such as the offshore renewable systems and solar PV power generation systems, production and transportation of renewable hydrogen and storage solutions.
3. Accelerate the deployment of energy interconnections within the EU including member states/regions at the periphery of the EU in order to achieve a truly EU internal energy market.
4. Explore and evaluate interconnections between Southern European Countries of the EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries for exchanges of green energy sources, particularly renewable energy supplies.
5. Promote joint financing of cross-border projects through the available EU funding programmes and push for further budget allocation for such initiatives.
6. Enhance cooperation between countries in the Mediterranean Region to become a hub of Green Energy Corridors through nodes across the southern region.

In view of the above, we have reached a mutual agreement to collaborate in acknowledging the Mediterranean as a hub for green energy particularly renewable energy. We will actively explore how we could develop cooperations with North Africa in addressing energy transition challenges and solutions, including cooperation in green energy production, storage, and transport/trade.

The Med region countries are endowed with the ability to generate renewable energy from wind and solar resources. Coupled with the necessary interconnecting infrastructures, the region has the potential to export green energy such as renewable supplies to other geographies such as other EU partners including North Africa.

This potential provides a concrete opportunity for accelerating Europe's clean energy whilst ensuring security of energy supply. This vision will also create opportunities for investment, new job creation and economic growth in the region.

Way Forward

The Med 9 countries look forward to strengthening collaboration and agree to:

- Invite the EU Commission to conduct a comprehensive report to study and investigate the potential of the Mediterranean region in becoming a corridor of green energy transmission between non-EU countries and EU countries.
- Invite the EU commission to explore options for a reinforced funding for interconnections between EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries especially for countries serving to create these green energy corridors.
- Identify an appropriate governance structure to set up a Steering Committee with the participation of the Med 9 countries, to define a work programme for addressing these goals. This will serve as a platform to realise the full potential for the Med region in the energy transition. The committee will include high level representatives supported with technical and scientific experts.
- Coordinate efforts towards the acceleration of cross-border permitting of transmission and offshore infrastructure in the region.
- Ensure that none of the Med 9 countries are left behind from the opportunities of such green investments.

THE MALTA STATEMENT

ON

THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION AS A HUB OF GREEN ENERGY CORRIDORS

ACCELERATING THE EU'S DRIVE FOR A DECARBONISED, ENERGY-INDEPENDENT FUTURE

Signed in Valletta, Brussels on the 18th of May 2023

The Minister for the Economy and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Croatia

Davor Filipovic

The Minister for the Energy, Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Cyprus

George Papanastasiou

The Minister for the Energy Transition of the French Republic

Agnès Pannier-Runacher

The Secretary-General for Energy and Mineral Resources at the Ministry for Environment and Energy for the Hellenic Republic

Alexandra Sdoukou

The Italian Ambassador to Malta

Fabrizio Romano
o.b.o.
Gilberto Pichetto Fratin
The Minister for the Environment and Energy Security of the Republic of Italy

The Minister for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise of the Republic of Malta

Miriam Dalli

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate for the Portuguese Republic

Ana Fontoura Gouveia

The Minister for Environment, Climate and Energy of the Republic of Slovenia

Bojan Kumer

The Vice-President of the Government of Spain and Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge

Marie Teresa Ribera Rodríguez