



Press Release

Mediterranean Solar Plan: Joint Committee of National Experts discusses Draft of the Master Plan

More than one hundred experts from 20 Euro-Mediterranean countries met at the headquarters of the Union for the Mediterranean to discuss the Draft of the Master Plan, which plans the deployment of an additional 20 GW of renewable energy capacities by 2020 as well as the large development of energy efficiency.

Barcelona, 22 February, 2013. - The Joint Committee of National Experts for the Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP), a flagship UfM initiative aiming at promoting renewable energies and energy efficiency in UfM countries, met from 19 to 21 February in Barcelona at the initiative of the UfM Secretariat. The meeting was organized together with the regional seminar of the EU funded project *"Paving the Way for the MSP"* (PWMSP).

The participants discussed and commented the MSP Master Plan Draft, which has been prepared by the UfM Secretariat after 18 months of intensive work and discussion with all the stakeholders (Member States, European Commission, League of Arab States, Financial institutions, Industry, regional and sub-regional platforms, etc.). The Master Plan deals with the following key issues: developing enabling policy and regulatory frameworks; strengthening financial support tools; upgrading transmission infrastructure systems; supporting industrial development and job creation; enhancing capacity development and know-how transfer.

The meeting was attended by more than one hundred people from 20 countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Turkey, Croatia, Bosnia, Albania, Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Germany and Austria), the European Commission, financial institutions (WB, EIB, AFD, Cassa di Depositi), sub-regional and regional projects and platforms (MEDENER, MEDENEC, MED-TSO, RCREEE, OME, MEDREG), industrial initiatives (DII and Medgrid) and PWMSP experts.

The participants welcomed the documents and presented comments in order to contribute to the text. They emphasized the added value of the MSP as a major regional initiative and the importance of the UfM Energy ministerial meeting to be held in December 2013 to endorse the MSP Master Plan at political level. The ministerial meeting will be prepared in the framework of a High Level official meeting which will take place in Jordan at the end of May.



The Mediterranean Solar Plan was launched in July 2008 at the Paris summit, by the Heads of State and Governments of the 27 EU Member States and 16 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries. Its objective is to develop an additional renewable energy capacity in the region of 20 GW by 2020, as well as energy efficiency.

The main components of the MSP process are the following:

- A regional strategic action plan and roadmap: the MSP Master Plan;
- Common working platforms;
- New financial support tools;
- Pilot projects;
- Capacity Development and other cooperation mechanisms.

The MSP Master Plan constitutes the first comprehensive political document exclusively concerned with region-specific renewable energy and energy efficiency issues and jointly developed by the main stakeholders of both sides of the Mediterranean.

About the UfM

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is a unique Mediterranean institution bringing together 43 countries (27 EU member states and 16 Southern & Eastern Mediterranean countries). It constitutes a platform for coordination and consensus building among its partners.

The Union for the Mediterranean operates from the UfM Secretariat, established in Barcelona in March 2010, and focuses on delivering concrete regional cooperation projects in six priority areas: Higher education, civil & social affairs, transport & urban development, water & environment, energy and business development. As a catalyst of projects, the UfM assists the projects promoters in all the aspects of development and implementation, from project structuring to technical assistance, including financial planning and fund-raising.

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Isabel Pardillos
isabel.pardillos@ufmsecretariat.org
T. +34 935 214 198
www.ufmsecretariat.org