

**MENA-OECD INVESTMENT SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
(ISMED) WORKING GROUP**

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

**Fostering Infrastructure Investment in the MENA Region
*Mitigating Risk in Uncertain Times***

Agenda

9 December 2013

International Energy Agency Headquarters
9, rue de la Fédération
75015 Paris
France

Background

Infrastructure is a key element of the business environment and a generator of employment. Increasing demand for infrastructure in the MENA region is obstructed by declining private investment in major projects due to global economic conditions and political uncertainty in some parts of the region. A range of risk mitigation instruments, such as guarantees, political risk insurance, etc. are key levers that can, at least partially, offset investor apprehensions as MENA governments attempt to secure private investment in difficult conditions.

Objectives

The Conference on *Fostering Infrastructure Investment in the MENA Region: Mitigating Risk in Uncertain Times* will address the facilitation of the private sector decision to invest in infrastructure projects in the MENA region, including under public-private partnership. Discussions will focus in particular on ways to expand the use of existing guarantees and risk-sharing mechanisms.

The Conference will also formally launch the *MENA-OECD Working Group on Investment Security in the Mediterranean (ISMED)*.

About the MENA-OECD Working Group on Investment Security in the Mediterranean (ISMED)

The founding objective of the ISMED Working Group is to develop innovative ideas to enhance the efficiency of legal investment protection measures and guarantee instruments available for medium-to-large scale infrastructure projects in the Mediterranean region.

Its membership will include MENA economies, OECD member countries, and invited international organisations, individual experts or representatives of companies and agencies involved in the field with a view to contribute relevant information and to share their experience.

The ISMED Working Group is part of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme.

About the MENA-OECD Investment Programme

The MENA-OECD Investment Programme (“Programme”) aims to support investment policy reform for growth and jobs creation. Driven by its constituencies in the MENA region, the work of the Programme is structured around several regional networks and country-specific projects, undertaken in collaboration with regional and international partners. They currently include:

- **The Working Group on Investment Policies and Promotion** oversees a number of work streams including infrastructure investment and strengthened regional investment frameworks;
- **The Working Group on SME Policy and Entrepreneurship** oversees a number of initiatives focusing on: improved access to finance; evidence-based policy making through more and better data and information; and measures to support high performance and high growth enterprises;
- The Programme’s activities on **business integrity** promote anti-bribery policies, improved corporate governance and responsible business conduct using tested OECD instruments and leveraging existing networks in the MENA region;
- The OECD-MENA Women’s Business Forum, (WBF) aims to further **integrate women in the economy**;
- Targeted and country-specific assistance and capacity-building for national government officials and authorities, for example in Iraq.

More information about the Programme is available at: <http://www.oecd.org/mena/investment/aboutthemena-oecdinvestmentprogramme.htm>

Monday 9 December 2013
International Energy Agency Headquarters, Room n°1

9:00-09:30	Registration of Participants
9:30-10:30	Session 1 : Opening Roundtable and Election of Co-Chairs
	<p><i>Welcoming remarks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rintaro Tamaki, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD <p><i>Opening panel:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Mohamed Louafa, Minister Delegate to the Head of Government, in charge of General Affairs and Governance, Morocco • H.E. Mr. Fathallah Sijilmassi, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean • EU Representative, European Commission (TBC) • H.E. Ms. Elisabeth Guigou, MP, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, France • H.E. Mr. Fared Yasseen, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to France <p><i>Election of the co-chairs of the MENA-OECD ISMED Working Group</i></p>
10.30-10.45	Press Conference
10:45-12:45	Session 2: Managing risk in MENA region infrastructure projects
	<p><i>This roundtable session will bring together public officials from the MENA countries and high-level representatives from the private sector to discuss opportunities and challenges in undertaking infrastructure projects in the MENA region.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Marcos Bonturi, Director, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Pascale Andreani, Permanent Representative of France to the OECD or Mr. Serge Telle, Head of Inter-ministerial Delegation to the Mediterranean (DiMed), Prime Minister's Office, France (TBC) • Officials from MENA countries • Mr. Radhi Meddeb, President of IPEMED • Ms. Florence Mangin, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations, France • Mr. Renaud Sorieul, Director, International Trade Law Division, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (Uncitral), • Representative of the Confederation of International Contractors' Associations (CICA) (TBC) • Representative from the private sector (TBC)
12:45-13:00	Session 3: Concluding statements
13:00-14:30	Buffet hosted by the OECD

14:30-16:30	Session 4: Activities of the MENA-OECD ISMED Working Group in 2014
	<p><i>In this session, the Working Group will propose future orientations and activities and seek guidance from members on its Programme for 2014. The discussions will aim to identify output areas for the different task forces that are to be constituted.</i></p> <p><i>Introductory remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Alexander Böhmer, Head of Unit, MENA-OECD Investment Programme <p><i>Presentation of the ISMED Support Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Carl Dawson, ISMED Support Programme Co-ordinator, MENA-OECD Investment Programme <p><i>General Discussion</i></p> <p>Moderators : Mr. Olivier De Saint-Lager, Inter-ministerial Delegation to the Mediterranean (DiMed), Prime Minister's Office, France ; Representative of Iraq (TBC)</p> <p>Discussants :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Olivier Lambert, Regional Manager for Europe Middle East Africa, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) • Mr. Jean-Marie Masse, Senior Adviser, European Investment Bank (EIB) • Mr. Anthony Sykes, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Europe Limited <p><i>Presentations of the task forces including :</i></p> <p>Task Force on Arbitration: Mr. Renaud Sorieul, Director, International Trade Law Division, Uncitral</p> <p>Task Force on PPP: Mr. Roger Fiszelson, Director General, Confederation of International Contractors' Associations (CICA)</p>

MENA-OECD Investment Programme

(www.oecd.org/mena/investment)

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