

Climate Finance for the Mediterranean: Leveraging private sector investments and the EU Global Gateway

Speakers and Panelists



Hossam Eldin Abdelwahab

Vice Chairman of Banque Misr, Egypt

Hossam Eldin Abdelwahab joined Banque Misr in October 2018 as Vice Chairman. Formerly, Mr. Abdelwahab was the Deputy Chief Executive Officer in Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, where he managed the Retail, Branches, and SMEs Divisions from 2016 until September 2018. Mr. Abdelwahab began his banking career in 1989 at Gulf Bank in Kuwait before moving to Procter & Gamble in 1991, climbing up the ranks throughout his tenure of nine years in the company.

During that time, he held the position of Head of Investments. In 2000, he joined Investia Venture Capital as a manager of Investments. In 2001, Mr. Abdelwahab joined Citibank Egypt, taking on leadership positions from 2001 to 2006 in the fields of fraud risk management, collection, distribution, and operations. He then moved to Citibank's EMEA regional office in London, as Vice President of Credit Operations in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa from 2006 to 2008. Later, he took the position of Head of Retail Banking at Bank Audi Egypt from 2008 to 2012, before moving to the Arab Banking Corporation, where he held the position of Executive Board Member and Head of Retail Banking and Branches from 2012 to 2016.

Mr. Abdelwahab received his bachelor's degree in Commerce from the Faculty of Commerce, Economics, and Political Science at Kuwait University.



Lionel Rapaille

Director Lending operations in the EU Neighbouring Countries EIB Global. European Investment Bank

Lionel Rapaille joined the European Investment Bank (EIB) in 2008 as a loan officer covering operations in the Middle East and Eastern European countries. He became Head of the division covering public sector lending operations in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia in 2016. Later on, he was responsible for the division covering financial instruments, infrastructure and public sector operations in Baltic States and Poland.

He was appointed Director for lending operations in EU Neighbouring Countries in April 2022. Before joining the EIB, Lionel held various positions dealing with project and leveraged finance operations in the finance department of Veolia Water group and in the Telecom, Media & Technology practice of Credit Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank. He holds a Master of Science in Engineering from Telecom ParisTech (1998).



Alessandra Sgobbi

Head of Sector Connectivity, climate and environment, European Commission, Directorate General for Neighbourhood & Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)

Alessandra heads the Connectivity, Climate change and environment team of the European Commission's Directorate General for Neighbourhood & Enlargement Negotiations.

Until March 2022, she co-chaired the Adaptation Committee, the principal body providing expert guidance

on adaptation and ensuring that adaptation is addressed coherently under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Previously, Alessandra coordinated the European Commission's team dealing with international climate change negotiations on adaptation and loss and damage, as well as adaptation issues in least developed countries in the Directorate General for Climate Action. Before joining the European Commission, she was Environmental Affairs Officer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, focusing on green and sustainable development in the continent.

Alessandra holds a PhD in Analysis and Governance of Sustainable Development, School for Advanced Studies in Venice Foundation (Italy) and a M.Sc. in Environment and Resource Economics, University College London (UK).



Yaseen Abdel Ghaffar
Managing Director, SolarizEgypt

Yaseen is the Managing Director and Founder of SolarizEgypt. He holds a BSc in Chemistry from The American University in Cairo. Prior to founding SolarizEgypt, he held managerial and technical roles in local and international companies including Edita Food Industries and ExxonMobil Egypt. His exposure to successfully operating companies and his experience within the energy sector prepared him to bring his dream to life in 2013, when he founded SolarizEgypt. He dedicated the past 6 years in developing the financial engineering, strategy and vision necessary to compete in a heavily subsidized energy market. Yaseen dedicates his time and effort to ensuring that Egypt realizes its full potential through achieving energy independence and ultimately becoming an energy exporter. He serves on the board of advisors for The American University's School of Engineering and Sciences, bridging the gap between industry and academia. He also serves on the board of advisors for the Micro, Small, Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSME).

Moderator



Regine Qualmann

Head of Division for North Africa, GIZ

Regine Qualmann is currently Director of the North Africa Division at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Formerly, she served as Country Director for GIZ in Tanzania and held various managing positions in GIZ's Sector Department. Before joining GIZ, she worked as an adviser to the SADC Secretariat in Botswana and was a Research Fellow at the German Development Institute. Ms. Qualmann is an economist with a master's degree from Tübingen and a PhD from the University of Leipzig. Her professional interests are in Private Sector Development, Employment Promotion and achieving a Green Economy, and her geographical focus has been on the African continent.