Concept Note

Accelerating the Mediterranean Energy Transition through Local Action: Clean Energy, Efficiency and Resilient Cities

Date & Time: 11 November 2026 – 16:30 – 17:30 (Antalya, UTC+3)
Venue: UfM Pavilion, COP31
Format: In person session
Organizer: EE&RE Working Group of the UfM Energy Platform (MEDENER and RCREEE)

Description of the session

Mediterranean cities play a key role in accelerating the energy transition amid rising energy demand and energy security challenges. Achieving tangible results requires integrated local action on energy efficiency, renewable energy, resilient infrastructure and sustainable urban development. Within the framework of the UfM Energy Platform, its Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Working Group, MEDENER and RCREEE are bringing together regional stakeholders to explore how cooperation can strengthen municipal capacities and mobilize investment.

Building on the proposals submitted for the Mediterranean Pavilion, the discussion will connect local action with wider regional priorities, including energy-efficiency accountability, electricity-system integration and electrification, renewable energy solutions for islands and remote territories, energy-system resilience under climate and geopolitical stress, and the development of competitive green industries. It will highlight how these interconnected dimensions can support a more secure, inclusive and resilient Mediterranean energy transition.

Objectives

The session aims to:

- Explore how regional cooperation and national energy frameworks can translate into concrete municipal action.
- Highlight solutions linking renewable energy, energy efficiency, electrification, storage and resilient energy infrastructure.
- Examine how local authorities, national institutions, industry and regional initiatives can strengthen governance, accountability and progress towards energy and climate targets.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen partnerships and replicate successful approaches across Mediterranean cities, islands and territories.

Format and Agenda

- The session will open with institutional opening remarks by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Secretariat, highlighting the UfM's role in providing a regional framework for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and advancing the shared energy priorities of its Member States through the UfM Energy Platform.
- This will be followed by a moderated discussion entitled "**Connecting Regional Cooperation with Local Implementation**", structured around three complementary pillars.
- Duration: 60 minutes

Agenda		
Time	**Item**	**Speaker**
16:30 – 16:35	**Opening remarks**: Advancing Mediterranean energy cooperation through the UfM Energy Platform	**Joan Borrell, UfM**
16:35-17:15	**Moderated discussion:** Connecting regional cooperation with local implementation through three pillars **Pillar 1:** Empowering municipalities and improving local energy performance ▪ Municipal energy transition and sustainable cities ▪ Energy efficiency accountability **Pillar 2:** Developing clean, decentralized and resilient energy systems ▪ Renewable energy solutions for islands ▪ Energy-system resilience **Pillar 3:** Strengthening partnerships for North Africa's clean power transition ▪ Moving beyond renewable generation to address grids, storage, system operations and investment frameworks. ▪ Comparing partnership approaches and identifying North African priorities.	**Nadia Chioukh, RCREEE** - **Roberta Boniotti, MEDENER,** - **Richard Smith, E3G** - **Gianni Chianetta, Greening the Islands Foundation** - **Catalina Cecchi, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions - C2ES** - **Hajar Khamlichi, Pooled fund on International Energy - PIE/TeraMED**
17:15-17:25	Open Q & A	
17:25-17:30	Key takeaways and closing remarks	MEDENER / RCREEE