



Implementation of the Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP). A twinned approach: building a shared medium term roadmap (the MSP Master Plan), supporting pilot projects while contributing to the development of innovative financial tools

1/ Background:

- The MSP deals with the generation of new renewable energy, mainly wind and solar, capacities (at least 20 GW of new capacities by 2020), transmission of electricity and energy efficiency.
- Paris declaration states that the UFM Secretariat is “tasked to explore the feasibility, creation and development of the MSP”.
- The UFM Member States experts discussed and endorsed a Strategy paper which requires the elaboration of a Master Plan and defines its main elements.
- UFMS work program calls upon the UfMS to “coordinate the development of the Master Plan in close cooperation with the European Commission and the UfM Member States”, “to establish a platform in the coming weeks with the European Commission, the Member States of the UfM and the IFIs” and to “set up a network of experts”.

2/ Goals, content structures and working methods :

- The Master Plan will focus on the framework conditions allowing the implementation of the MSP. A roadmap will set out the nature of policy measures and projects undertaken in the context of the MSP.
- The following issues will be addressed: adequate legal, regulatory, institutional, and infrastructural environments for the large-scale, market-driven deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in the UfM area; identification of appropriate funding and support mechanisms capable of supporting this process; transfer of knowledge, development of national renewable energies industry in the southern and eastern UFM countries.



- pilot projects will be identified and supported ; innovative financing tools will be discussed and proposed. In this respect, the MSP is both an energy project and a major environmental project aiming at mitigating climate change and should benefit. It should be supported with all the available climate change finance tools (CDM as well as new tools currently being discussed in the UNFCCC)
- The preparation of the Master Plan will involve all the stakeholders. Several platforms will be set up for that purpose: a Joint Committee of National Experts with all the Member States focal points will be the main body (documents will be discussed and endorsed there); a Drafting Group with the most committed Member States will prepare JC meetings; a Technical Expertise Network (IFIs, business association, civil society, professional organizations...) and a business network (individual firms) will provide valuable input.
- The MS Master Plan will take advantage of the input provided by large technical assistance programs and studies undertaken by different partners in particular by the “Paving the way to the MSP” EC program.
- Pilot projects will be identified and supported using UFM procedures. The experience gained in their development will be taken into account in the Master Plan
- The Master plan should be drawn up by end 2012.

3/ achievements so far:

- A discussion paper has been drafted and circulated in December 2010
- The stakeholders endorsed this approach during the 10th February kick off meeting in Brussels (110 participants, 25 Member States, IFI's..., Industry) which was the first meeting prepared (in coordination with the European Commission) and chaired by the Secretariat. The Member States underlined the key role of the UFMS in this process.
- The kick off meeting of the working group on MSP financial issues was launched with the EIB and IEMED the 29th March
- Engagement of an in depth dialogue with all the stakeholders in particular with the Member States.



4/ next steps: build the necessary platforms, identify and support projects, contribute to the development of the MSP financial tools:

- 5 and 6 July: 1st Joint committee of Member States national experts
- 2nd half 2011: Identification and evaluation of pilot projects
- End 2011: concrete and appropriate proposals to be made by the working group on financial issues; Joint Committee, Technical Network and Business Network meetings