

## **UfM Ministerial Declaration on Energy**

The Ministers in charge of energy, meeting in Rome on 1 December 2016 under the Union for the Mediterranean Co-presidency of H.E. Ibrahim Saif, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and of H.E. Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, for the European Union, in the presence of UfM Secretary-General Ambassador Fathallah Sijilmassi

### **Recalling**

- the Joint Declaration of the Summit for the Mediterranean in Paris on 13 July 2008, and the mandate assigned to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean;
- the UfM Ministerial Conference on Energy, in Brussels, on 11 December 2013;
- the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change, in Athens, on 13 May 2014;
- the Euro-Mediterranean High-level Conference on Gas, in Malta, on 10 and 11 July 2014;
- the High-Level Conference on Euro-Mediterranean Energy Cooperation, in Rome, on 19 November 2014;
- the decision of the UFM Senior Officials regarding regional energy cooperation, in Brussels, on 31 March 2015;
- the UfM Ministerial meeting on Regional Cooperation and Planning, at the Dead Sea, on 2 June 2016,

### **Aware of**

- the major role that climate change, the Paris Agreement reached during COP21 in Paris, and the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals now occupy in the global agenda, together with the growing complexity of the energy context, new gas sources discoveries, and the shift in major demand and supply centers,
- the added value that a regional and holistic approach can deliver in addressing the energy challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean Region;
- the massive renewable as well as conventional energy potential that the region possesses and the huge benefits to be gained from working together to harness that potential;
- the massive potential of the region in terms of energy efficiency to save energy, create jobs, save money for citizens and industry, and reduce carbon emissions in a cost effective way;
- the benefits to the region's peoples and economies of both a secure, affordable and sustainable energy supply and a secure, predictable and sustainable energy demand;

- the importance of building strong energy cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean Region through a shared vision and common priorities;
- the priority of the European Union to complete the EU Internal Energy Market, reinforced by the Energy Union Strategy, one of whose five core dimensions aims at a fully integrated European energy market; as well as the priority of the national energy strategies of UfM members.
- the growing importance of the implementation of the existing national renewable energy plans
- the importance of having a well interconnected Euro-Mediterranean Region to promote economic development and improve the security of supply for consumers and the security of demand for producers.

### **Willing to**

- foster sustainable development by ensuring that all consumers and industry have access to a secure, sustainable, affordable and reliable energy supply and to modern energy services;
- contribute to the transition towards low-emission and energy-efficient economies and societies;
- promote economic growth, social progress and job creation while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the respect of national commitments;
- fully involve, where appropriate all relevant stakeholders, public and private, and, where relevant, along with civil society, in securing robust and sustainable deliverables and to work closely with financial institutions identifying the best way of using existing initiatives and inspiring future ones;
- promote the development and exploitation of the renewable as well as conventional energy resources of the UfM Members targeting the optimization of energy export revenues, the preservation of energy resources, , as well as energy efficiency of the UfM Members through the necessary energy investments in infrastructure and interconnections and smart management of grids;
- promote viable investments taking into account the infrastructure costs, the social economic benefits of the projects in terms of, security of supply, security of demand, markets integration, competition and sustainability, growth and employment in the UfM Region;
- develop capacity-building and other cooperation mechanisms, including in the field of energy research and innovation, facilitating the transfer of knowhow and exchange of best practices and technology, the market uptake of innovative solutions and the development of capabilities at all levels;
- enhance discussions on energy in the frame of the UfM through the three UfM Energy Platforms, building over the progress achieved in the framework of Euro-Mediterranean energy cooperation;
- identify common grounds and work on joint solutions that can maximize the benefits for all UfM Members;

- promote a continuous interaction with the industry , allowing a better long term planning of its investments as well as industrial integration and promote new and improved sources of financing, inter alia through transparent and coordinated regulatory frameworks;

### **Acknowledging that**

- the promotion and development of renewable energies and energy efficiency, the further development of the gas market, including reliable supply transportation and, where relevant, transit of natural gas, and the progressive integration of electricity markets have a key role to play in responding to energy challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- **the UfM Gas Platform** aims at establishing a regional structured dialogue facilitating the progressive development of a Euro-Mediterranean gas grid and market to promote security, transparency, and predictability of both demand and supply in a manner that correctly and fairly balances the interest of producing and consuming countries, provides the basis of the long-term and the secure development of the abundant reserves in the region and promote the use of natural gas and the UfM Gas Platform will also aim at achieving secure, affordable and sustainable natural gas supplies for the benefit of the citizens and economies of the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- **the UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform** aims at the progressive integration of electricity systems and markets in the UfM region and, in particular, at the enhancement of electricity exchanges and interconnections and smart management of grids, in order to achieve a secure, affordable, and sustainable electricity supply for the benefit of people and economies in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- **the UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform** aims at promoting the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in generation, transmission, distribution and energy end use in order to foster sustainable socio-economic development, to promote job creation , to help ensure that all consumers and industry in the region have access to secure, affordable and reliable modern energy services, and to support mitigation and adaptation to climate change and energy efficient economies in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- the working guidelines for the three UfM Energy Platforms were adopted via silence procedure in August 2015 and may be amended to take account of future developments;

### **Underlining**

- The overarching principles of the UfM as agreed upon by all Parties in the Paris Declaration (July 2008);
- the important role of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in enhancing regional dialogue and cooperation, supporting integration and partnership,

## HEREBY

1. **CALL FOR** a coherent regional and inclusive approach across the three UfM Energy Platforms, namely the UfM Gas Platform, the UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform (UfM REM Platform) and the UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform (UfM REEE Platform);
2. **EMPHASIZE** the need for all three UfM Energy Platforms to focus their work on the following overarching priorities:
  - identifying synergies related to the integration of inter-related trading markets, facilitating the planning and development of interconnections, inter alia through the promotion of exchange of information, energy storage and other infrastructures, as well as the assessment of energy markets and different demand and supply challenges.
  - strengthening the interconnections, including those necessary to complete the EU internal energy market, in order to facilitate the integration of renewable energies and strengthen energy security within the UfM region;
  - Facilitating the integration of renewable energies within the UfM region, by completing the EU internal energy market; by promoting **interconnections development at regional and Euromed level, taking into account cost-benefit**; and by promoting adequate support schemes where necessary and streamlined administrative procedures;
  - supporting **capacity-building** among UfM Members and relevant stakeholders, as well as **public awareness and involvement** on issues such as the contribution of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the fight against climate change;
  - encouraging the **formulation and implementation of financially and technically viable energy projects of common interest of UfM Members by consensus**, as well as exploring new dynamics in the process of developing and financing these projects;
  - promoting **private investment** through the engagement of the **private sector** and **financial institutions** in demonstrating business models in variable national contexts;
  - facilitating the use of **innovative financial mechanisms** for promoting investments;
  - mobilizing necessary funding for realization of concrete and needed investments; exchanging best practices; and promoting favourable conditions to attract private investments and maximize their positive impact in terms of **national and regional economic growth, innovation, and job creation**;
  - promoting innovation and technology cooperation schemes and **technical cooperation** in all relevant aspects to identify ways to progressively implement them at the sub regional and/or regional level.
  - contributing to a suitable **institutional and regulatory framework** to facilitate the development of gas and electricity exchanges, inter alia through the cooperation between regulatory authorities and other relevant bodies, as well as the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, while fully taking into account and respecting national circumstances, specificities, priorities, decisions concerning energy mix and national energy targets ;

- for those countries where structures make it relevant and who are willing to, supporting the involvement of **local authorities** in the promotion, deployment, and scaling up of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions that are compatible with securing a high quality of life for their citizens;
  - optimization of efficient use of existing infrastructure;
3. **ENDORSE** the two-year work programmes established for the three UfM Energy Platforms;
  4. **ENCOURAGE** the UfM Energy Platforms to seek to identify specific targets, to encourage strong coordination between work in the context of each UfM Energy Platform and work at country level, and to report to the UfM Senior Officials on the progress of their work annually – with the first report to be given by the end of 2017;
  5. **INVITE** the UfM Co-Presidency, in collaboration with the UfM Secretariat, to coordinate the work of the UfM Energy Platforms, involving the relevant actors in the manner set out in the Working Guidelines;
  6. **for those countries where structures make it relevant and who are willing,** explore the possibilities, notably in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors to better coordinate ongoing and future efforts by local authorities in promoting and deploying renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in addressing the adaptation challenges that a changing climate poses;
  7. **AGREE** to reconvene in principle in two years to discuss the appropriate follow-up;
  8. **EXPRESS** their gratitude to the Government of Italy for its warm hospitality and to the UfM Secretariat for helping convene this meeting.