



DIALOGUE 2

**ACCELERATING THE ENERGY TRANSITION
IN THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN REGION:**

Key Factors and Challenges

16 June 2021 – 18h00 – 19h15 CEST

Languages: English / French / Spanish with simultaneous translation

Virtual event: Zoom platform / Live in YouTube / Palau Macaya

Organized by

ACCELERATING THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION: Key Factors and Challenges

PRESENTATION

The energy landscape of the Mediterranean region is undergoing significant changes that are driven by critical factors and challenges. On one side, primary energy demand in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries is expected to rise substantially over the next 25 years. Driven by economic development, demographic growth and rapid urbanization, it will pose a significant challenge to energy security.

On the other side, the Mediterranean region is confronted with the climate change challenge like no other region in the world. Mitigating its intensity requires a radical shift to decarbonised energy scenario that allows to meet the Paris Agreement's targets. However, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries still rely significantly on fossil fuels which contribute massively to carbon emissions, with forecasts projecting the dominance of the fossil fuel-based energy mix for the next 20 years. If renewables are gaining considerable traction within the Mediterranean energy landscape, countries of the region have still a long way to go to achieve their energy transition (especially in terms of energy efficiency). In this endeavour, they can rely on a tremendous renewable energy potential which makes them the unavoidable partners of the EU in achieving its climate ambition.

In order to meet the challenge of the decarbonisation while ensuring energy security, both lying at the basis of the Sustainable Development Goal 7 ("Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all"), efforts must be stepped up in the Mediterranean region in the coming years. Thus, understanding the factors and challenges for the acceleration of the energy transition remains essential to develop coherent strategies, implement concrete actions, and seize the enormous opportunity for regional cooperation and integration, that will decisively contribute to advance towards the delivery of SDG 7 in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

- What is the potential in terms of renewable energy production in the South of the Mediterranean region? And in terms of energy efficiency?
- What are the main challenges when scaling up efforts on sustainable energy in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean countries?
- To what extent fossil-fuel and oil energy dependence in the Eastern Mediterranean can significantly challenge the energy transition in the region?
- Can the EU Green Deal spur the energy transition in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries? What role for the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation framework?
- What are the challenges regarding the financing of the energy transition in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries? What factors can help attract private investments?
- How can recovery plans integrate the energy transition as an engine for post-COVID-19 sustainable growth in the region?



**ACCELERATING THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE
SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION:**
Key Factors and Challenges

SPEAKERS

Moderator

Grammenos Mastrojeni, Deputy Secretary General in charge of Energy and Climate Action, Union for the Mediterranean

Guest Speaker

Moncef Harrabi (Tunisia), International Expert in Energy. Former Chairman, Observatoire méditerranéen de l'Énergie (OME)