



*Mission of the kingdom of Morocco  
to the EU and NATO*



A common green horizon:  
**EXPLOITING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE  
EU-MOROCCO GREEN PARTNERSHIP**

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**27 october 2023**

Venue:  
Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)  
Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels

The current climate emergency and environmental degradation make it inevitable that our economic models will have to change in order to ensure a sustainable future. Faced with this existential threat, the European Union is determined to build a new economic model to achieve climate neutrality by 2050: the EU Green Deal. The EU Green Deal is a genuine ambition to transform the economy and societies, and a strategy to ensure the EU's future prosperity. It recognises that this transformation cannot be achieved without close cooperation with the rest of the world.

In the south of a Mediterranean region that is facing faster global warming than elsewhere, the Kingdom of Morocco is a leader in climate action and green transition. Its proactive policy, which has been in place for more than a decade based on the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) and the Green Morocco Plan, its renewable energy development model and its climate activism make it an example to follow for many developing countries.

It is in this context that the Kingdom of Morocco and the European Union signed on 18 October 2022 a Green Partnership, the first initiative of this type by the EU with a partner country in the framework of the external dimension of the EU Green Deal. This partnership aims to accelerate convergence between the two parties on issues such as the environment, climate and sustainable development based on the EU Green Deal's roadmap, launched in December 2019, and the Moroccan National Strategy for Sustainable Development adopted in June 2017. More specifically, the partnership will focus on three main thematic axes: climate and energy; the environment, including marine and maritime issues; and the green economy, while serving as an example to other countries in the southern and eastern Mediterranean.

In this context, the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), the Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the EU, and the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), are organising a seminar in Brussels to exchange with European and national decision-makers on the potential of the EU-Morocco Green Partnership in areas such as energy transition and the green economy. The event, which will take place during the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU, will bring together policy makers, researchers and private sector representatives with a twofold objective: (1) to assess the potential of this partnership for increasing energy interdependence between the two parties, with a view to further developing the deployment of renewable energies; (2) and to explore the opportunities that this partnership offers to the rest of the southern Mediterranean region, placing Morocco once again as a pioneering partner of the EU.

With the support of



## PROGRAMME

13.00 – 14.10 **Networking Lunch**

14.00 – 14.05 **Welcoming Words**

**Dr. Cinzia Alcidi**, Director of Research, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

14.05 – 15.00 **High-level Keynote Speeches**

**H.E. Leila Benali**, Minister, Energy Transition & Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco

**H.E. Kadri Simson**, European Commissioner for Energy

**H.E. Ricardo Mourinho Felix**, Vice-President, European Investment Bank (EIB)

**Mr. Pablo Barbará Gómez**, Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Spain in the European Union

15.00 – 16.20 **Session 1 – The Energy Transition as a Matrix for the EU-Morocco Green Partnership: Strategies and Development Potential for Green Hydrogen**

*Moderator*

**Ms. Anna Gumbau**, Energy and Climate Journalist

*Speakers*

**Mr. Gert Jan Koopman**, Director General, Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission

**Mr. Tarik Hamane**, Delegate Director General, Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (MASEN)

**Mr. Jörg Dux**, Head of team Water and Waste Management North Africa, KfW

**Mr. Frank Mischler**, Director International PtX Hub, GIZ

*Comments by*

**Mr. Ignacio Urbasos**, Energy Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute

*Q & A with the Audience*

16.20 – 16.30 **Coffee Break**

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16.30 – 17.45 **Session 2 - Developing Regional and Triangular Cooperation for the Green Transition:  
The Green Partnership as a Driver of Regional Integration**

*Moderator*

**Ms. Anna Gumbau**, Energy and Climate Journalist

*Speakers*

**Ms. Diana Acconcia**, Director for International Affairs and Climate Finance, DG CLIMA, European Commission

**Mr. Reda Hamedoun**, Vice-President, NAREVA Holding

**Mr. Lionel Rapaille**, Director of EIB Global – Enlargement & Neighbourhood Department

*Comments by*

**Ms. Lorena Stella Martini**, Policy Advisor – Foreign Policy, ECCO Climate

*Q & A with the Audience*

17.45 – 18.00 **Closing Words**

**Mr. Allal Ouazzani**, Minister Plenipotentiary Chargé d'affaires a.i., Mission of the kingdom of Morocco to the EU and NATO

**Dr. Cinzia Alcidi**, Director of Research, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

**Mr. Antoine Apprioual**, Programme Manager, Sustainable Development and Regional Integration, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

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