report

COMMON GREEN HORIZON:
Exploiting the Full Potential of the EU-Morocco Green Partnership

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Brussels, 27th October 2023

In collaboration, the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), and the Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the EU and NATO co-organized the event Common Green Horizon: Exploiting the Full Potential of the EU-Morocco Green Partnership, held on the 27th of October 2023. **This significant gathering convened esteemed dignitaries, including the Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco, the European Commissioner of Energy, and the Vice President of the European Investment Bank.**

Acknowledging the pressing need for global action on climate change and energy security, the participants recognized the paramount importance of international cooperation and the shared commitment to shaping a sustainable future. The event served as a pivotal platform for fostering dialogue, collaboration, and strategic initiatives between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco, leading to a renewed sense of purpose and urgency in addressing the challenges.

During the discussions, **the participants commended the progress made in the EU-Morocco Green Partnership and acknowledged its potential to serve as a beacon of green cooperation for the international community.** Emphasizing the significance of the partnership, they underscored **the need for continuous innovation, investment, and policy alignment to accelerate the transition to a green economy.**

Key Points Discussed:

1. **Collaborative Initiatives: Participants recognized the need for collaborative initiatives focusing on renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity conservation.** They emphasized the importance of joint research, knowledge exchange, and technology transfer to enhance the green transition process.

2. **Investment and Financing:** The participants acknowledged the crucial role of public and private investment in driving sustainable development. **They called for the mobilization of financial resources, innovative funding mechanisms, and the active involvement of IFIs.**

3. **Policy Alignment: The event highlighted the importance of aligning policies and regulations to level the playing field for all actors and create an enabling environment for green investments.** Participants emphasized the necessity of coherent and harmonized policies that facilitate the transition to renewable energy sources and promote energy efficiency across sectors.

4. **Call for an External African Dimension to EU-Morocco Green Partnership (EUMGP): Participants emphasized the need to incorporate an external African dimension into the EUMGP initiative.** This involves fostering partnerships with African States, regional organizations, and non-governmental

entities to collaboratively promote the EUMGP model. Recognizing the interconnectedness of global issues, the call for an African dimension underscores the importance of international cooperation and inclusive policy frameworks.

5. **Social Inclusivity: The participants emphasized the importance of ensuring social inclusivity in green initiatives, ensuring that vulnerable communities are not left behind.** They highlighted the need for targeted programs that create employment opportunities, especially in green sectors, and address social disparities.

In conclusion, the **participants expressed their gratitude for the fruitful discussions and reaffirmed their commitment to the shared goals of the EU-Morocco Green Partnership.** They resolved to continue working collaboratively, leveraging their collective expertise, resources, and determination to realize the full potential of the partnership.

This event marks a significant step forward in in discussing ways to exploit the full potential of the EU-Morocco Green Partnership, demonstrating the power of international collaboration and the unwavering commitment of the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco to building a sustainable and resilient future for all.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural Session hosted by Cinzia Alcidi, Director of Research at CEPS, provided extensive insights into the evolving dynamics of the EU-Morocco partnership in the context of sustainable development and green energy initiatives. The inaugural session was enriched by the presence of distinguished guests: HE Leila Benali, the Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco, HE Kadri Simson, the European Commissioner of Energy, and HE Ricardo Mourinho Félix, Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB). Their contributions added depth and perspective to the discussions, illuminating the strategic essence of the EU-Morocco Green Partnership.

The session provided a comprehensive overview of the strategic importance of the EU-Morocco Green Partnership, emphasizing Morocco's advanced sustainable development strategy, the alignment of EU and Moroccan green strategies, the significant achievements and ambitions in renewable energy, and the crucial role of financial mobilization and international cooperation in achieving sustainable development goals.

The core conclusions of this session can be distilled into the following key points:

1. **The EU-Morocco Green Partnership's Significance:** This partnership, crystallized in October 2022, stands as a testament to the EU's progressive external relations, especially in sustainable development and green energy cooperation. Morocco's strategic positioning as a partner is accentuated by its advanced sustainable development strategies, a precursor to the EU's own Green Deal.
2. **Morocco's Pioneering Sustainable Development Strategy:** Morocco, a beacon of sustainable development in Africa, is renowned for its progressive strategies in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The National Strategy for Sustainable Development, launched in 2017, exemplifies Morocco's unwavering commitment to sustainable growth and environmental conservation.
3. **Convergence of Green Strategies:** The session spotlighted the synergistic potential of the EU's Green Deal and Morocco's National Strategy, exploring avenues for cooperation and shared sustainable development achievements.
4. **Morocco's Renewable Energy Milestones:** Morocco's journey in renewable energy

is marked by significant installations and ambitious future goals. The country's energy strategy, encompassing substantial investments in wind and solar power, reflects its dedication to this sector.

5. **The EU's Climate Neutrality Vision:** The EU's pledge to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 was reaffirmed, highlighting the critical role of international collaboration in this transformative journey towards clean and renewable energy sources.
6. **Financial Mobilization for Green Partnership:** The EU's significant financial contributions towards the Green Partnership underscore its commitment to renewable energy projects, energy efficiency initiatives, and the development of renewable hydrogen.
7. **Morocco as a Renewable Energy Regional Leader:** Morocco's abundant solar and wind resources have positioned it as a regional frontrunner in renewable energy, playing a crucial role in regional energy security and sustainability.
8. **Morocco-EU Electricity and Gas Connections:** Morocco's unique status as the sole southern Mediterranean nation with electricity and gas connections to the EU enhances electricity exchanges and facilitates renewable energy integration into regional grids.
9. **Morocco's Ambitious Energy Transition:** Morocco's comprehensive energy strategy extends beyond renewable energy to include energy efficiency and regional integration, with significant scaling up of its energy transition efforts on the horizon.
10. **European Investment Bank's Role in Morocco:** The European Investment Bank has been instrumental in financing sustainable projects in Morocco, particularly in the energy sector. The EIB's investments in solar and wind energy, as well as agriculture, water management, and biodiversity conservation have significantly contributed to Morocco's sustainable development.

Several key recommendations for strengthening the partnership and advancing sustainable development and green energy initiatives were suggested during this Session. The recommendations from the session underscore the need for deepened cooperation between the EU and Morocco in the realms of energy, environmental protection, and sustainable development. This includes strengthening infrastructural connections, aligning carbon markets, increasing investment in green energy, supporting SMEs, promoting green skills, and leveraging international financing and collaboration for mutual benefit.

The primary recommendations from the session were as followed:

1. **Enhance Electricity and Gas Interconnections:** Strengthening the electricity and gas connections between the EU and Morocco is crucial. This includes supporting and expanding the existing Morocco-Spain and Morocco-Portugal interconnection projects. Developing a green hydrogen economy as part of these efforts is also recommended.
2. **Foster Convergence of Carbon Markets**: It's advised to work towards aligning the EU and Moroccan carbon markets. This could involve establishing regional clusters of carbon markets and leveraging them for sustainable development. Emphasizing the potential of various emerging markets, including in Africa, for the establishment of regional carbon market clusters.
3. **Accelerate Investment in Energy Transition:** There is a call for increased, consistent investment in Morocco's energy transition sector, particularly focusing on renewable energy and green technologies. Morocco needs to significantly increase its pace of annual investments in the energy transition sector to achieve its ambitious goals.
4. **Support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs):** Assisting SMEs in adopting sustainable practices is crucial for their competitiveness in international markets. This could involve providing technical assistance and financial support.
5. **Push for Global Climate Initiatives:** Both the EU and Morocco should actively participate and lead global initiatives aiming to triple renewable energy capacity worldwide and double energy efficiency improvements. Collaborative efforts in international forums like COP28 are recommended to achieve these global targets.
6. **Promote Green Skills and Job Creation:** Developing green skills and creating jobs in the sustainable development sector are essential. This aligns economic growth with environmental responsibility and provides new opportunities for youth employment.

7. **Prioritize Modernization and Decarbonization:** Emphasis on rebranding decarbonization as part of modernization efforts, making it more appealing and understandable for the general public and stakeholders. Modernization, including decarbonization, is essential for creating high-skilled jobs and driving economic growth.
8. **Strengthen EU-Morocco Energy Partnership:** The EU-Morocco energy partnership, particularly in green hydrogen, is a cornerstone for future cooperation. Both regions should prioritize sustainable renewable energy, balancing economic growth with environmental responsibility.
9. **Expand on Environmental Protection and Biodiversity:** The Green Partnership should also focus on environmental protection and the conservation of biodiversity, including investments in national parks, watershed management, and sustainable forestry.
10. **Leverage International Financing and Collaboration:** Using international financing mechanisms, such as the European Investment Bank and the European Fund for Sustainable Development, is crucial for implementing large-scale energy projects and sustainable development initiatives. A 'Team Europe' approach, pooling resources, and expertise from various EU institutions, is recommended for effective implementation.

Session 1

The Energy Transition as a Matrix for the EU-Morocco Green Partnership:
Strategies and Development Potential for Green Hydrogen

The panel discussion on the EU-Morocco Green Partnership, centered on renewable energy and regional cooperation, provided an extensive exploration of the evolving energy dynamic between the European Union and Morocco. This comprehensive review illuminated the multifaceted nature of the partnership, showcasing Morocco's unique position, its journey in renewable energy, the depth of its cooperation with the EU, and the critical need to upscale its energy infrastructure. Moreover, it highlighted Morocco's potential as a model for Africa-EU energy collaborations.

The panelists included Mr. Gert Jan Koopman from the European Commission's Directorate General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Mr. Tariq Hamane from the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy, and representatives from the German Development Bank KFW and GIZ. The key points discussed were:

Morocco's Pivotal Role in Renewable Energy

Morocco's geographical and climatic advantages have positioned it as a prime hub for renewable energy production, particularly in solar and wind energy. The panel emphasized that Morocco's capacity to produce renewable energy at lower costs, compared to Europe, not only meets its domestic energy needs but also presents a compelling case for its role as a major contributor to the EU's energy diversification strategy. This capacity underlines Morocco's strategic importance in the EU's energy landscape, as its proximity and strong ties with Europe make it an attractive partner for renewable energy collaboration. The potential of Morocco in exporting green electricity, and possibly green hydrogen, to the EU was a focal point, signifying a critical enhancement of energy security and sustainability in the European region.

A Journey Marked by Strategic Investments and Policy Development

The panel delved into Morocco's transformative journey in renewable energy, marked by substantial government commitment and strategic investments. These efforts have led

to the development of robust renewable energy infrastructure, including significant wind and solar farms, setting a solid foundation for future growth. Morocco's journey serves not only as a testament to its commitment but also as an inspiration for similar countries in the region, showcasing a successful transition model in renewable energy.

Green Hydrogen: A Key Opportunity

The discussion centered significantly around the potential of green hydrogen, aligning with Europe's increasing interest in this future energy resource. Morocco's capacity to produce green hydrogen was highlighted as a pivotal opportunity. The importance of investing in electrolyzer technology and establishing necessary infrastructure was underscored, emphasizing Morocco's readiness to tap into this emerging energy market.

Navigating the Global Renewable Energy Landscape

Panelists explored the global context of renewable energy, acknowledging major policy shifts and the competitive landscape marked by developments like the US Inflation Reduction Act and the EU's Net Zero Industry Act. In this evolving global scenario, Morocco is positioned to play a critical role. The panelists articulated how Morocco could leverage its strategic location and renewable energy capabilities to become a leading exporter of renewable energy, especially to European markets. This role is increasingly relevant in light of Europe's growing demand for clean energy.

Technological Innovation and Regulatory Frameworks

Advancements in technology, particularly in energy storage and grid integration, were identified as crucial for the continued development of Morocco's renewable energy sector. The panel emphasized the necessity of robust regulatory frameworks to attract foreign investment and ensure the efficient integration of renewable energy into the broader market.

Fostering International Cooperation

The significance of strengthening EU-Morocco ties through international cooperation was a key theme. This cooperation is vital for sharing technical expertise, financial resources, and market access. The panel acknowledged joint projects and policy

dialogues as effective tools for advancing the green energy transition and deepening understanding and collaboration between the EU and Morocco.

A Model for Africa-EU Cooperation

The panelists presented Morocco's renewable energy journey as a model for Africa-EU cooperation. Morocco's achievements, underpinned by its strategic partnerships with the EU, provide a template that other African nations can emulate. This partnership demonstrates the potential benefits of collaboration between African countries and the EU in the realm of sustainable energy development, offering insights into how similar partnerships can be forged and nurtured.

Socio-Economic Benefits and Public Engagement

The socio-economic benefits of the renewable energy transition, including job creation and local industry development, were highlighted. Additionally, the panel pointed out the necessity of public awareness and education campaigns to ensure societal support for renewable energy initiatives.

Investment in Research and Development

The panel discussion underscored the importance of investing in research and development within the renewable energy sector. This investment is not just about meeting Morocco's current energy needs but is seen as pivotal for placing Morocco at the forefront of the global renewable energy market. Emphasizing R&D, the panelists conveyed the message that Morocco is committed to staying ahead in renewable energy technologies, contributing significantly to the global energy transition

Conclusion: A Roadmap for the Future

In conclusion, the panel offered a thorough overview of the current state and future potential of the EU-Morocco Green Partnership in renewable energy. It showcased Morocco's strategic advantages, achievements, and the challenges it faces in becoming a key player in the renewable energy sector. The discussion outlined a roadmap for future actions, emphasizing the need for continuous development, technological advancements, investment, and cooperative efforts to realize the full potential of this partnership. This roadmap includes several key points: scaling up renewable energy infrastructure,

advancing technological capabilities, strengthening regulatory frameworks, focusing on green hydrogen development, building international partnerships, promoting local industry and workforce development, engaging in public awareness and education, navigating geopolitical challenges, and investing in research and development.

Session 2

Developing Regional and Triangular Cooperation for the Green Transition:
The Green Partnership as a Driver of Regional Integration

The EU-Morocco Green Partnership, as discussed in a comprehensive panel, serves as a pioneering framework in the arena of sustainable development and climate action. This partnership is not merely a bilateral agreement but a potential blueprint for broader regional and triangular cooperation in the context of the green transition. Spanning various sectors and encompassing a wide array of strategies and policies, this partnership illustrates a nuanced approach to ecological and economic cooperation.

The EU-Morocco Green Partnership, as elaborated in the panel discussion, emerges as a comprehensive and dynamic model for future sustainable collaborations. Its approach to economic development, adaptation strategies, private sector engagement, and regulatory frameworks sets a comprehensive path for a sustainable and resilient future. As the partnership evolves, it has the potential to inspire and shape similar initiatives globally, heralding a new era in international cooperation and sustainable development.

The EU-Morocco Green Partnership as a Blueprint

The EU-Morocco Green Partnership is envisaged as a model for future regional cooperation. Its structure and objectives offer a template that can be adapted and replicated in other geographical and socio-economic contexts, potentially guiding new partnerships in various regions worldwide.

This adaptability is crucial, as it allows the core principles and strategies of the partnership to be applied in varied settings — each with its unique environmental challenges and development needs. For instance, a region rich in solar energy potential but facing water scarcity challenges could adopt this template, focusing on solar energy development while integrating water conservation and management strategies.

Economic Opportunities and Investment

The partnership stands as a signal to investors about the reliability and potential of participating countries' transition pathways. By offering a stable and predictable environment, the partnership is expected to attract investments in emerging sectors, spurring economic growth and job creation. A significant aspect is the potential for deeper economic integration between European and Moroccan markets. This integration, fostered through mutual investments and trade, is likely to lead to the creation of skilled, stable jobs and promote sustainable economic growth.

In light of the escalating threats of climate change, particularly in regions like the Mediterranean, the partnership places a strong emphasis on adaptation strategies. Investment in sectors such as sustainable agriculture, water management, and resilient infrastructure is highlighted as key. These sectors are crucial not only for adapting to climate impacts but also for underpinning sustainable economic development. The panel emphasized the importance of viewing adaptation and resilience as integral to sustainable growth strategies.

The Private Sector's Integral Role

The active participation of the private sector is seen as vital to advancing the green transition. Moroccan companies in renewable energy projects exemplify this involvement, indicating the potential and responsibilities of private entities in green initiatives.The discussion brought to light the need for balanced partnerships, particularly in nascent areas like green hydrogen production. The panel underscored the importance of addressing the complexities and risks associated with private sector engagement in such ventures.

The EIB's strategic focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and network support in the Southern Neighborhood is a crucial aspect of the partnership. This focus aligns with the broader objectives of the European Green Deal. The EIB's approach, which includes different sectors and emphasizes mobilizing private sector financing, reflects an understanding of the comprehensive nature of sustainable development challenges.

Triangular Cooperation: Expanding the Partnership's Reach

The panel discussions explored the potential for a triangular cooperation that includes

the EU, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. This approach leverages the unique strengths and resources of each region, fostering sustainable development through shared knowledge, resources, and technology. The concept of 'industrial affirmation' was highlighted, suggesting Africa's capacity to become a green industrial powerhouse by utilizing its rich resources and renewable energy potential. This aspect could revolutionize the continent's role in the global green economy.

Ensuring Equitable Partnerships

Robust policy and regulatory frameworks are vital for ensuring equitable and effective partnerships. This is particularly crucial in the context of green hydrogen production, where regulatory clarity and fairness are essential for fostering international cooperation and trade in green technologies.

Recommendations for Future Cooperation

1. **Strengthening Policy Frameworks:** For more green partnerships to materialize, strong policy commitments from potential partner countries are essential.
2. **Investment and Financial Incentives:** Developing mechanisms to attract investments in emerging green sectors is critical, along with providing financial incentives for sustainable projects.
3. **Engaging the Private Sector:** Encouraging private sector involvement in green initiatives and ensuring equitable treatment in international partnerships is crucial.
4. **Expanding the Scope of Cooperation:** Exploring opportunities for triangular cooperation to include a broader range of countries and regions is vital for an inclusive approach to green transition.
5. **Prioritizing Adaptation Measures:** Investments in climate adaptation measures should be a priority, recognizing that mitigation efforts alone are insufficient.
6. **Regulatory Clarity:** Establishing clear and fair regulations is key to facilitating international cooperation and trade in green technologies and products.


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Ms. Lorena Stella Martini
Policy Advisor – Foreign Policy, ECCO Climate
27 October 2023
14:00 - 18:00 (CET)
ahead for Europe

PROGRAMME

14.00 – 14.05 **Welcoming Words**

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)

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: **Anna Gumbau**

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)
Dr. Daniela Beckmann, Director for the Northern Africa Region, KfW
Mr. Frank Mischler, Head of the Power-to-X Dialogue project, GIZ

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

Q & A with the Audience

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: **Anna Gumbau**

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 remarks**

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

FACTSHEET

EU-Morocco Energy Relations

Background

Morocco and the EU have a history of cooperation that goes back to the 1970s. This cooperation spans a range of sectors, from security and the economy to projects funded by development aid, and obviously energy.

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK. The basis for the bilateral energy relations between the EU and Morocco is the Association Agreement (AA) of 1996 which focuses largely on renewables, energy efficiency, and electricity, including a development component to integrate the Moroccan energy market into the EU's. Morocco is also covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) of 2004 and is a member of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

MILESTONES. A 2007 declaration commits the two sides to grow Morocco's role as an electricity exporter and a transit country for gas supplies to the EU, and individual member states like Germany, Spain, and Portugal have been since looking to create their own green-energy projects in the Kingdom.

- Since 2008, Morocco was granted advanced status towards the EU via the adoption of a general roadmap, which increased and promoted diplomatic and trade relations.
- In 2009, the partners signed a Financing Agreement for the Reform of the Energy Sector Support Program to bolster the capacity necessary for Morocco's national energy.
- At the 2016 COP22 climate summit in Marrakesh, the EU and Morocco agreed to establish a roadmap for facilitating sustainable electricity trade between Europe's internal energy market and North Africa.
- In July 2019, the European Council and the Kingdom agreed to enhance cooperation on renewables and energy efficiency.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES. The combination of Morocco's geographical advantages with high access to wind and solar power and the EU's financial and technological strength provides opportunity for deeper collaboration on this sector.

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Here Morocco also holds two distinct advantages, namely the production costs which are expected to be lower than in the EU, as well as its close proximity which makes energy exportation easier.

The EU Green Deal

WHAT? The European Green Deal is a comprehensive and ambitious policy initiative launched by the European Commission, in December 2019. It represents a fundamental and long-term strategy aimed at transforming the EU into a more sustainable and climate-neutral continent by the year 2050.

KEY OBJECTIVES AND COMPONENTS. of the European Green Deal include:

The first climate-neutral continent by 2050	At least 55% less net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to 1990 levels
A clean and efficient energy transition	Global leadership
Protecting our biodiversity and ecosystems	A healthy food system for people and the planet
Providing efficient, safe and environmentally friendly transport	An industrial strategy for a competitive, green and digital Europe
Research and innovation to drive transformative change	Sustainable investments to deliver the European Green Deal

EGD'S EXTERNAL DIMENSION. In the context of the deal's global outreach, the EU aims to engage in strategic collaboration with neighbouring countries by forging bilateral and regional partnerships focused on advancing environmentally sustainable transformations. It has started to deploy **"Green Partnerships"** with key EU partners: The first Green Partnership was established with Morocco ahead of COP 27 in October 2022, followed by a Green Partnership signed between the EU and the Republic of Korea in May 2023.

A NEW CONTEXT. Tensions in the east have introduced significant disruptions to the energy landscape and underscored the importance of another essential aspect of energy policies: energy security. In response to this context, the EU has taken steps to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, launching the **REPowerEU initiative.** This initiative is designed to enhance energy efficiency, broaden energy sources, and expedite the adoption of renewable energy. Consequently, the joint communication outlining the **EU's EU external energy engagement in a changing world** places significant emphasis on the Southern Neighbourhood. It aims to diversify the EU's gas sources and foster collaboration and trade in renewable energy, positioning this region at the core of the evolving energy landscape.

The EU-Morocco Green Partnership

WHAT? The EU-Morocco Green Partnership is the first such EU initiative with a partner country. It aims to advance the external dimension of the European Green Deal through action on the ground and is expected to become a model for similar partnerships with other countries, including on the African continent, where Morocco already leads in terms of environmental and climate ambitions.

THEMATIC AXES. Since October 2022, under the Green Partnership, the EU and Morocco are working together on three main thematic axes: **climate and energy;** the **environment i**ncluding marine and maritime issues; and the **green economy.**

PROGRAMMES. The two first programmes worth €**165 million** support green energy development and the ecological, inclusive and innovative development of Morocco's agricultural and forestry sectors.

- **TERRE VERTE.** The "Terre Verte" programme, worth a total of **1.26 billion dirhams (€115 million),** aims to support the research and development, training and support, and mentoring for sustainable, resilient and inclusive management of agricultural and forest ecosystems in the Kingdom. The programme supports two domestic strategies, namely "Green Generation" (agriculture) and "Forests of Morocco" (forestry). It also aims at boosting decent employment, green entrepreneurship and social provision for workers in rural regions. This programme will be implemented in four agricultural and forestry regions: Tétouan-Tangier-Al Hoceima, Beni Mellal-Khenifra, Draa-Tafilalet and the Oriental region. It includes an existing €15 million contribution granted to Morocco as part of the 2022 Food and Resilience Facility.

- **GREEN ENERGY.** The second programme of the Green Partnership, a **550 million dirham (€50 million)** programme entitled "Green Energy", aims to stimulate the greening of the Moroccan economy and its energy sector, by supporting the completion of regulatory reforms for a more open and flexible electricity market and for local energy production, strengthening integration with the European electricity market and improving the governance of the electricity market

IMPLEMENTATION. In addition to this, Morocco and the EU will shortly sign new cooperation initiatives in the fields of green energy, the circular economy and the decarbonation of industry, following the first meeting for the implementation of the Partnership's roadmap held in Rabat in June 2023.

Renewable Energy in Morocco

CAPACITY. The total renewable energy capacity of the Kingdom of Morocco is 3 725 MW (2022, IRENA). Renewable energies represented 37% of Morocco's energy production capacity in 2020, with a 2030 target of 52%, which exceeds the objective announced by the country at COP21 in Paris.

WIND. At present, Morocco has an installed capacity from wind energy of 1466 MW, the second largest volume in Africa behind South Africa.

SOLAR. Total installed capacity from solar energy currently stands at 831 MW. Morocco has an average solar potential of 5 kilowatt hours (kWh) per square meter per day, although this varies geographically (IRESEN).As an example, the Noor Ouarzazate Solar Complex is one of the world's largest concentrated solar power plants, demonstrating Morocco's commitment to renewable energy.

ENERGY MIX. In 2020, 11% of Morocco's total energy consumption came from renewables (World Bank), of which:

- 62% was generated by bioenergy
- 19% by wind power
- 16% by solar energy
- 3% by hydro/marine energy

Renewable Energy in the EU

TARGETS. The EU has adopted targets to achieve a 20% share of renewable energy in energy consumption by 2020, and 32% by 2030. On 30 March 2023, the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement to raise the binding renewable energy target to **at least 42.5% by 2030.**

CAPACITY. The total renewable energy capacity of the European Union is 566 063 MW (2022, IRENA).

ENERGY MIX. 21.8 % of the EU's gross final energy consumption came from renewable sources in 2021 (Eurostat).

- **Wind and hydro power** contributed to over 67% of the total electricity generated from renewable sources, with wind power at 37.5% and hydro power at 32.1%. The remaining portion, constituting one-third of the electricity generation, came from solar power (15.1%), solid biofuels (7.4%), and other renewable sources (7.9%).

Notably, **solar power** has emerged as the fastest-growing source, representing just 1% in 2008. This remarkable growth in solar power production has seen it surge from a mere 7.4 terawatt-hours (TWh) in 2008 to a substantial 163.8 TWh in 2021.

The EU is already a global leader on renewables when it comes to technology development and deployment.

Renewable Energy Investments by the EIB and EBRD:

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK. Since 2017, the EIB has devoted around 20% of its financing to renewable energy, and 19% to sustainable transport in Morocco.

In 2022, the European Investment Bank injected more than €381 million into Morocco's economy, half of which went to infrastructure projects for environmental protection, renewable energy and energy efficiency doubling the disbursement volume compared to 2021.

In 2022, the EIB also financed the ONCF, Morocco's national railway office, with a loan of €200 million. It was the first project signed under the EU-Morocco Green Partnership. This major financial commitment is intended to support the transition to low-carbon, sustainable mobility while promoting a better geographical balance in rail service access.

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT. The has invested more than $1.7 billion in projects in Morocco since 2012.

The EBRD has invested about $148 million in the energy sector of Morocco since 2012, with the development of sustainable energy as a priority.

The EBRD has notably invested in the construction of the first utility-scale private wind project and the largest wind generation plant (Khalladi Wind Farm) and has promoted increasing access to rural electrification techniques and installing smart grid with EU legislative requirements.

Green Hydrogen

WIN-WIN: Green Hydrogen has the potential to become a cornerstone of a win-win EU-Morocco energy cooperation in the context of the Green Partnership: Morocco aims at becoming a major green hydrogen exporter thanks to its comparative advantages while the EU considers green hydrogen as an important pillar of its strategy to decarbonise its industry and transport sector.

TARGETS: Morocco aims at covering 4% of global green hydrogen demand by 2050. The Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines and Environment set out a roadmap on green hydrogen in 2021. Based on the estimations of this document, the green hydrogen industry and its derivatives in Morocco could meet a demand of between 13.9 TWh and 30.1 TWh in 2030, which could reach between 153.9 TWh and 307.1 TWh in 2050.

EU STRATEGY. The European Hydrogen Strategy, released in 2020, called for 40GW of electrolysers to be installed in Europe by 2030, with a further 40GW in "Europe's neighbourhood with export to the EU".

NEEDS: The former Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans acknowledged that the EU "is never going to be capable to produce its own hydrogen in sufficient quantities." He declared to the European Parliament in May 2022 that "if around the Mediterranean, in the widest sense, we can create a diversified interdependence, which means that we all have a stake in this production, distribution, utilization of green hydrogen, this is the future, this is how you also create more stability in the geopolitical system.

BILATERAL COOPERATION. Germany signed an agreement with Morocco to establish a hydrogen plant in the country, the first of its kind in Africa, with the financial support of KfW. Its capacity is planned to reach a production of 10,000 tons of hydrogen per year starting in 2025. The GIZ has been involved in the development of a roadmap for a green-hydrogen-based economy in the country.

Spain has the potential to become the entry point for green hydrogen produced in Morocco. Cepsa announced the construction of a hydroductor that would allow the import of hydrogen from Morocco and whose destination would be San Roque, in Cádiz.

With the support of