



## **EU – MEDITERRANEAN – GULF RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE**

**9th October 2009, Brussels**

### **Chair Conclusions**

Upon the invitation from the European Commission, Ministers and high level representatives from the EU Member States, the countries of the Mediterranean and the Gulf, as well as from international and regional organisations met in Brussels on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009 on the occasion of the EU-Mediterranean-Gulf Renewable Energy Conference.

The participants discussed the possible ways forward in developing a regional green energy market, enhancing cooperation in research and development, and identifying opportunities for joint projects and initiatives, in particular in the area of solar energy. During the conference debates, the participants stressed the important contribution of renewable energy for enhancing energy security and addressing climate change concerns at national and regional level. The immense potential for the development of solar and wind energy in the Mediterranean and the Gulf region was highlighted. In the context of meeting the growing local energy needs and developing prospects for regional green energy trade. The European participants stressed the experience and the lessons learnt with the development of an adequate policy framework facilitating the development of renewable energies in the EU.

The conference participants acknowledged the following areas where further cooperation between the EU, Mediterranean and Gulf regions is needed in order to achieve the necessary progress in the development of their renewable energy potential:

- Developing a common regional framework for an integrated and interconnected “green energy market” between the EU and Mediterranean and Gulf regions;
- Defining and implementing a common regional policy framework for renewable energy and energy efficiency, based on the EU acquis and including an agreement on targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency, a mechanism for the certification of green energy as well as mechanisms for financial support;
- Speeding up the work on the appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks for establishing a transparent level playing field for green electricity investments and trade;
- Advancing integration of electricity markets between the EU, the Mediterranean and the Gulf countries and progressing in cooperation of the regulatory bodies of all the countries concerned through initiatives such as the Mediterranean Gas and Energy Regulators Group (Medreg);

- Gradually phasing out electricity subsidies at a national level and establishing mechanisms for the gradual implementation of market rules and principles of transparency;
- Finalising the Mediterranean electricity interconnections, the links with the EU and with the Gulf regional grid in the south;
- Boosting cooperation in research and development on renewable energy with participation of all partners, in particular for green electricity generation, smart grids and the related technologies and through the creation where appropriate of centres of excellences and platforms for cooperation between the public and private stakeholders, building on experience of the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RECREE) in Cairo;
- Developing industrial cooperation and public-private partnerships with participation of EU, Mediterranean and Gulf stakeholders to advance the renewable energy developments.

The participants agreed to enhance their cooperation, building also on the planned assistance from the European Commission such as the future EU-GCC clean energy network and the support to the renewable energy development with the Mediterranean partner countries, including the Mediterranean Solar Plan.