

The speech of H.E Minister of Electricity of Syrian Arab Republic Dr. Eng. Ahmad Kussay Kayyali in Brussels on October 09th.2009, during EU - Mediterranean - Gulf Renewable Energy Ministerial conference.

Mrs. Benita Ferrero – Waldner - European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the Conference

Let me first express my thanks and deep regards on my behalf and on behalf of the Syrian delegation, to the European Union and in particular to Mrs. Waldner for the great efforts made to organize this important conference.

Syria is aware of the importance of energy, its guaranteed supply, and its direct link to environment and to life protection on Earth, so national decisions have been taken to move towards renewable energy and energy efficiency.

In this respect , I would like to mention that we have set out the legal basis for this through issuing the following laws :

- The law on Energy efficiency labels and standards for home appliances.
- The Energy conservation law.
- The Electricity Law which, is in the issuing stage, will open the way for the private sector and foreign companies to invest in the field of electrical energy from traditional resources in general and from renewable energy resources in particular.
- The law of partnership between Public and Private Sectors is also in the preparation stage.

- Master plan, for the period 2010 – 2030, for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies(MEERE) in Syria up to the year 2030, is under preparation in co-operation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation(GTZ).

We also have already started implementing a number of small and medium projects in this field such as:

- Collective solar water heating systems for big complexes.
- Lighting some public roads by using Photo-Voltaic(PV)systems.
- Installation of PV panels, connected to the Grid, on the public-building roofs.
- Water pumping by using PV systems .

During the current and next year:

- Two projects for installing wind-Parks will be announced as EPC contract (30 M.W. , 100 M.W).
- Two locations will be opened for investment in wind energy for local and foreign investors.
- A joint company will Start in the next year to produce (15.9) MW Photo-Voltaic collectors yearly.
- Complete the laboratorial structure for renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Solar Photo-Voltaic power station will be installed with a Capacity of (1) M.W.

As a matter of fact, our general objective is to reach in 2030:

- To install more than four million of solar water heater systems (SWH).
- To install a number of wind parks with a capacity of (2500)M.W.
- To install more than (3000) M.W. of solar power stations to generate electrical energy mainly by using PV systems.

- To increase the Energy Efficiency (EE) in different sectors in the country, with an objective to improve the energy intensity and to make it close to the international standards.

We are also interested in all projects financed by the European Union and we welcome the Mediterranean Solar Plan.

We particularly welcome the Desertec Industrial Initiative(DII) launched in July 2009.

In this respect, I would like to point out that the mentioned projects; and if implemented; will contribute to the decreasing of pressure on environment, and will insure sustainable resources of energy.

The success of these projects and their contribution to the development of the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries depend heavily on the following:

- 1- The compatibility (Harmonization) of these projects to the interests of all parties.
- 2- Secure long-term funding with very low interests.
- 3- Cooperation between the major European companies and local companies in the implementation of these projects on the basis of technologies transfer from the north to the south.

Finally, we in Syria are fully prepared to enter into partnerships with European companies and local private sector to create large-scale projects for the generation of electrical energy from renewable resources, in accordance with the principles and standards of concerned parties which will be agreed upon in the future.

In this regard we look forward to the European Countries to provide technical assistance to start pilot and experimental projects to enable us to deal with these new systems, and to be able to achieve these projects, making use of local experiences and infrastructures in order to decrease the investment costs and therefore the cost of produced electrical energy.

Thanks for listening.