

Next Steps

The European Industrial Initiatives (EIs) are set to boost international cooperation on renewable energies. These are part of the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (2007), designed to speed up the market adoption of low-carbon and efficient energy technologies.

The Initiatives include the following areas:

- ▶ Solar Europe (PV and CSP);
- ▶ European Wind (focus on off-shore);
- ▶ Bio-Energy Europe;
- ▶ European CO₂ capture, transport & storage;
- ▶ European electricity grid; and
- ▶ Sustainable nuclear fission (gen-IV).



Further reading

ec.europa.eu/external_relations/energy/
ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euomed/
ec.europa.eu/external_relations/gulf_cooperation/

New Partnerships for Renewable Energy

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
External Relations



European Commission
Directorate-General
for External Relations
B-1049 Brussels

Europe Direct
+ 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11
(toll-free in the EU)

ec.europa.eu/world/

Renewable sources

are increasingly important in energy cooperation between the European Union and the Mediterranean – Gulf region.

Regional partnerships address the common challenges of climate change and energy security, based on the EU's leadership in renewable energy development.



EU impetus



The new EU Directive on renewable energy sets ambitious targets for all EU Member States, aiming to ensure that the EU reach a 20% share of energy from renewable sources by 2020 and a 10% share of renewable energy specifically in the transport sector. It improves the legal framework for promoting renewable electricity, requires national action plans for the roll-out of renewable energy sources (including bio-energy), creates cooperation mechanisms to help achieve the target costs and lays down sustainability criteria for bio-fuels.

Importantly for the EU's external relations, the Directive also provides a new framework for the import of electricity derived from renewable sources in third countries, provided certain conditions are met.

EU-Mediterranean

One of the priorities for the EU's energy policy is to create an integrated and interconnected 'Green Energy Market', based on the convergence of policies, rules and practices, in order to harness the enormous potential for wind and solar energy for years to come.



To push forward these policy goals, the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Ministerial of December 2007 endorsed a Priority Action Plan for the period 2008-2013, which includes European Commission support for regional and sub-regional initiatives such as:

- ▶ Euro-Mediterranean Energy Market Integration (Med-Emip);
- ▶ Integration of electricity markets in the Maghreb;
- ▶ Energy efficiency cooperation (MedEnec);
- ▶ Cooperation of the Euro-Mediterranean energy regulators (MedReg);
- ▶ Action Plan for high priority renewable energy initiatives in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Area (REMAP);
- ▶ and Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Cairo.

The Mediterranean Solar Plan, a flagship of the 'Union for the Mediterranean', gives additional political impetus for the development of solar and other renewable energies in the region.

The Commission maintains its support for completing the necessary electricity interconnections in the region, which will be crucial for development of a regional green energy market. This will be the main focus of a forthcoming Communication on the Mediterranean Energy Ring'.



EU-Gulf

Energy, from renewable sources in particular, is a strategic issue of common interest for the EU and Gulf countries.

Alongside political dialogue held in the EU-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), an EU-GCC energy experts group meets regularly to boost energy cooperation. This and the EU-GCC experts group on environment & climate change offer a useful platform for further development of cooperation in renewable (alternative) energies, including through an exchange of know-how and promotion of relevant clean energy technologies.

The European Commission has launched an EU-GCC clean energy network. This network aims to gather relevant stakeholders from the EU and the GCC to further boost cooperation in the area of clean energy.