



PRESS RELEASE

16th DECEMBER 2010

NEW INDUSTRIAL VENTURE FOR MEDITERRANEAN ELECTRICITY NETWORKS

Medgrid is opening up to companies from countries south and east of the Mediterranean.

Medgrid is opening up to companies south and east of the Mediterranean with the aim of designing together electricity networks that respond to large future demands for electricity sharing between the two edges of the Mediterranean.

Medgrid will work closely with the authorities of the countries in question, the EC, the scientific community and NGOs.

Its work will be carried out in conjunction with other Mediterranean Solar Plan projects, particularly Desertec and the European project "Paving the way for the Mediterranean Solar Plan", and in conjunction with the solar plans of countries on the eastern and southern rims of the Mediterranean.

Establishing a cross-Mediterranean solar network will help boost the viability of renewable energy production projects in the south, whilst enabling them to export part of their production into Europe and reducing the cost of high-voltage links over long distances by stimulating progress in transport technology.

Developing interconnections will strengthen electrical system security in partner countries in the face of a rise in demand and intermittence in production of energy from renewable sources. Medgrid will enable the South to have an electricity market that will contribute to the integration of electricity markets and boost their competitiveness.

Medgrid will work towards promoting European commitment and solutions in fighting climate change. It will be an embodiment of the co-development strategy promoted by Union for the Mediterranean, a vector for stability and economic and social development for the area.

In the countries south and east of the Mediterranean, demand for electricity is set to double by 2020 and the share of wind- and solar-generated electricity should reach nearly 10% of that total, powered by ambitious solar plans within these countries and under the influence of the Mediterranean Solar Plan MSP. The share of renewable and nuclear electricity in European electricity production should rise from 45% to 58% by 2020.



For this reason, developing interconnectivity around the Mediterranean and between the north and south Mediterranean rims is one of the EU's four major development projects for its electricity transport infrastructure. The other three projects include strengthening interconnections in south-eastern Europe, interconnectivity between Baltic state networks and other member States, building underwater networks to link North Sea and Baltic Sea wind farms.

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