

MEFED

Mena Europe Future Energy Dialogue

New Bridges of Partnership

May 2022 in Jordan

- Draft conference concept, 3 September 2021 -

Building on the successful energy cooperation between the MENA region and Europe, the conference aims at becoming a leading forum for key stakeholders of the energy sector in both regions. Upon an initiative of the German Federal Government, the conference aims at building on the [MENAREC](#) (Middle East North Africa Renewable Energy Conference) series, whilst broadening the future energy scopes and offering new formats and fora for associated Business-to-Business (B2B) and Business-to-Government (B2G) Dialogues. Through this, the conference reflects best practices of the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue ([BETD](#)) and gives high-level representatives of governments, industry, academia, and civil society the opportunity to share their experiences and ideas on a reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy system.

Furthermore, the conference aims at deepening the energy cooperation between the MENA region and Europe. The imperative of the Paris Agreement to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions opens new geopolitical opportunities in green energy trade. The European Union and its Arab neighbours have the potential to exploit and strengthen their long-standing and multi-faceted energy relationships for their mutual benefit. Here, an increasing interconnection of power systems or the pipeline transport and shipping of green hydrogen and its derivatives could become an inter-regional endeavour.

The conference is supposed to be held as an exclusive, in-person conference of two to three days, involving ministers and even heads of state and government. The conference shall furthermore provide ample opportunities for bilateral G2G and B2G meetings and side events and is supposed to initiate a biennial series. Between the conferences, standing working committees on the different conference topics could be formed to continue the thematic exchange between the stakeholders.

Hosts:

- Jordanian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources
- German Federal Government, represented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

Co-Hosts

- European Commission – tbc
- Arab League, for instance in the scope of the Arab Forum for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ARFREE) - tbc
- UN ESCWA – tbc
- GCC – tbc
- IRENA – tbc

Invitees:

- Energy Ministers of Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan (host), Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the EU.
- C-level representatives from energy companies (e.g. utilities, extracting companies, infrastructure suppliers, grid operators, shipping companies...) and associations (e.g. MED-TSO) from the participating countries
- Financial institutions (private and state banks, development banks, regional and international funds, including the Kuwait Fund, ADF, Islamic Dev. Bank, WB, EIB...)
- Civil society actors (e.g. GWNET...)

Expected Results of the conference:

During the conference, a joint declaration on one or more of the following topics could be envisaged:

- Declaration on quantifiable mid-term regional renewable energy and/or green hydrogen targets (MENA and EU)
- Regional and inter-regional roadmaps for interconnection of energy markets
- Agreement of specific bi- and multilateral cooperation projects

Proposed thematic blocs:**1. Expansion of renewable energy – and power market integration**

Renewable energy sources, mainly photovoltaics and wind power have become the low-cost game changers in power markets. For new installations to materialize, different regulatory and financial aspects must be considered. Furthermore, new approaches in the power sector for integrating increasing shares of variable renewable energies (vRE) are required: forecasting, digitalization of grid operation, flexibilization of generators and consumers, interconnectors with neighbouring countries, energy sector coupling etc. The different approaches will be discussed with practical examples from participating countries.

2. Opportunities through future green hydrogen demand

The European Union, Germany and other member states aim at importing increasing amounts of green hydrogen and its derivatives for a complete decarbonization of their economies. This poses great opportunities for countries with high renewable energy potential, but also transformative challenges for fossil fuel exporters. The discussion at the conference aims at developing a common vision on future energy interdependencies and at identifying projects that are of mutual interest.

3. Energy Efficiency

The efficient use of energy is mandatory and affects multiple economic spheres. Important measures include sustainable incentives for industrial production, industrial energy efficiency networks, but also building codes and knowledge dissemination on traditional building materials. In thematic forums, sustainable and future-proof energy efficiency approaches will be presented and discussed.