

# Mednet Project Newsletter



## *Promoting the Mediterranean cooperation for new energy technologies*

*The non-EU Mediterranean countries will encounter a number of challenges in the foreseeable future, which may have a major spill-over impact on their economies, their energy security and the environment across the Mediterranean basin. Such challenges are also expected to will greatly affect the EU. Some of these challenges are:*

- ✓ *Fast population growth*
- ✓ *Fast growing economies and therefore energy consumption*
- ✓ *Increased use of limited water resources*
- ✓ *Severe environmental pollution*

*In the context of the OPET Network ([www.opet-network.net/](http://www.opet-network.net/)), the MEDNET initiative aims at fostering international cooperation with the non EU Mediterranean countries, providing information for the emerging Mediterranean energy markets and promoting EU energy technologies to the region.*



## EDITORIAL

The MEDNET Network aims could be summarized to be as follows:

- Dissemination of information for the Mediterranean energy markets
- Identification of opportunities for further collaboration between the EU members and the South Mediterranean countries
- Fostering the uptake of new energy technologies in the entire Mediterranean region
- Promotion of the EU Energy policies

The MEDNET will implement a set of networking actions such as the establishment of a Mediterranean Web-Discussion Area including discussion forums, news and announcements, documentation for policy and financial issues, case studies for the technologies that are applicable in the region, electronic newsletters and electronic publications. Moreover the database with major facts and figures concerning the energy markets of the MEDENER countries will be updated. The results and findings of the action will be disseminated through a final dissemination event that will be organized in Athens in

April 2004 with key actors from the MEDENER member countries.

There are five partners involved in this MEDNET initiative who are also OPET members. These are:

1. CRES (Greece) the co-ordinator
2. ADENE (Portugal)
3. ENEA (Italy)
4. ICTAF (Israel)
5. IDAE (Spain)

In view to the above, this electronic newsletter aspires to become a medium thought which the most current and up-to-date developments in respect to the energy cooperation between the EU and its Mediterranean Partners can be communicated and disseminated on a regular basis. As such, feedback, ideas and information are a necessary and welcome contribution to make this newsletter a highly reliable joint tool of information.

We are therefore looking forward to a fruitful and substantial cooperation and welcome any comments, opinions, ideas or material in that direction.. For any further information on this project, please contact Mrs Kiki Papadopoulou at the following address: [kpapad@cres.gr](mailto:kpapad@cres.gr)



### **COMMUNICATION BY THE BRUSSELS EURO-MEDITERRANEAN ENERGY FORUM TO THE 2003 MINISTERIAL ENERGY CONFERENCE IN ATHENS**

*This Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum was held in Brussels on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2003. Its main aim was to make proposals to the agenda of the Athens Ministerial Conference on The Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Energy held on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003.*

*More specifically,*

- *The ad hoc groups of the Forum assessed the energy situation and harmonized the data characteristics of every Mediterranean Partner of the EU*
- *The ad hoc groups proceeded to a thorough analysis of the parameters and prerequisites necessary for the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean energy policy based on security of supply, competitiveness and environmental protection*
- *The ad hoc groups made recommendations for the priority actions to be envisaged concerning the 2003-2006 period for regional activities and the integration of the Euro-Mediterranean energy markets*

*For the integration of the Euro-Mediterranean energy markets, the Forum recommended the following:*

- *Mechanisms for the funding of projects of common interest and the development of industrial cooperation*
- *The monitoring of the implementation of a Euro-Mediterranean energy policy based on the 2003-2006 priorities*

*Furthermore, the Forum also pointed out the obstacles arising from the difficulties in analyzing the activities of the various countries and particularly stressed the future possibility for carrying out detailed analyses of the activities of all Mediterranean Partners. Based on all the previous analyses and evaluations of the various regional actions and projects, particularly on those concerning the interconnections, the participation of Libya was deemed all the more necessary*

*For an even more effective cooperation between the countries of North Africa and those of the Middle East, the South-South interconnections were given a priority. Environmental issues were also very much focused upon considering the carriage of hydrocarbons across the Mediterranean and hence the safety transport issues were laid on the table of discussions.*

*The “2003-2006 priorities” of the Euro-Mediterranean energy partnership were adopted during the Energy Forum meeting. These priorities were hammered out in continuation to the following:*

- *The fields of cooperation on energy as they were identified in the Trieste Ministerial Conference in 1996*
- *The objectives on security of supply, diversification of energy sources, competitiveness in a free trade area and environmental protection as they were defined in the Brussels Ministerial Conference in 1998*



*The priorities on legislative reform of the energy sector, the restructuring of the energy industry of the Mediterranean partners and the convergence of the energy policies of the EU and its Mediterranean Partners, the integration of the regional energy markets and the South-South interconnections as they were laid out at*

*the Grenada Forum (2000) could thus be summarized as follows:*

- *Infrastructure projects of common interest*
- *Energy policy activities of regional nature*
- *Regional economic activities*

### **MECHANISMS TO FACILITATE THE FINANCING OF PROJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST**

*A considerable amount of funds is required over the next two decades to finance and meet the concerns of the different aspects of the energy sector and the diversification of supply within the framework of a fully integrated and interconnected Euro-Mediterranean market.*

*It is thus very important to carry out sufficient analysis in collaboration with the EIB for the development of new and suitable financial products. Such products should be allowed for synchronizing the various projects of common and regional interest.*

*But before this happens, it is imperative to establish a legal framework in all the Mediterranean countries that would facilitate private investment and the aforementioned financial tools to function properly.*

*The recent creation of a regional capital-risk fund for the countries of the region through an alliance with the EIB and various other European funds, especially designed for the*

*aforementioned purposes constitutes a very encouraging development.*

*According to the Forum, certain actions should support the financing of infrastructure projects of common interests. More specifically:*

- *Promotion of private energy investments and infrastructural projects through new and flexible financing mechanisms and funding schemes like the Mediterranean Investment Partnership (FEMIP) of the EIB*
- *An analysis on the development of new Euro-Mediterranean financial products with regional character in which the various financial institutions, the state and the private financial sector of the Mediterranean Partners, as well as the EU, could participate. The results of such an analysis are to be presented at the Rome Ministerial Conference in December 2003*
- *Optimal use of the Community assistance offered by the MEDA*



*programme for the technical, economic, environmental and financial preparation of these projects. As such, the energy sector should be given substantially greater*

*financial support under the MEDA programme for both bilateral and regional project*

### **FIRST BILATERAL DIRECT RESEARCH AGREEMENTS BETWEEN EU AND MEDITERRANEAN**

*Tunisian Minister for Research and Technology Sadok Korbi and Moroccan Minister for Research and Technology Omar Fassi-Fehri have signed scientific, technological co-operative agreements with EU Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin.*

*The scientific co-operation between these two Countries and the European Union until now was limited to the enclosure of EU-Mediterranean Programmes: these two agreements represent the first time that a direct co-operation is agreed between the EU and the Countries of the South Side of our Mediterranean sea.*

*The main aim of this co-operation is to operate a more efficient participation than in the past of Morocco and Tunisia in the European Framework Research Programme, as well as larger involvement of scientists of both sides in the reciprocal research activities, as Mr Busquin said.*

*Mr Fassi-Fehri emphasised that the agreement will support Morocco's participation in European Research Area (ERA) and will also help economic growth and peace.*

*Mr Korbi outlined the new opportunities for Tunisian researchers and scientists represented by the agreement and its importance as an instrument to help Tunisia to pursue his policy toward a knowledge-based development.*

*These agreements were finalised during the last days of Greek Presidency of the EU. Greek Minister of Research and Technology, Apostolos Tsohatzopoulos, signing the protocols said that Europe made an important step toward a higher level both in science and in mutual relationship for a higher prosperity of living in the Euro-Mediterranean area. The agreements underline the success of Morocco and Tunisia efforts and the successful collaboration acted in this direction during the recent past years.*

### **PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY FROM BIOMASS IN ISRAEL**

*The biomass based electricity production plant of Arrow Ecology Systems at the Hiria garbage dump, is the largest biomass project in Israel.*

*The license was given by the Ministry of Energy in order to generate 1.03-megawatt electricity at Israel's largest dump, which was closed down two years ago. According to the license, Arrow Ecology can sell all its*

*electricity to any essential service supplier. So far, Arrow Ecology is selling all the production to the Israel Electric Company (IEC).*

*Arrow Ecology uses a special computerized production system, based on separation of the waste materials and causing fermentation of organic materials by special reactors. This process is needed to produce*



*Methane gas that is used for the electricity generation. The Israeli Ministry of Energy has been attempting to encourage private production of electricity, in order to advance the privatization of the electricity*

*market. So far, only two companies have taken up the challenge. These are the Dead Sea Works, at its phosphate production plant and the American Paper Industries, which produce and recycle paper products.*

### **FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT ACTION IN MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES**

*The VI Framework Programme (FP6) of Research, Technological Development & Demonstration (RTD&D) of the European Union gives an opportunity to specific support action in Mediterranean Partner Countries within the specific programme 1: Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area, through a call (identifier: FP6-2002-INCO-MPC/SSA<sup>1</sup>-2). The call is actually s open call, and the related proposals may be evaluated every six month at the following dead lines: 04.09.2003, 08.03.2004, 0809.2004,07.03.2005, 07.09.2005 and 06.03.2006. The total indicative budget for this programme in 2003 was 0.6 Million €.*

*The FP6 of RTD&D aims at strengthening the European research both for what infrastructures are concerned and regarding the quality of research and research interaction. For the period of 2002-2006 seven thematic priorities have been fixed for EU research support:*

- *Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health*
- *Information society technologies*

- *Nanotechnologies and nano-sciences, knowledge-based multifunctional materials and new production processes and devices*
- *Aeronautics and space*
- *Food quality and safety*
- *Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems*
- *Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society*

*To realise its programme, the EU focuses its attention on excellent proposing consortia which can include individuals, firms and institutes belonging to at least two Member States (MS) and to non MS, with special regard to Mediterranean Partner countries.*

*In 2003, the co-operations directed to run projects in Med area will be mainly addressed to the following thematic:*

- *Integrated management of limited water resources (Area B1)*
- *Protection and conservation of cultural heritage (Area B2)*
- *Health (Area B3)*

*For detail information, you can refer to: [www.cordis.lu/fp6/inco.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/inco.htm)*

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<sup>1</sup> *SSAs: Specific Support Actions*



### EVENTS

#### SEPTEMBER

- *PRIVATE meets PUBLIC European Conference on Public – Private – Partnership for Energy Efficiency (1st Announcement), 8-9, September 2003, Berlin Information: [www.berliner-e-agentur.de](http://www.berliner-e-agentur.de) or contact Katja Borch at [borch@berliner-e-agentur.de](mailto:borch@berliner-e-agentur.de), phone +49 (0) 30/29 33 30 22*
- *OPET ISRAEL: Energy saving legislations EU and Israel, 14 September, Tel Aviv Information: [www.ictaf.tau.ac.il/opet.html](http://www.ictaf.tau.ac.il/opet.html)*
- *OPET ISRAEL: Solar thermal market in Israel and EU, 15 September, Tel Aviv Information: [www.ictaf.tau.ac.il/opet.html](http://www.ictaf.tau.ac.il/opet.html)*
- *OPET ISRAEL: Efficient decision making and promoting of emerging technologies in the Oil and Gas, 16 September, Tel Aviv Information: [www.ictaf.tau.ac.il/opet.html](http://www.ictaf.tau.ac.il/opet.html)*
- *5th Annual Renewable Energy Finance Forum, 22-23 September 2003, Marriott Grosvenor Hotel, London Information: email [energyevents@euromoneyplc.com](mailto:energyevents@euromoneyplc.com) or [www.euromoneyenergy.com](http://www.euromoneyenergy.com)*
- *LAUNCH OF INTELLIGENT ENERGY –EUROPE: Workshop for Energy Agencies, 26 September, Salerno Information: Mr. Christopher Walden, Tel: +46 16 544 2245 Fax: +46 16 544 2264 Email: [info@managenergy.net](mailto:info@managenergy.net)*

#### OCTOBER

- *3<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN DOMESTIC APPLIANCES AND LIGHTNING, 1- 3 October, Turin  
Email: [jrc-eedal03@cec.eu.int](mailto:jrc-eedal03@cec.eu.int)*
- *University of Ljubljana / Faculty of Mechanical Engineering: Overcoming the barriers and experiences at Green electricity production, 3 October, Ljubljana*
- *WORLD FORUM ON ENERGY REGULATION, 5-9 October 2003, Rome  
information: EGA – Professionals Congress Organisers,  
[www.energyforum2003.org](http://www.energyforum2003.org)*
- *ETC 2003 (A market place where clients meet suppliers, contacts lead to contracts, ideas lead to studies), 8-10 October 2003, Strasbourg*
- *RICICLA – International Fair for energy and matter recycling and sustainability, 22-25 October 2003, Rimini (Italy) information: RIMINI Fiera, e-mail: [davide.chiecchi@atig.it](mailto:davide.chiecchi@atig.it)*

### NOVEMBER

- *AERION 2003 6<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL NATURAL GAS EXHIBITION, 20-23 November, Athens*
- *MILANO ENERGIA - 2nd Exhibition & Meeting on Resources and Energy technologies, 25-28 November, Milan (Italy) information: MILANO Fiera, [www.milanoenergia.it](http://www.milanoenergia.it)*
- *CRES: Potential for application of solar thermal technologies in the residential and the tertiary building sector, 28 November, Thessaloniki*

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