

Mednet Project Newsletter



N°2

Euro-Mediterranean Parliament Created In Naples

On December 2nd 2003, delegates from parliaments from the European Union and countries of the southern Mediterranean basin, participating in the Barcelona Process, voted to set up a new Euro-Mediterranean Parliament during a meeting, chaired by European Parliament Speaker Pat Cox, in the framework of a two-day Euro-Mediterranean summit in Naples, Italy.

Apart from the EU countries, the summit was attended by Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Cyprus, Malta, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Israel and the Palestine National Authority.

The creation of the new 'Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly' was ratified on December 3rd 2003. The new body will have 240 members, 120 from national parliaments on the southern rim and 120 from the EU (75 designated by national parliaments and 45 by the European parliament). The new assembly will meet at least once a year. Naples Mayor Rosa Russo Jervolino suggested that Italy should become the permanent seat of the new body.

 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



An historic energy agreement between Israel and Palestinian Authority supported by the E.U.

An historic agreement on energy co-operation was signed on December 2nd, 2003 in Rome between Israel, represented by the Minister of National Infrastructure Joseph Paritzky, and the Palestinian Authority, represented by Azzam Shawwa, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, under the auspices of the European Union (E.U.) and in the presence of Italian Deputy-Prime Minister Gianfranco Fini and European Commission Vice-President Loyola de Palacio. This new agreement is expected to create the basis for an energy dialogue between Israel and Palestinian Authority by identifying and promote interconnection projects of common interest to be integrated in the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Partnership.

A number of specific measures were agreed upon: building of a joint electric generation plant, development of an electric interconnection between Gaza and Netivot, a gas interconnection between

Ashkelon and Gaza, definition of a joint framework for bilateral and regional exchange and trade in electricity, development of the co-operation on renewable energy and setting-up of a common platform for the follow-up of the israeli-palestinian energy co-operation. This renewed dialogue was launched in Athens in 2003 and it was conducted by a tripartite technical group Israel-Palestinian Authority-European Commission, having met several times in Athens, Jerusalem and Rome between June and September; the participation of the E.U. Presidency also included.

Quoting the remarks by Mrs. Loyola de Palacio, vice-president in charge of Energy and Transport: «as for European countries after the World War II, the energy dialogue must contribute to reconciliation and co-operation, in order to overcome the oppositions and conflicts, and take commitments for more interdependence and solidarity”.



A new impetus for the Euro-Mediterranean energy partnership

The Energy Euro-Mediterranean forum, which met on a ministerial level in Rome on 1-2 December 2003, gave a new impetus to energy cooperation between the Mediterranean partners. The Mediterranean Ministers, together with the E.U. Presidency and the European Commission, agreed on the principle of a true Euro-Mediterranean energy policy, aiming at promoting competitiveness and transparency of the markets, security of supplies, and environmental protection.

A number of specific actions were decided as, namely:

- the development of regional partnerships

- the consolidation of the existing interconnections, and new projects for the interconnection of the networks
- the building of infrastructure projects of common interest

Moreover, a number of agreements were signed, and declarations were announced, thus paving the way for an increased regional integration and strengthening even further the cooperation on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea. These include an Israel-Palestinian Authority joint declaration, a protocol on the Maghreb electricity market, and a declaration of intention on the Mashrek gas market.

Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP): Financing in Mediterranean Partner Countries

In 2002, European Investment Bank (EIB) lending in the 12 Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) reached the record figure of EUR 1.8 billion, confirming the position of the EU's financing institution as a major player in promoting the region's economic development and stability and it underlined the Bank's pivotal role in revitalising the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership initiated in 1995.

At a meeting held in Barcelona on October 18th 2002 at the EIB's initiative, the Finance Ministers of the 15 EU Member States and 12 Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) launched the Bank's new Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP).

The "Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership" represents a major step forward in economic and financial cooperation between the E.U. and the MPC. Its priorities are:

- private-sector development, involving both local enterprises and direct investment by EU companies in the MPCs
- enhanced support for regional cooperation projects and investment with a social dimension (health, education and environmental protection)
- assistance for the process of economic reform and privatisation in the MPCs
- provision of innovative financial products, risk capital and technical assistance with project implementation



One of the cornerstones of FEMIP is the broad involvement of the MPCs themselves in the deployment of EIB assistance through a Policy Dialogue and Coordination Committee (PDCC) bringing together representatives of the EU Member States and beneficiary Mediterranean countries twice a year. In addition, the Bank will establish closer links with economic operators and local authorities in the MPCs by opening regional offices, the first of which in Cairo in 2003.

FEMIP is already operational: a number of contracts for initial operations in support of private sector development (the facility's top priority) have already been signed or are in the process of being so.

Some EURO 8 to 10 billion are expected to be injected under FEMIP by the EIB to the MPCs by 2006

Financial seminar: Project MEDA. "Energy and Urban Environment in Mediterranean Countries."

A seminar on methods for financing projects took place in Madrid at the new IDAE's headquarters on October 20th and 21st 2003. This seminar was held in the framework of the project MEDA, "Energy and Urban Environment in Mediterranean Countries".

IDAE, ENEA, ADEME, ENERGIE CITÉS, APUR, CRES and ICAEN, as partners of this project, and representatives from the beneficiary countries of the region (Algeria, Tunis, Cyprus, Jordan, Syria, Palestinian territories and Lebanon) participated.

The aim of the seminar was to describe and analyse the different financial instruments available for projects on energy efficiency and renewable energies. Some examples of previous projects that had been financed by means of these instruments as well as projects detected in the framework of this MEDA project were presented.

The seminar benefited from the participation of the European Commission, and two Spanish public companies specialised in the utilisation of these financial instruments (COFIDES and EXPANSION EXTERIOR).

Symposium in Paris 2nd and 3rd March 2004, organized in the framework of MEDA Project entitled "Application of Solar Thermal Energy in the Mediterranean Basin" (ASTEMB).

ASTEMB's main objective is to transfer the Guarantee Solar Results concept (or GSR) to 7 southern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia). It promotes the development of an independent and sustainable solar thermal market in the considered countries. This market should contribute to the development of local industries of SMEs type and of

networks of artisans according to a process similar to the one under way in the North of the Mediterranean. ASTEMB contains the following thematic topics:



- *Analysis of the local situations in the seven beneficiary countries*
- *Stimulation of the solar thermal markets in the beneficiary countries*
- *Adaptation of the GSR Charter to each beneficiary country*
- *Implementation of pilot projects*
- *Support provided for the arrangement of draft projects eligible for financing*
- *Presentation of the draft projects to the international financial sponsors*

The consortium consists of 12 partners: seven partners in the Southern Mediterranean Countries, beneficiary of the project, namely ALMEE (Lebanon), APRUE (Algeria), ANER (Tunisia), CDER (Morocco), NREA (Egypt), NERC (Jordan) and PEC (Palestinian National Authority) and five partners from European Union namely ADEME (that coordinates the project), ADENE (Portugal), CRES (Greece), IDEA (Spain), and ISNOVA (Italy)

MEDNET CONFERENCE: "Possibilities for Co-operation in the field of Innovative Energy Technologies in the Mediterranean basin"

Athens, March 2004

In the framework of the MEDNET Package of the CO-OPET contract, a conference on the 'Possibilities for Co-operation in the field of Innovative Energy Technologies in the Mediterranean' will be held in Athens in March 2004 along with the regular MEDENER meeting. The event will address both the technical/non technical barriers against the penetration of innovative technologies in local markets. It will also address issues on the dissemination of information about innovative technologies and will place emphasis on energy policy/strategy and financial tools and incentives.

Apart from the participants from both sides of the Mediterranean basin (decision makers, technology experts, industrialists, utilities/power companies), representatives from the European Commission are expected to be present during the event.

Suggested topics to be discussed during the event comprise: a European strategy for the promotion of RUE and RES in non EU-Mediterranean Countries; a presentation of OPET-MEDNET project; national energy policy strategy and priorities in the non E.U. Mediterranean partner countries; RES and RUE technologies in the non EU Mediterranean Countries; Financing tools etc.



EVENTS

JANUARY

19- 21 JANUARY 2004

**EUROPEAN CONFERENCE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY; INTELLIGENT POLICY
OPTIONS**

Berlin, Germany and the Internet

EREC - European Renewable Energy Council

Tel: +32 2 546 19 33 Fax: +32 2 546 19 34

Email: berlin2004@erec-renewables.org

www.erec-renewables.org/Berlin2004.htm

*This event will be transmitted live on the ManagEnergy website
http://www.managenergy.net/conference/virtual_re04.html*

20-22 JANUARY 2004

5èmes ASSISES DE L'ENERGIE

Dunquerque, France

<http://www.assises-energie.net>

23-24 JANUARY 2004

INNOVATIONS IN WOOD HEATING

Flimwell, E. Sussex, UK

Sandra Hayes, National Energy Foundation

Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes MK5 8NG, UK

Tel: 44 1908 665555 Email: sandra@greenenergy.org.uk

FEBRUARY

26-27 FEBRUARY 2004

COGEN EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2004:

"Europe's Cogeneration Potential - Time To Deliver"

Hotel Renaissance, 19 Rue du Parnasse, BE-1050 Brussels, Belgium

Anna Limbrey, COGEN Europe, Gulledelle 98, B-1200 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 772 82 90 Fax: +32 2 772 50 44,

Email: anna.limbrey@cogen.org

http://www.cogen.org/events/Annual_Conference_2004.htm

MARCH

3-4 MARCH 2004

EUROPEAN PELLETS CONFERENCE

Wels, Austria

The conference is held in parallel to the "Energiesparmesse", an exhibition and trade show dedicated to renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

O.Ö. Energiesparverband, Landstrasse 45, AT-4020 Linz, Austria

Tel: +43 732 7720 14380 Email: office@esv.or.at

<http://www.esv.or.at/pellets04>

4-5 MARCH 2004

WORLD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAYS 2004

Wels, Austria O.Ö. Energiesparverband, Landstrasse 45, AT-4020 Linz, Austria

Tel: +43 732 7720 14380 Email: office@esv.or.at

<http://www.esv.or.at>

18-19 MARCH 2004

THIRD EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON GREEN POWER MARKETING

Lausanne, Switzerland

Green Power Marketing GmbH, Conference Management

Weberstrasse 10, CH-8004 Zurich, Switzerland

Tel: +41 1 296 87 09 Email: info@greenpowermarketing.org

www.greenpowermarketing.org

APRIL

1-4 APRIL 2004

WOOD ENERGY 2004

Lons le Saunier, France

Alain PIERRE, ITEBE - BP 149 - 39004 LONS LE SAUNIER, France

Email: info@itebe-expo.com

<http://www.itebe-expo.com>

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