



# 2<sup>ND</sup> MENA-EUROPE FUTURE ENERGY DIALOGUE (MEFED)

## A FOCUS ON ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

8 SEPTEMBER 2024, THESSALONIKI, GREECE

### PRELIMINARY AGENDA (LAST UPDATE 07.09.2024)

**07:45**      **Departure of shuttle buses from our partner hotels to Grand Hotel Palace**

**08:00-09:30**      **Arrival and Registration**

**09:30-10:05**      **High-level Opening at Ministerial Level**

Garden Hall

The conference will be opened with welcoming speeches of the two hosting ministers and the Director-General from IRENA, Francesco La Camera. Moderated by **Dr Melinda Crane**, this will be followed by further keynotes.

- **H.E. Theodoros Skylakakis**, Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic
- **H.E. Dr Robert Habeck**, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany
- **H.E. Eng Sabah Mashaly**, Deputy Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Egypt
- **H.E. Francesco La Camera**, Director-General, IRENA

**10:05-10:10**      **Group photo of high-level representatives with MEFED24 co-hosts and Thessaloniki Declaration**

Garden Hall

**10:10-11:00**  
Garden Hall

### **High-level Panel Discussion: Leveraging EU-MENA Cooperation for Infrastructure**

The cross-regional cooperation between Europe and the MENA region will be central to leveraging resources and developing necessary infrastructure, as neither of the regions will be able to achieve their energy transitions alone. With the moderation by **Dr Melinda Crane**, the panel is to shed light on necessary actions to unlock the potential of cross-border infrastructure and will examine how MENA-EU energy cooperation can foster the implementation of Europe's and the MENA region's energy priorities to achieve the COP Consensus.

- **H.E. Dr Robert Habeck**, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany
- **H.E. Alexandra Sdoukou**, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic
- **H.E. Abdulla Balalaa**, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability Affairs, United Arab Emirates
- **H.E. Eng Sabah Mashaly**, Deputy Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Egypt
- **H.E. Ditte Juul Jørgensen**, Director-General for Energy, European Commission

**11:00-12:00**  
Garden Hall

### **High-level Panel Discussion: Outlook on the benefits and energy relationships between Europe and the MENA region**

While Europe will be dependent on energy imports to decarbonize its energy system, the MENA region is an incredibly resource-rich region with abundant renewable energy sources, like solar and wind. This holds huge potential for collaboration and mutual benefits. Moderated by **Dr Melinda Crane**, this high-level panel will analyze how energy relationships between Europe and the MENA region can benefit both regions achieving their energy targets.

- **H.E. Theodoros Skylakakis**, Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic
- **H.E. Vladimir Malinov**, Minister of Energy, Bulgaria
- **H.E. Stefan Wenzel**, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany
- **H.E. Yossi Dayan**, Director General, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Israel
- **H.E. Gert Jan Koopman**, Director-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
- **H.E. Nasser Kamel**, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

**12:00-12:15**

### **Room Change (conference continues in two parallel sessions)**

**12:15-13:30**  
Grace Hall A

### **Program Sessions I (in parallel)**

- **Session 1 – EU-MENA Electricity Interconnectors: Where do we stand?**

Energy cooperation between countries from the MENA region and Europe holds the potential of increasing economic prosperity, reducing GHG emissions and securing a sustainable and affordable supply of renewable energy. However, the prerequisite for this is the availability of electricity interconnectors between the two regions.

Moderated by **Dr Karoline Steinbacher** from Guidehouse, panelists will evaluate the status of the development of cross-border electricity infrastructure projects, identify potential gaps and define necessary actions for accelerated development of EU-MENA electricity interconnectors.

- **H.E. Eng Sabah Mashaly**, Deputy Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Egypt
- **Belhassen Chiboub**, Director-General, Ministry for Industry, Mines and Energy, Tunisia
- **Ioannis Tsakiris**, Vice President, EIB
- **Manos Manousakis**, CEO, IPTO

- **Stefan Kapferer**, CEO, 50Hertz
- **Tarik Hamane**, CEO, ONEE

#### Grace Hall C

- **Session 2 – EU-MENA Hydrogen Corridors: Status Quo and Outlook**

Hydrogen and its derivatives pave the way for a successful energy system decarbonization. Building hydrogen value chains offers new opportunities for cooperation whilst ensuring energy system resilience, increased energy independence and security of supply. To enable the trade and transport of hydrogen, several initiatives for EU-MENA hydrogen corridors are already on the way. Drawing from the first-hand experiences of the panelists, moderator **Prof Dr Theodoros Tsakiris** from the Ministry of Energy and Environment of the Hellenic Republic will assess the progress made already and will identify necessary steps and approaches to accelerate cross-regional hydrogen infrastructure projects.

- **Stefano Venier**, CEO, Snam
- **Belgin Rudack**, CEO, KfW IPEX
- **Bart Jan Hoevers**, President, ENTSO-G
- **Dr Susanna Zapreva**, COO, Verbund
- **Dr Michael Thomadakis**, Director for Strategy and Development, DESFA
- **Dr Gunther Grathwohl**, Head of Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany

**13:30-14:45**

#### Lunch Break

The Lobby

**14:45-16:00**

#### Program Sessions II (in parallel)

Grace Hall A

- **Session 3 – Financing Cross-Border EU-MENA Energy Infrastructure**

To ensure the successful implementation and timely development of cross-regional and cross-border infrastructure projects, a coordinated and effective mobilization of financing is essential. Financial mechanisms need to be developed to bridge existing financing gaps and reduce risk in a joint effort of the public and private sectors, public and commercial banks and network operators. Moderated by **Matteo Fumerio**, Team Leader – Energy Security, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission, the panelists will discuss how this can be facilitated to substantiate the vision of increased energy interconnections between the MENA region and Europe. Reflecting on insights from the financial institutions, the panel will analyze existing financing mechanisms and necessary improvements to increase finance in cross-regional electricity interconnectors and hydrogen corridors.

- **Mary Burce Warlick**, Deputy Executive Director, International Energy Agency
- **Maria-Rita Galli**, CEO, DESFA
- **Angelo Ferrante**, Secretary General, Med-TSO
- **Ralph Bahke**, Managing Director, Ontras
- **Dr Andrea Hauser**, Department Head, KfW

Grace Hall C

- **Session 4 – Integrated Infrastructure Planning and Regulation across Regions**

There are numerous examples of cross-regional infrastructure projects, both in the EU and in the MENA region, e.g., the hydrogen corridors in the frame of the European Hydrogen Backbone, ELMED, GREGY. Such interconnectors and hydrogen corridors do not only require technical feasibility and commercial viability but also regulatory frameworks that support their implementation. During this session moderated by **Dr Jauad El Kharraz** from RCREEE, panelists will unfold main obstacles and lessons learned for planning and permitting procedures to accelerate cross-regional infrastructure, with a particular emphasis on how to integrate infrastructure planning for electricity and molecules.

- **H.E. Osama Mobarez**, Secretary General, EMGF
- **Hasan Ozkoc**, Director, Medreg
- **Damian Cortinas**, CEO, ENTSO-E
- **Emanuela Menichetti**, Director of the Renewable Energy and Electricity Division, OMEC
- **Prof Dr Mario Ragwitz**, Director, Fraunhofer IEG

**16:00-16:45**

#### Coffee and Networking Break

The Lobby

**16:45-18:00** **Program Sessions – Slot III (in parallel)**

Grace Hall A

• **Session 5 – Interconnections and Renewables Integration Success Factors for the Energy Transition**

With the COP28 Consensus in Dubai, the international community committed to tripling renewable energy capacities by 2030. While this critical role for renewables is being translated both in national and international energy transitions already, a technical, financial and regulatory framework is essential to allow for the successful integration of renewables in the energy system. Together with panelists, moderator **Simon Benmarraze** from IRENA will tackle the question, how to better integrate renewables through flexibility, demand-response and smart grids to facilitate the energy transition and create cross-border opportunities.

- **H.E. Marios Panayides**, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Energy, Commerce, and Industry, Cyprus
- **Ioannis Karydas**, CEO, Renewables and Energy Storage, Copelouzos Group
- **Tim Meyerjürgens**, COO, TenneT
- **Ioannis Margaris**, Deputy Chairman, IPTO
- **Radia Sedaoui**, Chief for Energy, UN ESCWA
- **Guido Guida**, Head of International Affairs, Terna

Grace Hall C

• **Session 6 – Hydrogen Trade and Infrastructure: Accelerating exchange**

Building hydrogen value chains offers new opportunity for cooperation besides electricity exports and is expected to become a mayor trade flow between the MENA region and the EU. While hydrogen exports become a new trade good for several countries in the MENA region, hydrogen imports are crucial for covering the import demand of European countries. However, enthusiasm for hydrogen development and trade has been faced with challenges. Assessing the insights and experiences of panelists at the interface between gas-producing and importing companies, with moderator **Anne Jacobs-Schleithoff**, Head of Division of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany, will investigate questions around challenges to accelerating hydrogen trade between the EU and MENA in infrastructure, coordination and offtake alignments and the potential for future development and the upscaling of hydrogen trade.

- **Hans-Joachim Polk**, Member of the Executive Board, VNG
- **Dr Egbert Laege**, CEO, SEFE
- **Arno Büx**, Chief Commercial Officer, Fluxys
- **Samir Rachidi**, Director General, IRESEN
- **Dr Karsten Schlageter**, Managing Director, ABO Energy

**18:00**

The Garden

**Networking Reception, Dinner and Drinks**

**20:15**

Grand Hotel  
Palace

**Departure of shuttle buses from Grand Hotel Palace to our partner hotels**