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INFORMATION NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council

to : Delegations

Subject : **Euro-Mediterranean partnership**

- Fifth Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Energy (Cyprus, 17 December 2007)

= Ministerial Declaration and Priority Action Plan (2008-2013)

Delegations will find attached the abovementioned Ministerial Declaration as well as the Priority Action Plan annexed to it, as adopted in Limassol on 17 December.

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

Adopted together with its annexes
by Ministers at the conference in Limassol, Cyprus on 17 December 2007

The Ministers of Energy of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, hereinafter referred to as "Ministers", and the European Commission

Taking part in the fifth Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Energy, held in Limassol, Cyprus, on 17 December 2007;

Considering the Declaration of the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference of 27-28 November 1995;

Considering that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the European Neighbourhood Policy are mutually reinforcing;

Considering the important role of energy in the implementation of the objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and its contribution to economic and social development;

Considering the decisions taken and long term objectives approved during the third and fourth Euro-Mediterranean Conferences of Energy Ministers, which were held in Athens on 21 May 2003 and in Rome on 1 December 2003, respectively;

Considering that the world today is entering a new energy era, dominated by growing concerns over energy security of supply and demand ,the link between energy and development, climate change and access of the poor to modern energy services, which require global action and cooperation;

Considering the fundamental need of the Euro-Mediterranean Partner Countries for reliable, diversified, adequate and affordable energy supplies, both internationally and domestically, increased energy solidarity, essential for strong and sustainable economic growth, socio-economic development and competitiveness of their economies;

Considering that the energy needs in the Euro-Mediterranean region are growing rapidly, and will necessitate large-scale investment in the coming decades, also for the development and exploitation of their energy potential;

Considering the progress achieved since 2003 in developing regional energy actions aiming at the gradual harmonization of energy markets and legislations between the Mediterranean Partners and the European Union, namely through the sub-regional initiatives that are being pursued such as the integration of the Maghreb electricity market, the Euro-Arab Mashreq gas project, cooperation achieved in the field of energy efficiency in the construction sector, as well as the joint activity in the field of energy statistics;

Considering the work of the Mediterranean Working Group on Electricity and Natural Gas Regulation (MEDREG) towards the promotion of an harmonized and investment-friendly regulatory framework providing the maximum benefits to energy consumers in the region;

Considering the adverse impacts of global warming and climate change described by the latest scientific findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as the necessity of reducing the impact of energy use, avoiding energy waste and developing more environmental-friendly energy resources;

Considering the strong potential contribution of renewable energy and energy efficiency to climate protection, energy security, job creation and socio-economic development in the Euro-Mediterranean region;

Considering that the Mediterranean Partner Countries are well endowed with new and renewable energy sources, particularly solar, wind, hydropower and sustainable biofuels and that many of them have already engaged themselves in major energy market reforms and adhered to sustainable energy strategies promoting a more balanced energy mix, demand-side management plans and taking into account prospects for additional financing resources, including those made available under the Kyoto Protocol;

Considering the EU's expertise and incentives provided to new and renewable energy sources through market mechanisms and technology cooperation, which could benefit the Mediterranean Partner Countries;

Considering the meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum of 21 September 2006, which recommended that cooperation in the period 2008-2013 should develop, build upon and extend the regional energy activities decided in 2003;

Considering the work undertaken by the Experts' Group set up in January 2007 in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum, and most notably the comprehensive review of the national energy sector developments it has conducted in the Mediterranean Partner Countries, as well as the proposals it has made for future priority actions necessary to enhance the integration and to improve the security and sustainability of the Euro-Mediterranean energy markets;

Considering the Rome Euro-Mediterranean Energy Platform and the ad hoc logistical support it could provide in the future to the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum;

Noting the Presidency Conclusions of the European Council of March 2007 which highlighted the importance of the external aspects of the EU energy policy related to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, specifically "making full use of the instruments available under the European Neighbourhood Policy" and "enhancing energy relationships with Algeria, Egypt, and other producing countries in the Mashreq/Maghreb region";

Noting the conclusions reached by the EU and Africa Heads of State and Government at the second EU-Africa Summit held in Lisbon, 8-9 December 2007, in particular the Joint EU-Africa Strategy and the Joint-Africa Action Plan, including the provisions for the effective establishment of a EU-Africa Energy Partnership, which will strengthen cooperation on energy security, energy access and climate change;

Considering that international financing institutions, such as the European Investment Bank and the World Bank are looking at possibilities of responding to the increasing requirements of the Mediterranean Partners and to play a more pro-active role to generate funding requests, including from small and medium scale enterprises, and to develop financing schemes designed to allow renewable energies and energy efficiency to establish themselves more widely on the market;

HAVE DECLARED THE FOLLOWING:

1. Ministers recall that the creation of an area of shared prosperity continues to be a strategic objective of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership;
2. Ministers recognize the important role of energy in the context of the European Mediterranean Partnership;
3. Ministers reaffirm their collective commitment to enhancing reciprocal energy security, competitiveness and sustainability for the Euro-Mediterranean region, which is based, among other things, on competitive, stable, equitable and transparent energy markets and the sound integration of economies that would take into account the needs of all countries involved;
4. Ministers take note that Association Agreements and other bilateral Agreements with the European Union will continue to be used as reference;

5. Ministers recall that the shared objectives of ensuring energy security, environmental sustainability, technology cooperation, and socio-economic development remain a priority of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Partnership, which is required to reinforce the strategic dialogue on energy policy between the Euro-Mediterranean Partners, particularly in the current context of increasing global energy demand and rising commodities, goods and services prices, in the energy sector;
6. Ministers stress that the integration of the Euro-Mediterranean energy markets must continue to build upon the priorities identified by the Ministerial Declarations adopted at the 2003 Ministerial Conferences in Athens and Rome, as well as the results of the implementation work over the period 2003-2006, and be enhanced by further developing and extending the ongoing regional energy activities;
7. Ministers decide to work closely together to upgrade the activities of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Partnership towards the achievement of the following goals:
 - 7.1 To pursue and amplify the implementation of energy market reforms and develop gradual harmonization of energy policies and regulatory frameworks between the Euro-Mediterranean Partner Countries towards the longer-term goal of creating a common Euro-Mediterranean energy market;
 - 7.2 To engage on more sustainable energy strategies, policies and systems by encouraging energy conservation and energy efficiency on both supply and demand sides, and by the substantial increase of renewable and other low carbon energy sources as referred to in the Action Plan, as well as closer attention to environmental protection, including maritime oil pollution; and
 - 7.3 To establish adequate frameworks for improving the investment climate, in particular to ensure the diversification of energy sources, reinforce gas and electricity interconnections, and support energy efficiency technology deployment and best practices;

8. Ministers endorse the 2008-2013 Priority Action Plan outlined in annex in order to achieve the above goals, which draws on the work carried out by the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum and its Energy Experts' Group, and Ministers recommend that EU future assistance focuses on the priority areas identified for cooperation in the period 2008-2013;
9. Ministers reaffirm the role of REMEP (Rome Euro-Mediterranean Energy Platform) for contributing to a permanent and broad cooperation among policy makers, regulators, energy companies and financial institutions;
10. Ministers recommend reflecting on the possibility of extending the ongoing sub-regional cooperation initiatives in the field of electricity in the Maghreb region to natural gas, as well as extending gas cooperation in the Mashreq to the area of electricity with the objective to facilitate the development of fully integrated and interconnected Euro-Mediterranean electricity and gas markets;
11. Ministers reaffirm the importance of continuing cooperation on energy regulatory issues towards harmonised regulatory frameworks in the Euro-Mediterranean region within the MEDREG initiative;
12. Ministers reaffirm the importance of facilitating energy dialogue between Africa and Europe, in order to increase energy security and reciprocal access to markets, to increase energy investments, to improve transparency and governance in the energy sector and to address climate change, and stress the important role of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership in this process;
13. Ministers decide to work jointly towards the integration of Libya into Euro-Mediterranean energy cooperation, based on the progress achieved in developing energy cooperation between the Euro-Mediterranean Partners and Libya, conditions permitting;

14. Ministers reaffirm the importance of facilitating the progressive integration of the sub-Saharan region in view of possible transit and supply of sub-Saharan energy resources, including from new and renewable energy sources, to the Euro-Mediterranean energy markets, and count on the mobilisation of support in the framework of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership to facilitate this integration process;
15. Ministers decide to devote an increasing attention to the development of energy efficiency and renewable energies, in the light of the necessity to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and taking into consideration the important potential in the Mediterranean region in relation to the objective of developing a Euro-Mediterranean green energy market with the involvement of Sub-Saharan countries as appropriate;
16. Ministers recall the European Union's ambitious target of 20% for the renewable energy share in the EU by 2020, and a 20% increase in energy efficiency with a view to meet environmental and economic threats of climate change. Ministers reaffirm the interest they attach to future joint work including technology cooperation, based on the EU experience, as well as Mediterranean Partner Countries' potential, in order to establish voluntary targets, where relevant, in the Mediterranean Partner Countries, taking into account differences in national situations;
17. Ministers recall that in order to meet such targets, appropriate policy instruments and market-based incentives such as feed-in tariffs, green certificates, pool models, tax incentives, building and energy performance standards, labelling programmes as well as gradual removal of market distortions, including the gradual reduction of energy subsidies, need to be considered, taking into account differences in national situations;
18. Ministers will endeavour to mobilise the relevant stakeholders and facilitate the establishment of adequate regional energy structures in the Mediterranean region, such as the Regional Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Cairo, as outlined in the Priority Action Plan, so as to promote networking with corresponding organisations established within the EU in order to boost the uptake of energy efficiency and new and renewable energy and create pre-conditions to foster and support sustainable actions in the energy field in the Mediterranean Partner Countries;

19. Ministers are confident that such energy structures will help increase the awareness of decision makers, producers and consumers; will assist Governments and public administration at the local level, as appropriate, in the setting up of adequate legal and policy frameworks, including incentive and disincentives that provide the required signals to the society and to the economy; will support market opening; and finally, will catalyse or leverage funding resources, including from the local financing institutions, and including the promotion of instruments such as the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund;
20. Ministers believe that cross-border expansion of the electricity grid will require intelligent interconnection infrastructure in the region, which takes into consideration the growing energy demand and the potentials for renewable energy and energy efficiency gains, thereby allowing for a better integration of renewable energy sources;
21. Ministers reaffirm the importance of reliable, comparable and timely energy statistics, based on internationally accepted definitions and methodologies, for analysis and policy making, and of forecasting for the formulation of long-term energy strategies in the Mediterranean Partner Countries. They are conscious of the need for more transparency on energy markets and encourage the development of the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI) which aims at reporting on countries' oil data;
22. Ministers reaffirm the interest they attach to Mediterranean Partner Countries becoming gradually involved in relevant EU programmes whenever possible, in particular those programmes devoted to information exchange and dissemination on clean and efficient energy technologies and policies, such as the Intelligent Energy Europe II programme and the Seventh Framework Programme of Research and Technological Development;
23. Ministers welcome every effort to facilitate and mobilise private and/or public financial resources from the Euro-Mediterranean Partner countries, EU assistance and International Financial Institutions, and call on all stakeholders to take appropriate measures with a view to implementing the activities set out in the Priority Action Plan;

24. Ministers stress that both the private and public sectors have a pivotal task in the Euro-Mediterranean energy sector development, in particular with respect to the financing of infrastructure, and reaffirm the priority to be paid to establishing the necessary legal and regulatory framework to attract investments in the energy sector;
25. Ministers emphasise the importance of transparency in the management of projects, and, to that effect, ask for enhanced follow up and evaluation mechanisms to be implemented, where necessary, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the Euro-Mediterranean energy projects and learn lessons for current and future projects;
26. Ministers recall that energy projects of common interest could appropriately be considered as priorities for financial support by the European Investment Bank under the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) as well as other relevant instruments, and recall the importance of facilitating coordination and ensuring energy infrastructure financing from different sources in a harmonious manner whilst eliminating environmental degradation arising from such investments;
27. Ministers invite all the actors involved, including the Member States of the European Union, the Mediterranean Partners and the European Commission to support the implementation of the priorities identified for the period 2008-2013 (as contained in annex), and urge them to continue to acknowledge the importance of energy in bilateral cooperation and to improve the coordination of future activities through the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum and other regional and sub-regional initiatives;
28. Ministers confirm their wish to maintain the activities of the existing Energy Experts' Group set up in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum, with a view to deepening energy dialogue and overseeing the implementation of the priorities decided;
29. Ministers suggest to hold the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Ministers in 2009 in order to review progress in the implementation of the Priority Action Plan; the Energy Ministers also envisage to set out a shared vision for the long-term implementation of energy cooperation between the Euro-Mediterranean Partner Countries;

PRIORITY ACTION PLAN
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN ENERGY COOPERATION
2008-2013

The present Priority Action Plan draws on the work carried out by the Experts Group established in the frame of, and endorsed by, the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum. The Experts' Group has reviewed the current energy sector situation in the Partner Countries, taken stock of the results of the implementation work over the period 2003-2006, and defined the priorities for future regional and sub-regional cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

The three following priority areas were identified for future Euro-Mediterranean energy cooperation activities in the upcoming period:

- Ensuring the improved harmonization of energy markets and legislations and pursuing the integration of energy markets in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- Promoting sustainable development in the energy sector;
- Developing initiatives of common interest in key areas, such as infrastructure extension, investment financing and research and development.

1. Ensuring the improved harmonization of energy markets and legislations and pursuing the integration of energy markets in the Euro-Mediterranean region

The overall aim is to further support and accelerate the ongoing reforms in the countries of the southern shore of the Mediterranean with a view to the gradual regulatory harmonisation between the energy markets of participating countries in the Euro-Mediterranean energy cooperation and towards the progressive creation of an integrated and interconnected Euro-Mediterranean energy market.

In this area of cooperation, the Ministers will use best endeavours to work jointly towards the following actions:

- Maintain a regular Euro-Mediterranean dialogue on the developments of energy policies and experiences and support the Mediterranean Partner Countries with the objective to:
 - develop realistic scenarios regarding energy policy objectives, master plans, reform agendas;
 - define longer term policy objectives and priorities;
 - find appropriate solutions and tools to implement these policies, and to adjust strategies, if required;
 - develop and use appropriate set of tools such as demand/supply forecasts, least cost supply plans, performance indicators;
 - define schedules and appropriate institutional setting and responsibilities;
 - allocate resources in an optimal manner;
 - elaborate solutions and plans of action for the effective implementation of the agreed strategies and policies and establish adequate monitoring and benchmarking tools, taking into account differences in national situations;
- The Rome Euro-Mediterranean Energy Platform (REMEP) will provide the operational tools for the successful development of energy scenarios, as well as of demand and supply forecasts in the region;
- Work on setting up monitoring systems, taking into account differences in national situations, to assess progress and prospects for energy sector reform, particularly with regard to the legal and regulatory framework, including a comprehensive regional database containing all information relevant to the status and progress of energy reforms in the Mediterranean Partner Countries, which will provide examples of best-practices and serve as a permanent common reference by which Government administrations and market actors in the whole Euro-Mediterranean region could situate themselves and define benchmarks;
- Prepare the establishment and development of independent energy regulatory agencies, at national level, and provide management, technical and commercial experience to energy regulators and entities responsible for market opening in the Mediterranean Partner Countries;
- Seek to implement stable, transparent, non-discriminatory and cost-reflective regulations and improve enforcement of energy regulation;

- Assess the implications of energy mix for electricity generation on the pace of liberalisation and the role of private sector investment in this regard;
- Define and carry out activities that lead to the most viable intermediate and ultimate liberalised and functioning market solutions, whether sub-regional or for the EU-Mediterranean region as a whole, which may require tailor-made approaches in line with the diverse situations in the Mediterranean Partner Countries;
- Seek to complete the sub-regional electricity (Maghreb) and gas (Mashreq) market integration projects, and gradually interconnect and integrate those with the EU internal energy markets;
- Assess the possibility of integrating Libya, and other countries in the regional and sub-regional energy market activities;
- Remove barriers to access to an open, transparent and competitive EU gas and electricity markets;
- Enhance Euro-Mediterranean cooperation for the harmonisation of common rules for the electricity and gas markets, reflecting the principles of competition and reciprocity, safety and security;
- Consolidate and expand the work developed by the Mediterranean Working Groups on Electricity and Natural Gas Regulation, under MEDREG, to facilitate the transparency of information and mutual understanding and benchmarking;
- Explore the possibility of carrying out complementary work to MEDREG on oil products;
- Explore the possibility of cooperating in the field of petroleum products' specifications, as well as in oil stocks' regulation;

- Pursue the harmonisation of information systems and statistics used in the energy sector of the Euro-Mediterranean countries initiated with the MEDSTAT II project funded through MEDA programme;
- Promote a more extensive use of technical assistance to exchange knowledge and experiences in the above areas, most notably through twinning, Technical Assistance Information Exchange (TAIEX) and staff exchanges amongst the energy administrations of the Euro-Mediterranean Partner Countries.

2. Promoting sustainable development of the energy sector

The overall aim is to develop and implement appropriate strategies and build the necessary institutional capacity for promoting sustainable energy in the Mediterranean Partner Countries, building inter alia on the knowledge and experience of the European Union in the field of energy efficiency and energy savings, new and renewable energy and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In this area of cooperation, the Ministers will use best endeavours to work jointly towards the objective of developing a Euro-Mediterranean green energy market through the following actions:

- Support the conditions for the effective development of sustainable energy in the Mediterranean Partner Countries through the design, implementation and monitoring of long term sustainable energy policies and action plans, including the establishment of quantifiable targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements, coupled with adequate institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks based on national circumstances;
- Develop awareness amongst decision makers regarding the opportunities provided by sustainable energy, develop capacities of decision makers and experts to attract investment and to support new activities in this field;

- Develop the work of regional, national and local energy structures in the Mediterranean region, such as the Regional Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Cairo, in order to facilitate the implementation of policy and the market uptake of technologies in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency, including by encouraging private investment and promoting Public Private Partnership, foster joint R&D cooperation activities with EU organisations and facilitating training and educational activities;
- Promote effective networking and sharing of information and best practices between energy agencies in the Mediterranean Partner Countries with similar bodies in the European Union, building on the achievements and the activities developed by the Mediterranean Energy Agency Network (MEDENER), and optimising national support schemes, exchange of best practices and technological innovation (including use of low sulphur fuels and clean burning technology to prevent and/or reduce the emissions of nitrogen oxides and fine particles) through regional and international initiatives such as the EU Energy Agency Network, the Blue Plan, Cairo's Regional Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency, the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, the Global Village Energy Partnership and the Middle East and North Africa Renewable Energy Conferences, which should be further encouraged and supported;
- Review the experience gained in the framework of the MED-ENEC project on energy efficiency in the construction sector in the Mediterranean, and mandate the Energy Experts' Group of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum to set up new regional and/or sub-regional initiatives focusing primarily on aspects, such as:
 - Improved energy performance of buildings, including energy efficiency measures and the use of new and renewable energy, notably for heating and cooling purposes,
 - sustainable transport policies, notably clean urban transport systems, ,
 - improved efficiency in the energy transformation, transport and distribution systems,
 - large-scale grid connected new and renewable energy power production and/or associated to sea water desalination;
 - Renewable energy decentralised power production;
 - biomass/biogas production and
 - co-generation for electricity production and heating.

- Reduce gas flaring and venting, and encourage the elaboration of Country Implementation Plans and participation in the Global Gas Flaring Reduction partnership by oil and gas producing countries;
- Cooperate for the sustainable development of the oil sector;
- Improve knowledge on financing tools amongst the main public and private players, and enhance utilisation of the different existing and new financing mechanisms, such as global Energy Efficiency and new and Renewable Energy Fund, for the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency, in particular small scale and micro credits, energy efficiency funds and Energy Service Companies, climate change flexible mechanisms, and promote effective ways to efficiently link and integrate them with each sector; devise flexible financing methods to run common projects and set up a platform to facilitate the emergence of bankable sustainable energy projects together with the European Investment Bank, EU bilateral financing organisations like Agence Française de Développement (AFD), KfW, and other financing schemes, including through the provision of technical assistance packages;
- Support development of energy systems at the most appropriate scale, on a case-by-case basis, focusing whenever possible on small-scale, decentralised systems based on renewable energy sources;
- Maximise the use of the flexible mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol for expanding new and renewable energy and energy efficiency deployment.

3. Developing initiatives of common interest in key areas, such as infrastructure extension, investment financing and research and development

The overall objective is to facilitate the practical implementation of investments in energy infrastructure of common interest in the Euro-Mediterranean region, whilst avoiding environmental degradation arising from such investments, including the necessary interconnections aiming at completing the electricity and gas Mediterranean rings as well as other necessary infrastructure projects to optimise the inter-operability of the systems and enhance their reliability and to increase energy trading in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

In this area of cooperation, the Ministers will use best endeavours to work jointly in the following areas:

- Improve the functioning of the Mediterranean regional and sub-regional gas and electricity markets, including the extension, also geographically, of the ongoing sub-regional projects in these sectors in the Maghreb and Mashreq, and their ultimate integration with the EU internal markets as well as the sub-Saharan region;
- Strengthen electricity and natural gas networks and installations and other transport means, as well as their interoperability, remove congestions, address role of new entrants, train electricity and gas network managers, set rules for interconnectors and price setting, and improve reliability of energy supply in the region;
- Identify and implement best policy and regulatory practices for investments in the different energy sub-sectors, taking into account differences in national situations;
- Enhance the rationalisation, modernisation and necessary expansion of refineries, oil products terminals, logistics and distribution in the Mediterranean Partner Countries, including oil products' quality for export in consistency with the latest international standards, harmonise rules and practices for upstream oil and gas infrastructures and promote research and technology cooperation;
- Improve the whole electricity sector performance through enhancing safety, energy efficiency and carbon performance;
- Harmonise technical and legal rules of electricity and gas interconnection management;
- For those countries having made the choice of nuclear energy, the concerned countries will fully commit to the highest international standards in safety and security of nuclear installations. The European Commission will cooperate in order to contribute to the development of technical expertise required for ensuring nuclear safety;

- Explore possibilities to cooperate in research and technology development in the field of oil shale;
- Enhance Research and Development cooperation in new and renewable energy and carbon capture and sequestration whilst taking account of the specific nature of the Euro-Mediterranean region. In particular, build upon previous and ongoing joint research efforts in the areas of solar, wind and sustainable biofuels;
- Support the EU - Israeli – Palestinian Authority cooperation in the energy sector;
- Improve the institutional, legislative and policy framework for renewable energy in order to support its technological development and application;
- Facilitate the financing of energy infrastructure and taking all appropriate actions in view of the realisation of interconnections and infrastructure projects of common interest in the region, including for instance:
 - Gas interconnection Turkey – Greece –Italy;
 - Arab gas pipeline;
 - Medgaz pipeline;
 - Nabucco pipeline;
 - Galsi pipeline;
 - Maghreb-Europe pipeline (GME);
 - Electricity Interconnection Turkey – Greece;
 - Electricity Interconnection Algeria – Spain and Algeria – Italy;
 - Electricity Interconnection Tunisia – Italy;
 - Electricity Interconnection Spain - Morocco;
 - Upgrading the electricity interconnection link between Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco;
 - Upgrading the electricity interconnection link between Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey;
 - Burgas – Alexandroupolis oil pipeline;
 - Gas, oil and electricity offshore interconnection between Israel and Turkey;
 - Electricity, oil and gas interconnections along corridor № 8 (Bulgaria-FYROM-Albania-Italy);
 - Trans Saharan Gas Pipeline “TSGP” Nigeria-Algeria-Spain-Italy;
 - Projects of cooperation in the Energy Sector between Israel and the Palestinian Authority;
 - And other priority interconnections projects, whose identification, planning and implementation are industry-driven,

without prejudice to further diversification efforts;

- Develop natural gas transmission and distribution infrastructures network with efficient financing mechanisms, including Public-Private Partnerships;
 - Assist the Mediterranean Partner Countries, wishing to do so, in the establishment of a framework favourable to private investment and industry driven exploration, production and interconnection of related infrastructures.
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Annex 2 to the Ministerial Declaration of 17 December 2007
List of Participants

EU PRESIDENCY: Mr Manuel Pinho (Minister of Economy & Innovation)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Mr Andris Piebalgs (Energy Commissioner)

ALGERIA: Mr Chakib Khelil (Minister of Energy and Mining)

AUSTRIA: Mr Alfred Steffek (Head of Energy, Ministry of Economy and Works)

BELGIUM: Mr Marc Verwilghen (Minister of Economy, Energy, Foreign Trade and Research Policy)

BULGARIA: Mr Lachezar Borisov (Deputy Minister of Economy and Energy)

CYPRUS: Mr Antonis Michaelides (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism)

CZECH REPUBLIC: Mr Andreas Wild (Department of European Policies, Ministry of Foreign affairs)

EGYPT: Mr Sameh Fahmy (Minister of Petroleum) & Mr Hassan Younes (Minister of Electricity & Energy)

FINLAND: Mr Risto Piipponen (Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus)

FRANCE: Mr Philippe Lorec (Deputy Director General for Energy and Raw Materials, Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development & Spatial Planning)

GERMANY: Mr Andreas Schuseil (Director-General for Energy, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology)

GREECE: Mr Christos Folias (Minister of Development)

HUNGARY: Mr Balázs FELSMANN (State Secretary for Infrastructure, Ministry of Economy and Transport)

IRELAND: Mr Justin Dolan (EU Division, Department of Foreign Affairs)

ITALY: Mr Pierluigi Bersani (Minister of Economic Development)

ISRAEL: Mr Gideon Ezra (Minister of Environmental Protection)

JORDAN: Eng Khaldoun Qutishat (Minister of Energy & Mineral Resources)

LATVIA: Mr Ugis Sarma (Director General of Energy)

LEBANON: Mr Mohammad Al Safadi (Minister of Energy and Waters by proxy)

LITHUANIA: Mr Vytas Navickas (Minister of Economy)

MALTA: Mr Anthony Mifsud (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Resources and Infrastructure)

MAURITANIA: Mr Mohamed Brahim Yargueitt (Advisor)

MOROCCO: Mr. Said El Aoufir (Director, Ministry of Energy, Mining, Water and Environment)

NETHERLANDS: Mr Jan-Meinte Postma (Energy Envoy of the Minister of Economy)

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY: Mr Omar Kettana (Energy Minister)

POLAND: Mr Zbigniew Szymański (Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus)

PORTUGAL: Mr. Miguel Barreto (Director General of Energy)

ROMANIA: Mrs Andreaa Pastarnac (Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus)

SLOVAKIA: Mrs Anna Turenicova (Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus)

SLOVENIA: Mr Vladimir Kolmanic (Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus)

SPAIN: Mr Fidel Sendagorta (Ambassador on Mediterranean Affairs)

SWEDEN: Mr Ingemar Lindahl (Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus)

SYRIA: Eng. Ahmed Khaled Al-Ali (Minister of Electricity)

TUNISIA: Mr Abdelaaziz Rassaa (Secretary of State in charge of renewable energy and agribusiness)

UNITED KINGDOM: Mr Malcolm Wicks (Minister of State for Energy)

Observer to the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Energy

CROATIA: Mr Vladimir Vrankovic (State Secretary, Ministry of Economy)