

# meetMED II

## Letter of Intent on the role of renewable energies and energy efficiency for the future EU- MENA cooperation

**We**, the Executive Director of RCREEE (Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency) and the President of MEDENER (Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Management) convening at the meetMED Week held in Cairo on 28-31 March 2022,

### *Together towards efficient buildings and appliances in the Mediterranean*

**Recalling** the Paris Agreement on the international treaty on climate change adopted by 196 Parties at COP21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016.

**Recalling** the European Neighbourhood policy to contribute to the stability and welfare of Southern Mediterranean countries.

**Recalling** the EU's Financing Decision named "Energy Security and Climate Action" in the Mediterranean Region (2017- 2020) to enhance energy security in beneficiary countries while fostering their transition to low carbon and climate-resilient economy, thereby contributing to more stable, efficient, competitive and climate-resilient socioeconomic contexts.

**Recognizing** that energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies and policies are key to the sustainable development of every country. But, despite the existence of government commitments and regulatory and institutional frameworks, the implementation of these programs is, however, evolving slowly in these countries.

**Recognizing** that the building sector is one of the largest energy-consuming sectors, responsible for 20% up to 35% of energy consumption of the meetMED target countries. In combination with the rapid demographic growth and urbanization of these countries, energy efficiency in buildings is at the core of the existing National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs).

**Recognizing** that the law enforcement of existing building codes, lack of harmonization between standards and norms for appliances, no harmonization in policy and measures monitoring, lack of decision-making tools at local and national levels, need to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of energy efficiency actions and reduce the perceived high risks for investment associated to them,

lack of visibility in terms of access to finance, not adequate financing instruments, low awareness on these topics often aggravated by energy subsidies.

### Willing to endeavour to:

**Accelerate a clean energy transition** through the massive deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in building and appliances sectors in the Southern Neighbourhood region.

**Create public awareness** enhances energy's major stakes and challenges increases, thereby fostering public and private sectors' involvement in more energy-efficient buildings and appliances sectors.

**Harmonize and enforce** regulation, energy efficiency building codes, Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and labelling processes for buildings and appliances in the Mediterranean region while showcasing the opportunities to increase investment in these sectors.

**Progressively structure markets** thanks to the deployment of tools and capacity building for professionals, industries, public officers and end-user, to make operative results from energy audits and implement cost-effective actions.

**Make financing instruments gradually available** to increase investments in those sectors.

### Hereby declare that the meetMED II project is committed to:

**Facilitate the dialogue between Northern and Southern Countries** on common approaches for the effective enforcement of energy efficiency measures in building and appliances sectors as well as the implementation of demo actions.

**Enhance and structure the sharing of information and experiences**, developing capacity-building programs and presenting good practices and innovative funding mechanisms addressed to both buildings and appliances and facilitating discussions among relevant stakeholders to identify barriers and single out the enabling conditions and necessary (amendments to the) national legal frameworks to allow a conducive business environment.

**Strengthen the implementation of energy efficiency measures and improve countries' energy mix** focusing on building and appliances sectors through a multiscale, multi-partner and inclusive approach at local and regional levels, thereby fostering regional cooperation.

**Develop an integrated strategy for South Mediterranean countries** that supports public authorities for the deep energy renovation of public buildings, by providing for instance a set of tools for energy management in schools, training sessions and guidance to identify the best solutions for energy efficiency actions, renewable energy integration, storage, appliances, and energy management systems.



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Mitigation Enabling Energy Transition in the MEDiterranean region  
**Together We Switch to Clean Energy**



As valuable key messages from all the estimated speakers of the first meetMED week, we welcome them and highlight:

Energy Efficiency should not be underestimated. Experts from 13 countries call for the EU ***Energy Efficiency First!*** to become a global principle.

**Mainstreaming financing options** for proven, available and cost-effective energy efficiency technologies and solutions is a **cornerstone to setting more ambitious energy efficiency targets** in the national strategies, action plans and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) **and accelerating their implementation.**

Acknowledging the fragmented nature of energy efficiency actions, **stronger engagement and integration between international, regional, national and local stakeholders is necessary** to harmonize, align, synergize and multiply their impact. **The international community is called for supporting regional and national forums and platforms** ensuring effective and accelerated multilevel stakeholders' concerted actions, dialogues, and systematic monitoring and reporting of progress achieved.

**Customization of financing products is key to addressing local needs** taking into consideration the opportunities offered by innovations in technologies and business models, thus **enhancing access to finance, especially for marginalized and vulnerable segments of populations.**

A **well stabilized legal framework** with building codes, minimum energy performance requirements and standards is **essential to support the development of new more efficient buildings or deep renovations of existing ones.**

The development of a set of **tools related to the labelling** of buildings or their systems/components is **essential to promote a positive differentiation and drive better solutions and efficient technologies** and demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of regulations and buildings codes. Moreover, certification and labelling, albeit an extra cost, is a quality sign rewarded by the customer. Therefore, **raising awareness of civil society along with marketing greener buildings as a lifestyle for better well-being** is also a driver for the energy transition in the building sector.

**Capacitation of Professionals, Citizens and Public Authorities** on buildings renovation **enables the countries to achieve national targets in line with global ones**, thanks to behavioural changes and governance capacities, among others.

The development of **fair and well-balanced financing systems can assure robust support** to both sustainable new buildings and existing ones, as well as they can provide sustainable economic impact and other benefits.

**Energy efficiency in many cases is not a priority for end-users** and their buying decision, leverage on the **cost-benefits associated with efficient appliances** as well as the **availability of incentivized financing schemes and demand-side management programs** are crucial for market upscaling. A first step toward the market upscaling of efficient appliances is to conduct detailed market surveys to gain insights into the breakdown of the total number of traded units and market size per energy efficiency band.

International **trade routes between the target countries and the EU member states could benefit the regional markets** by introducing efficient appliances; however, **the lack of regulations is allowing inefficient brands and models to dump the markets.**

**Intergovernmental organizations** have a great role in supporting target countries in setting their national policies towards energy efficiency and green economy transition in general and **efficient building appliances in specific.**

**Governmental bodies** should enact regulations **banning the trade and import of inefficient appliances, custom authorities should provide incentives** to imported components necessary for the local manufacturers to assemble efficient appliances (i.e., inverters for ACs).

There is a **regional harmony** amongst the target countries to facilitate the green energy transition through the **design of the regional Standards & Labelling programs.** This program would upscale the EE market and significantly reduce the negative environmental impact of the buildings and construction sector.

Target countries could **leverage the accreditation labs available in a few Arab countries as a hub for the testing of their appliances.**

Experts recognise the **multi-Benefits of a monitoring energy efficiency system** beyond the evaluation of energy efficiency policy impact.

Provision on the launching of a **monitoring system should be included in the energy efficiency law** (target tracking), and the monitoring system should be **designed at a detailed level to properly monitor** energy efficiency policies implemented at end-use or efficient technologies, and SEMCs should fund **adequate end-user surveys regularly.**

Experts recognize the value of set-up energy efficiency performances indicators which allow **cross-countries comparisons.**

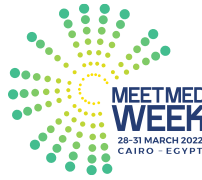
SEMCs have already demonstrated the feasibility and usefulness of implementing and updating energy efficiency monitoring systems. Given the monitoring of the **Sustainable Development Goal 7 of the UN 2030 Agenda**, systems can be easily enlarged to CO<sub>2</sub> indicators and can also incorporate renewables and access to energy.



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We would like to express our appreciation and compliments to the hosting Country, Egypt, and RCREEE for the warm hospitality, MEDENER, the EU Commission, and all esteemed Speakers and Stakeholders, who made the “meetMED week” happen.

We would like to thank all the national Experts for their deep commitment, and our distinguished Guests, who shared their valuable expertise.

The present Letter of Intent is not intended to create rights or obligations under international or domestic law or to result in binding financial implications