

OME & IRENA

Launch a Partnership for the Promotion of Renewable Energy and to Accelerate the Energy Transition in the Mediterranean

Press release



Paris, 4 July 2022

OME (*Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie*) and IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at promoting renewable energy technologies and accelerating energy transition in the Mediterranean region.

The signing ceremony was held in Paris at the OME premises, at the presence of Lapo Pistelli, OME Chairman, and the agreement was sealed by Houda Ben Jannet, Director-General of OME, and Francesco La Camera, Director-General of IRENA.

Under the terms of the agreement, OME and IRENA will work together to foster dialogue and share their experiences on accelerating energy transition and renewable energy development, drawing on their respective strengths and complementarities.

The two parties will cooperate in the following main areas:

- a) Regional, subregional, and national level dialogue in the Mediterranean region on challenges, gaps and opportunities for renewable energy deployment.
- b) Facilitating the exchange of knowledge, data, and best practices on areas of mutual interest including renewable energy policy, regulatory frameworks, financing frameworks and socioeconomic benefits of renewables.
- c) Capacity building and training with renewable energy stakeholders in the Mediterranean region.
- d) Joint outreach and engagement activities and participation in one another's events and Platforms.

Lapo Pistelli, OME Chairman, underlined the centrality of the MED region and all its actors for the transformation of the energy sector. *“This new partnership between OME and IRENA – he said - is about the contribution that each of us can bring to the goals of a just and effective energy transition. We are all aware that the latest, dramatic developments impose additional challenges that can be addressed only through the strong commitment and cooperation by all players, from governments to energy companies, from society to international organizations. We will work with IRENA to enhance knowledge sharing and capacity building, with the stronger engagement of our members to the common goal of a carbon neutral and sustainable energy future”.*

Francesco La Camera, Director-General of IRENA, said: *“The Mediterranean Region has a great potential for renewable energy. At the same time, countries in the region are challenged by rising temperatures and water stress as a consequence of climate change, threatening the human and economic development of the region. Energy transition opens up significant opportunities to meet the growing energy demand, boost sustainable development and job creation and enable economic cooperation. I look forward to closely working with OME to accelerate the deployment of renewables in Mediterranean countries.”*

Houda Ben Jannet, Director-General of OME, added: *“OME is the oldest regional association working on cross-sectoral energy analysis and promoting energy cooperation. In our 30 year-experience we have observed a profound transformation of the Mediterranean energy landscape and an acceleration towards more sustainable supply and demand patterns. Yet, we are aware that as a climate-change hotspot the magnitude of the effort required to accelerate energy transition in the Mediterranean must be far beyond current levels. We believe that our partnership with IRENA will give further impulse to energy transition in the region, through the exchange of know-how, data and best practices for the benefit of both policy makers and the industry sector”.*