

Declaration of intent on the Maghreb electricity market and its Integration into the European union internal Electricity market

Athens - 21 may 2003

Under the auspices and respecting the principles of the Barcelona Process that has as its core the need to strengthen regional co-operation amongst the states and nations of the Mediterranean region and to foster the conditions for the peace, stability and economic growth;

Considering the pivotal role of energy in the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and therefore the need to strengthen cooperation in the Maghreb region and to intensify the dialogue in the field of energy policies, as well as to encourage the introduction of general conditions conducive to investments and the activities of energy companies;

Considering the Athens Ministerial meeting of 21 May 2003 which adopted the priorities of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum for the period 2003-2006 and confirmed the priority given to the Maghreb regional electricity market and its gradual integration into the European Union internal electricity market;

Considering the important activities in the electricity sector already undertaken on bilateral and multilateral basis between the Maghreb and EU countries and in particular in the framework of COMELEC;

The undersigned resolve to develop necessary efforts to achieve the following:

- 1) To establish an integrated regional electricity market in the Maghreb region and to implement the necessary steps towards its gradual integration into the European Union's Electricity Internal Market;
- 2) To create a **Maghreb Electricity Monitoring Committee** [CMSME, in French) composed of the representatives of the parties and in charge of-
 - defining a detailed Action Plan for the achievement of the Maghreb electricity Market on the basis of the Preliminary Program described in the ad hoc working groups briefing document adopted by the Euro Mediterranean Forum of energy held in Brussels on the 29 April 2003;
 - promoting projects necessary for the integration of the Maghreb electricity networks;
 - proposing measures aiming at promoting regulation systems in the Maghreb region based on the European Union electricity internal market organization. The Monitoring Committee (CMSME) will agree on a timetable for this purpose. It will establish a close co-operation with the EU regulators and transmission system operators.
- 3) To agree that the European Commission will encourage the industry, the financing institutions and the private sector to invest in the electricity infrastructures in the Euro-Maghreb region in order to further achieve the integration of the Maghreb Electricity market -into the European Union internal electricity market.
- 4) To agree that the European Commission will act as a secretariat- and of the Maghreb Electricity Monitoring Committee under rotating presidency between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. In this context, the European Commission will organize the first meeting of the CMSME before November 2003 to define the working modalities of the CMSME, and to outline the detailed Action Plan (defined in point 2) in view of its presentation to the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial conference to be held in Rome in December 2003;
- 5) To invite any party concerned by the development and the extension of the Maghreb electricity market to joint this initiative;
- 6) To confirm that this Declaration of Intent does not constitute an agreement that is binding under international law.

Done in Athens on 21/05/2003.

For Algeria

For the European Commission

For Morocco

For Tunisia