

Energy Business Dialogue Egypt

Joining forces: Private Sector Engagement in an Energy Secure Future

9th of November 2015, Cairo Marriott Hotel

Background

Over the past 5 years the annual energy production in Egypt grew on average of 1% compared to annual average consumption growth of 5.3%. This has resulted in an increasing gap between energy supply and demand thus preventing the Egyptian energy sector to deliver security of energy supply to its population and industry. Despite a slowdown in economic growth between 2011 and 2013, Egypt's domestic consumption has continued to grow significantly driven by high rates of population growth and highly subsidized energy prices. This has led to regular blackouts for industry and the population as well as a high strain on government's budget for energy imports.

The reform of the energy sector consequently has become a priority on the government's agenda. First steps towards the liberalization of the energy market have been implemented, and subsidies are gradually being reduced. The promotion of private sector investment in renewables energies was kick-started with the issuance of a feed in tariff scheme in September 2014. Blessed with excellent sun and wind resources, renewable energies could play a major role in securing energy supply in Egypt in the long run.

Expanding energy cooperation between North African countries and Europe is of key importance to increase energy security on both continents. Highly needed major investments in renewable energies and natural gas infrastructure as well as, an increased use of gas resources in North Africa can be realized by European and regional cooperation. Electricity interconnections and increased gas exports to Europe can contribute to enhanced security of supply for both sides. Furthermore interregional cooperation between the countries of North Africa, its southern neighbors as well as the Mashreq region; *region of Arab countries to the east of Egypt-Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Iraq* offer substantial potential for energy cooperation.

The planned forum therefore offers an opportunity to foster Africa-EU relations as set out in the 2020 Africa EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) energy security targets:

- Doubling the capacity of cross-border electricity interconnections, both within Africa and between Africa and Europe, thus increasing trade in electricity while ensuring adequate levels of generation capacity;
- Doubling the use of natural gas in Africa, as well as doubling African gas exports to Europe, by building natural gas infrastructure, notably to bring currently flared gas to market.

Objectives

The objective of the Energy Business Dialogue in Egypt is to provide a platform for North African, especially Egyptian, stakeholders from the private sector, public sector, academia and civil society to discuss, share experiences and knowledge and search for priority areas of intervention to address the energy security issues that North Africa, and in particular Egypt, faces.

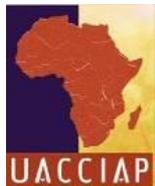
The forum will deal with a diverse set of topics such as cooperation opportunities between countries of the region and Europe for enhancing energy security, financial mechanisms and supporting SMEs, investment opportunities in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects and the role of the private sector in the development of the energy sector.

Expected results

The intended outcomes of the Energy Business Dialogue in Egypt are to:

- Enhance the participation of North African countries in the achievement of AEEP targets in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy access and energy security
- Explore priorities for North African, especially Egyptian stakeholders and encourage investments in key electricity and gas infrastructure as a means to increase energy security

Event co-organised by:



AEEP Steering Group



For more information please contact the organizers on info@ceebea.org or visit www.euei-pdf.org/aEEP
Follow us on Twitter @ **AfricaEUEnergy**

The EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF) acts as the Secretariat of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership. The EUEI PDF is an instrument of the EU Energy Initiative (EUEI). It is currently funded by Austria, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden.

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) constitutes one of the initial eight partnerships under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), a long-term framework for cooperation between the two continents. The work of the Secretariat is steered by the AEEP co-chairs, the European Commission (EC), African Union Commission (AUC), Italy and Germany as the European partners and Egypt and COMESA on the African side.