

"Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency"

*Innovative policies and financing instruments for the
EU's Southern and Eastern Neighbors*

Speech of

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Berlin

Germany

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Excellency Mr. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul

**Minister, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and
Development, Germany**

Excellency Mr. Sigmar Gabriel

**Minister, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature
Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me a great pleasure to be part of this important gathering and please allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of Germany for taking the initiative to organize this great event as a continuation of on going meetings and discussions aiming to strengthen the cooperation between European Union and its neighbors.

Energy sustainability is a strategic goal that we are all looking forward to realize. In view of the present fluctuations in the energy market due to the booming demand and limited traditional resources, renewable energies and energy efficiency can provide significant role in alleviating this concern. It should be an important factor in reducing oil-dependency, mitigating green house gases and promoting better regional and international cooperation.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Egyptian electricity sector has adopted and implemented a strategy to secure the needed electric energy supplies through policies to diversify energy resources, improving on energy efficiency, apply energy conservation measures as well as promoting renewable energy utilization.

Egypt is endowed with abundant renewable energy resources, mainly solar and wind. Presently, 150 MW solar thermal power hybrid plant is in the contractual process phase. Currently this project is targeted to be in operation in 2009.

Also, Egypt enjoys high wind regimes, particularly at the Suez Gulf area which is considered one of the best uninhibited desert regions, where the average annual wind speed exceeds 10 m/s that can host about 20000 MW of wind farms. At present, 230 MW of wind farms are in operation In addition 320 MW wind farms are contracted to be constructed in Suez Gulf with an expansion plan to reach 850 MW by 2010.

The Supreme Council of Energy chaired by the Egyptian Prime Minister has adopted recently an ambitious plan to achieve 20% of renewable energy by 2020 from the energy demand.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The energy efficiency activities on the supply side include improving energy efficiency in the levels of generation, transmission and distribution. The activities on the demand side include projects of high efficiency lighting, buildings codes, standards and labels for residential appliances, power factor improvement, enhancement of systems insulation, process control and cogeneration applications.

A Center for Testing and Certification for renewable energy and energy efficiency equipment were established to serve the Egyptian industry, support relevant R&D activities and capacity building.

May I add that the Egyptian Regulatory Agency for Electric Utilities and Customer Protection is currently in the process to finalize a proposed new electricity act to be presented soon to the parliament to encourage renewable energy utilization and private sector participation.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Electrical interconnections among the concerned countries will provide a milestone in our cooperation targeting the increase in green electricity exports to Europe and to benefit from the tradable clean energy systems.

Egypt is a partner of the electrical interconnection projects via Mashreq region to Turkey and via Maghreb region to Spain, where many

of these interconnections are in operation and the electric Mediterranean ring will be a reality in the future.

Nile Basin Initiative is a model of regional cooperation on the continental level aiming to benefit from the hydro power projects to provide a sustainable supply of clean energy that could serve the African countries needs with the excess to be transmitted to Europe. However, it would require a massive investment for these projects to be realized.

The Egyptian Electricity Sector is willing to share the accumulative experience and expertise, through cooperation with developed and developing partners, in a common Cooperation for the benefits of all.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Progress in combining renewable energy utilization with energy efficiency measures will help in improving economics of tomorrow's energy systems and contribute in securing the needed energy supply. Moreover, technology transfer is a key element to enhance the local industrial capabilities that would positively affect the economics of renewable energy and energy efficiency; thus attract the private investments.

The formula of public private partnership could be one of the driving forces in this regard. Also, Bilateral and multilateral cooperation play a pivotal role in terms of bridging the cost gaps and building the national capacity.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, we acknowledge the constructive role of the KfW Bank for supporting the development plans in the developing countries.

Lastly, I hope that the outcome of our gathering will lead us to a new horizon of cooperation and commitment towards an efficient use of clean and affordable energy.

Thank You.

H.E. Dr. Hassan Younes
Minister of Electricity & Energy, Egypt
Berlin – Germany, 19 April, 2007

ABSTRACT

It gives me a great pleasure to be part of this important gathering and please allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to the Federal Government of Germany for taking the initiative to organize this great event as a continuation of on going meetings and discussions aiming to strengthen the cooperation between European Union and its neighbors.

In view of the present fluctuations in the energy market due to the booming demand and limited traditional resources, renewable energies and energy efficiency can provide significant role in alleviating this concern. It should be an important factor in reducing oil-dependency, mitigating green house gases and promoting better regional and international cooperation.

The Egyptian electricity sector has adopted and implemented a strategy to secure the needed electric energy supplies through policies to diversify energy resources, improving on energy efficiency, apply energy conservation measures as well as promoting renewable energy utilization.

Egypt is endowed of abundant wind and solar energy resources. Consequently to promote renewable energy use and encourage the private sector. The Supreme Council of Energy chaired by the Egyptian Prime Minister has adopted recently an ambitious plan to achieve 20% of renewable energy by 2020 from the energy demand.

The energy efficiency activities on the supply side include improving energy efficiency in the levels of generation, transmission and distribution. The activities on the demand side include projects of high efficiency lighting, buildings codes, standards and labels for residential appliances, power factor improvement, enhancement of systems insulation, process control and cogeneration applications.

A Center for Testing and Certification for renewable energy and energy efficiency equipment were established to serve the Egyptian industry, support relevant R&D activities and capacity building. Egypt aims to host a regional center of excellence for capacity building in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency for in the Middle East and North Africa.

Egypt is a partner of the electrical interconnection projects with Europe, where many of these interconnections are now in operation and the electric Mediterranean ring will be a reality in the near future. In addition Egypt is a main player in the Nile Basin Initiative aiming to benefit from the hydro power resources in Africa.

