



## EU-GCC CLEAN ENERGY NETWORK II

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UAE – 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2016

### **Productive discussions on clean energy cooperation during first EU-GCC Clean Energy Network consultation workshop in Dubai**

*The EU-GCC Clean Energy Network and the Clean Energy Business Council sign MoU to foster enhanced reliance on clean energy solutions across the GCC*

The EU-GCC Clean Energy Network (CENII) has hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> [Working Groups' Consultation Workshop](#), with experts from the two regions' discussing cooperation potential in the fields of **Renewable Energy Sources**, **Electricity Interconnections** and **Market Integration**.

The EU-funded workshop was organised with the support of the **Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE)** and in association with the **Clean Energy Business Council**.

“The energy sector is undergoing a massive change as competitive clean energy technologies come to the forefront of business models both in the EU and across the GCC. Numerous factors including climate change and a need for secure energy supply are propelling the securing of funding for research and development of renewable energy technologies,” said **Frank Wouters**, Director of the CENII. “We believe joint actions and sharing of information between EU and GCC stakeholders will benefit all sides in this highly dynamic field.”

H.E. Ahmad Al Muhairbi, Secretary General of DSCE said: “Dubai is committed to ambitious energy efficiency targets for the coming years via our guiding principles, reaching up to 30% of consumption savings for electricity and water by 2030, as is defined in the Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy 2030”.

**Jean-Bernard Bolvin**, the representative of the EU Delegation to the UAE, stated that clean energy is a key element in EU-GCC cooperation, with clear win-win prospects emerging for both regions in terms of exchange of practices, knowledge transfer, energy research and innovation, development of joint projects, as well as concrete policy dialogue towards a sustainable energy future.

**H.E. Robert J.H. de Leeuw**, Consul-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Dubai, during his address, highlighted the potential for concrete energy partnerships at a bilateral and at a regional level, especially in the light of the GCC's strong commitment to combatting climate change and developing renewable energy.

The first CENII consultation workshop gathered more than 100 senior energy professionals from across the region and included addresses from distinguished public and private sector authorities and experts including representatives from Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, the Clean Energy Business Council, Dubai Carbon Centre, Qatar National Research Fund, MESIA, BELECTRIC Gulf Ltd, Petroleum Institute, CENER, Hydrocity Ltd, DWE and DII, Castalia Strategy, TRANSCO, Siemens, GCC Interconnection Authority, Baringa Partners, Energy Charter Secretariat and others.

The workshop included panel discussions and brainstorming sessions, a review of current clean energy strategies and initiatives in the EU and the GCC, identified common fields for collaboration between the two regions, and developed proposals for the Network's immediate and long-term action plan.



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**Photo Caption 1:** H.E Ahmad Al Muhairbi, Secretary General of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE) opened the works of the event.



**Photo Caption 2:** Mr. Frank Wouters, Director of CENII and H.E. Dr. Nasser Saidi, Chairman of the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) sign a Memorandum of Understanding stating their joint commitment to focus on clean energy solutions across the GCC and Europe.



**Photo Caption 3:** The EU-GCC Clean Energy Council Hosted the Network's First Workshop on Tuesday 24 May 2016



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EU GCC CLEAN ENERGY NETWORK II

### About the Network

The **EU-GCC Clean Energy Network** initiated its activities in 2010, as a response to the **common EU GCC interest for strategic clean energy cooperation**. The Network aims to **catalyse and coordinate cooperation on clean energy**, including **policy and technology** aspects among stakeholders in the EU and GCC countries. In December 2015, the European Union launched the second phase of the “**EU GCC Clean Energy Network II**” (**CENII**) **project** aiming at **further developing** the activities of the Network and at supporting **its sustainability** over the mid-term.

The Network targets **stakeholders from both the GCC and the EU** including *energy authorities and policy makers, utilities and industry, as well as energy associations, research entities and other stakeholders from the energy and climate change sectors*.

An important operational element of the Network is the **Working Groups (WGs)** that are established to foster cooperation and partnerships in the areas of:

**WG1 - Renewable Energy Sources;**

**WG2 - Energy Efficiency & Demand Side Management;**

**WG3 - Clean Natural Gas & related Clean Technologies;**

**WG4 - Electricity Interconnections & Market Integration;**

**WG5 -Carbon Capture & Storage,**

considering also **climate change** as a crosscutting topic.

The Network fosters **EU GCC partnerships on clean energy through:**

- ✓ **Exchange of experiences and know-how** as well as **sharing of best practices;**
- ✓ **Provision of capacity building** on technical, policy and research aspects;
- ✓ Coordination and promotion of **joint actions**, including **studies, projects, publications, events**, e.tc;
- ✓ Facilitation of **joint demonstration and development** projects and initiatives, including through **joint research projects** in the GCC;
- ✓ Provision of targeted **inputs for the policy dialogue** between the EU and the GCC in the relevant sectors;
- ✓ **Web- supported services** that promote dialogue and collaboration.

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