

High-Level Meeting on Renewable Energy in South East Europe  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
13 January 2017

## ABU DHABI COMMUNIQUÉ ON ACCELERATING THE UPTAKE OF RENEWABLES IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Heads of Delegation to the High-Level Meeting on Renewable Energy in South East Europe, from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Serbia met in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 13 January 2017, to discuss the challenges in South East Europe's transition to a sustainable energy future and to identify collaboration opportunities between the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the region for accelerated deployment of renewable energy.

The Heads of Delegation stressed that the South East Europe region is committed to scaling up renewable energy, as envisaged in the adoption of targets for 2020 and the development of National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs) to achieve higher levels of investment. They confirmed their governments' intention to further accelerate renewable energy development, in line with the 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework for the European Union, adopted by the European Council in October 2014.

The Heads of Delegation emphasised ongoing efforts across the region to tackle the major challenges hindering renewable energy uptake and to create more conducive enabling frameworks for renewable energy investments.

They noted that increasing deployment and continued technological innovation have led to sharp cost reductions and improved cost-effectiveness, particularly for solar photovoltaic and wind energy. They also recognised the broader macroeconomic impact of renewable energy deployment, along with notable socio-economic benefits, such as creating employment, developing local manufacturing capacity, avoiding health and environmental costs, and addressing climate change.

The Heads of Delegation took note of the results of IRENA's publication, *Cost-Competitive Renewable Power Generation: Potential across South East Europe*, which underscores the region's vast resource potential for hydropower, wind, solar PV and biomass that can be deployed in a cost effective manner already today.

The Heads of Delegation also commended IRENA for scaling up its engagement to support efforts at accelerating deployment of renewables in the region and, in this context, welcomed the regional consultative process undertaken by IRENA.

Therefore, mindful of respective policies and priorities, the Heads of Delegation identified the following opportunities for collaboration with IRENA<sup>1</sup> to facilitate the deployment of renewable energy in the region:

- Mapping the most suitable locations for wind and solar PV development on the Global Atlas online platform and assessing the renewable energy potential that can be deployed in a cost-competitive manner across South East Europe;
- Supporting governments in the intended process of undertaking expected new commitments and developing long-term strategies for renewables, through the comprehensive analysis of renewable energy markets and the identification of feasible options for scaling up technology deployment in power generation and end-use sectors;
- Raising awareness about socio-economic benefits and the impact of renewable energy development on end-user prices and affordability, as well as enhancing capacities for the collection of reliable renewable energy data, particularly for bioenergy;
- Strengthening the enabling frameworks to promote renewable energy investments, including by supporting the ongoing transition process towards more market-based support schemes and the streamlining and simplification of administrative procedures;
- Supporting the development of capacities at the technical, regulatory and operational level for the integration of variable renewable energy to power systems;
- Promoting the use of the Project Navigator and Sustainable Energy Marketplace platforms to improve the bankability of renewable energy projects and facilitate access to financial products in the region, as well as sharing best practices and global experience on renewable energy finance and risk mitigation.

The Heads of Delegation underscored the importance of collaboration with IRENA and other regional and international partners in a co-ordinated and collaborative manner, in order to create synergies, maximise complementarities and achieve greater efficiency.

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<sup>1</sup> IRENA's involvement and support for these activities will be subject to available funding and in accordance with IRENA's Work Programme.