



Organizing Institution
Center for Environment, Human
Security & Governance (CERES)

EuroMesCo Policy Study

A Euro-Mediterranean Green Deal? Towards
a Green Economy in the Southern
Mediterranean

◆ Public Debate

Energy Transition in Morocco from a
Sustainability and Inclusive Approach

June 21, 2021

16.00-18.30 (GMT+1)

Zoom

Requests of invitation to be sent to:
behnassi@gmail.com

Follow the event on Youtube

Dr. Mohamed Behnassi's page

Moderator

Zarkik A. (Morocco) ●

Speakers

Behnassi M. (Morocco) ●

Pollmann O. (Germany) ●

Temsamani K.R. (Morocco) ●

Elia A. (Spain) ●

Majdoubi H. (Morocco) ●

Parlow A. (USA) ●

Zarkik A. (Morocco) ●



PUBLIC DEBATE

POLICY STUDY ON:

A Euro-Mediterranean Green Deal? Towards a Green Economy in the Southern Mediterranean

*Transition to Renewable Energy in Morocco
from a Sustainability and Inclusive Approach*

Date & Time: June 21, 2021 - 16.00-18.30 (GMT+1)

Place: Virtual meeting on Zoom

Link to the published YouTube Video of the Meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inG2vnxgVe4>

Background

The European Green Deal commits to developing a stronger green deal diplomacy, and specially to placing emphasis on supporting its immediate neighbours through strong environment, energy, and climate partnerships with the Southern Neighbourhood. Among the pathways to advancing sustainability and decarbonisation, the *Green Economy* concept has gained popularity as an attempt to create more inclusive and environmentally-friendly economic development.

The research which will be presented in this webinar is the result of the EuroMeSCo Policy Study: *A Euro-Mediterranean Green Deal? Towards a Green Economy in the Southern Mediterranean*, carried out in the framework of the *EuroMeSCo: Connecting the Dots* project, co-funded by the EU and the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). The project contributes to inclusive and evidence-based policy-making by fostering research and recommendations in relation with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) South priorities, with a focus on economic development, migration and security. It also aims to connect the dots between diverse stakeholders as well as between the EU, its Southern Neighbours, and the wider region. It develops a broad range of research, dialogue, and dissemination activities. More specifically, the present webinar will focus on the case of energy transition in Morocco, assessed from a sustainability and inclusive approach.

Link to the Policy Study:

<https://www.euromesco.net/publication/a-euro-mediterranean-green-deal-towards-a-green-economy-in-the-southern-mediterranean/>



ORGANIZING INSTITUTION



This event was organized by the Center for Environment, Human Security and Governance (CERES). The CERES – previously the North-South Center for Social Sciences (NRCS), 2008-2015 – is an independent and not-for-profit research institute based in Morocco but founded by a group of researchers and experts from many countries in addition to the host country. As an emerging Think Tank in the MENA and Mediterranean regions, CERES aspires to serve as a reference point through rigorous research and active engagement with policy-making processes. Currently, CERES is a member of many networks, such as the MedThink 5+5, which aim at shaping relevant research and decision agendas. Through its program, CERES attempts to investigate the links between environmental/climate change, their implications for human security and development, and the needed shifts to be undertaken in both research and policy areas. CERES, led by Dr. Mohamed Behnassi and mobilizing a growing pool of researchers and experts, undertakes original research, provides expertise, and contributes to effective science and policy interactions through its publications, events, and capacity building.



AGENDA OF THE MEETING

16h00-18h30

Introduction & Moderation

16h00-16h10



Eng. Afaf Zarkik

Researcher in Energy Transition and Environmental Studies
Policy Center for the New South
Morocco

Setting the Scene

16h10-16h30

Presentation of the Euromesco Policy Study's key findings and policy recommendations



Dr. Olaf Pollmann

CEO and Co-Founder at SCENSO – Scientific Environmental Solutions. Deputy Head, “African Service Centers” (SASSCAL/WASCAL) at DLR-PT on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany

Insights from Morocco

16h30-16h50

Presentation of the findings and policy recommendations of the Chapter on Transition to Green Energy in Morocco



Dr. Mohamed Behnassi

Professor, College of Law of Agadir; Director, Center for Environment, Human Security & Governance (CERES); Expert on International Law & Politics of Environment and Human Security, Morocco



First Comments

16h50-17h55



Dr. Khalid R. Tamsamani

Professor, Faculty of Sciences of Tetouan, Abdelmalek Essaadi University; International Expert on Climate Change, Morocco



Dr. Antonietta Elia

Senior Associate Fellow in International Law University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain; Visiting Professor of International Law and Human Rights, China Youth University of Political Sciences, Beijing, China



Dr. Hind Majdoubi

Professor, College of Law, Ibn Tofail University of Kenitra, Specialist in Environmental Law and Sustainable Development Morocco



Ms. Anita Parlow

A.L. Parlow & Associates, LLC; International Consultant in Energy; Advisor/Researcher to the Harvard-MIT Arctic Fisheries Negotiation Project and Founding Team Lead to the Wilson Center Polar Program, USA



Eng. Afaf Zarkik

Researcher in Energy Transition and Environmental Studies Policy Center for the New South Morocco

Open Debate

17h55-18h30



REPORT

PUBLIC DEBATE

POLICY STUDY ON

A Euro-Mediterranean Green Deal? Towards a Green Economy in the Southern Mediterranean

This report details the findings of a Virtual Public Debate entitled “Euromesco Policy Study – Energy Transition in Morocco from a Sustainability and Inclusive Approach” held on June 21, 2021. The event brought together around 20 stakeholders (7 speakers and 13 attendees via Zoom with unidentified listeners through YouTube Channel) from many countries and backgrounds (see list below) with the objective of presenting and discussing the key findings and policy recommendations of the Policy Study, and especially the chapter on the *assessment of transition to renewable energy in Morocco from a sustainability and inclusive approach*. Every discussant has commented such findings and policy recommendations from her/his own perspective despite the fact that some comments and suggestions have been raised in convergent way. Below are some key issues raised and comments and recommendations made:

- The EU Green deal is promoting the carbon-border tax in a way which may probably constrain the Southern Mediterranean partners to comply, otherwise customs adjustments may be used in trade, therefore negatively affecting the current established trade relations.
- Carbon pricing may be detrimental on Southern countries’ development. Therefore, good regulation combined with public spending may help avoid distributional side-effects. In addition, carbon pricing revenues may be invested in enhancing social welfare and livelihoods. This scheme is being now experimented by many countries worldwide in various forms.
- The mitigation obligations of the EU versus the adaptation imperative as a priority for Southern Mediterranean countries may impede the ability for the latter to reach climate and social resilience in the future as an impact of this divergence in interests and priorities when it comes to climate agenda.
- Linking mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in undertaken policies and projects (i.e. desalination projects in Morocco and the need to use an energy-water nexus approach) is a co-benefit strategy that should guide relevant future actions in the Mediterranean.
- Mainstreaming social and climate resilience in energy transition policies is a key pre-requisite to ensure their sustainability aspect.
- The need to promote and foster the private sector financing in the area of renewable energy transition is a key mechanism for decentralized energy production. Accordingly, securing funding for renewable energy transition projects through existing carbon funding mechanisms may be promising, especially for Southern Mediterranean partners.
- Building synergies between some SDGs (3,5, 10, and 13) may be a lever for the mobilization



of funding opportunities for Southern Mediterranean countries.

- The Covid-19 pandemic is an opportunity for more cooperation between the EU and Morocco regarding carbon neutrality and social resilience.
- The lack of sustainability and inclusivity of energy transition in the Southern Mediterranean may generate many negative externalities for the EU as the outcome of some dynamics linked to human displacements, increased poverty and vulnerability, and declining growth linked to declining export potential due to emerging carbon neutrality induced-obligations.
- The green economy transition from an inclusive approach should consider the digital integration as a key component. This was so evident since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the wide digital gap between Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries, especially in terms of energy and digital access, is crucial, therefore increasing the vulnerability of the marginalized and poor in this crisis time.
- In Morocco, the transition to renewable energies may play a favorable role in boosting digital inclusion, especially in case this type of energy is used as input by data centers for instance, which are usually energy-intensive consumers, therefore lowering their carbon-footprint. In this regard, the role of the EU in accompanying digital transformation and security in Southern Mediterranean countries is key.
- By referring to other contexts, such as the arctic, a comment has been made recommending from an inclusion perspective that people should be sitting on the table to discuss and decide on what is driving societal changes, especially regarding climate neutrality and energy transition. Within the same perspective, green grabbing (maladaptation and inappropriate mitigation schemes) and its impacts on native and local communities should be avoided.
- The lack of multilateral and bilateral cooperation ties between Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries, which are sensitive to the specific contexts and needs of both parties, may impede the sustainability and inclusiveness of the energy transition process with many negative implications for all. Therefore, energy diplomacy should evolve according to new values and settings while combining both multi- and bilateral cooperation given their potential positive impacts according to the area and the level of intervention.
- The North-South approach should be replaced by a Mediterranean perception of common and shared challenges and interests. Joint agenda setting, developing evaluation and accountability mechanisms, sharing and developing best practices are among the steps to enhance this perception shift. In addition, the recognition of limits and limitations of policy prescriptions is a way forward to ensure policy relevance and efficiency.

The key questions raised by participants are:

- How to turn opportunities into reality in terms of political reforms envisioned and initiated by the EU Green Deal?
- Are the EU neighborhood policies capable of giving concrete expression to the spirit or philosophy of the green economy between the Northern shore with its wealth, industries ... and the Southern shore with its failures?



List of participants:

Speakers

- Dr. Mohamed Behnassi, Morocco
- Eng. Afaf Zarkik, Morocco
- Dr. Olaf Pollmann, Germany
- Dr. Khalid R. Tamsamani, Morocco
- Dr. Antonietta Elia, Spain
- Dr. Hind Majdoubi, Morocco
- Ms. Anita Parlow, USA

Attendees

- Dr. Mahjoub El Haiba, Morocco
- Dr. Gopichandran, India
- Dr. Houria Ouazzani, Belgium
- Abderrahman Ikhrazen, Morocco
- Ismail Akhmouch, Morocco
- Rabiaa Bourhim, Morocco
- Mohamed Zahour, Morocco
- Mly Hicham Amrani, Morocco
- Abdelkrim Lhafssi, Morocco
- Karim Rouchdi, Morocco
- Laila Sougri, Morocco
- Ikram Ghazi, Morocco
- Abdedaim Battioui, Morocco