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**NOTE**

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From: European Commission

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To: Delegations

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Subject: Strategic partnership on energy between Tunisia and the European Union

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

North Africa – B.3  
The Head of Unit

Brussels, 04 September 2023

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MASHREQ/MAGHREB (MAMA) GROUP**

**SUBJECT:** Strategic partnership on energy between Tunisia and the European Union

**CONTACT POINTS:**

**DELETED**

**DELETED**

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations**

**DG NEAR – Directorate B Neighbourhood South and Türkiye**

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**REMARKS:**

The Group will find enclosed an information note related to the Strategic partnership on energy between Tunisia and the European Union.

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## Information Note

### Strategic partnership on energy between the European Union and Tunisia

In line with the arrangements for non-binding instruments <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission would like to inform the EU Members States about the intended start of the negotiations to establish on behalf of the European Union a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a strategic partnership on energy between the European Union and Tunisia.

This Energy MoU is a concrete follow-up action of the EU-Tunisia Memorandum of Understanding on a strategic and comprehensive partnership signed on 16 July 2023 and more specifically of its third pillar, dedicated to green energy transition.

Building on the ongoing EU financing cooperation and policy dialogue in the energy sector, the Commission envisages to cover five main angles in the Energy MoU which will be submitted to Tunisia for negotiations:

- 1) Improvement of the administrative procedures for renewable energy projects, reform of the regulatory framework and finalisation of the Renewable Energy Code, thereby creating a more favourable framework for private investments,
- 2) Adaptation of the financing support framework for the renewable energy sector to attract private investments,
- 3) Development and optimisation of infrastructure for reliable renewable energy integration in the national network,
- 4) Instauration of the necessary instruments and regulations to integrate Tunisia into international trade in renewable energy, in particular with the EU, in view of the application of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM),
- 5) Development of the technological capacities and provision of the necessary training for the growth of the renewable energy sector and achievement of the objectives of Tunisia's energy strategy by 2035.

### **Background**

The Energy MoU builds on the potential for renewable energy in Tunisia and its important role in economic development and employment creation and in addressing the challenges of the decarbonisation and the security of energy supply. The MoU aims to contribute to accompany Tunisia to meet its renewable electricity targets (35 % in 2030), energy efficiency (30 % energy savings in 2030 compared to 2010) and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as foreseen in Tunisia's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

The MoU intends to develop as far as possible, by means of appropriate reforms and actions, the potential of the electricity connection project between Tunisia and Italy "ELMED", among others, and the concept of investment in an "ELMED +" approach with other European partners (EIB, EBRD, KfW,) to achieve the operational green energy transition in Tunisia.

### **State of play**

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<sup>(1)</sup> Note 15367/17 of 4 December 2017, on arrangement for non-binding instruments.

The Commission held a first informal exchange with the Tunisian Energy Ministry about the main elements of the future strategic partnership on energy and the related next steps. The negotiations on the text will start soon in September following the Commission's presentation to EU Member States in MaMa.

### **Alignment with EU policies**

This Memorandum does not create any legal or financial obligations or commitments between the two sides, or any third parties under domestic and international law. This Memorandum will not constitute an obligation to allocate funds. It will be implemented through the various strands of cooperation between the European Union and Tunisia, following the relevant regulations and applicable procedures.

EU legislation and policies will be fully taken into consideration when drafting the MoU and the Commission will ensure a consistent follow-up during the MoU implementation with Tunisia.

### **Drafting process of the Memorandum of Understanding and endorsement.**

The finalised text of the Memorandum of Understanding will be transmitted to the Council for endorsement once the negotiations with Tunisia will be concluded.

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