PRESS RELEASE: FROM COP21 TO COP22: RENEWABLES AND MEDITERRANEAN INTEGRATION

Tunis, May 27th 2016 – Representatives of governments, energy companies and financial institutions from around the Mediterranean concluded today a one day meeting to discuss the role of a Mediterranean energy market integration in achieving the climate change mitigation objectives included in the Paris agreement.

In the Mediterranean region, renewable energy plays a key role in achieving climate change mitigation. Southern Mediterranean countries are endowed with a large renewable energy potential that can be deployed to help both Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries reduce CO2 emissions at least cost. Moreover, they have a clear comparative advantage over the developed countries of Europe in producing solar energy. Therefore if markets were better integrated they would take advantage of geographically diverse renewable generation and of differences in power generation and demand structures across countries.

In this context the Center for Mediterranean Integration organized a one-day meeting to raise awareness on the benefits of a Mediterranean energy market integration in supporting transition towards a low-carbon economy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and in Europe.

The meeting has allowed participants to share knowledge on the issues and to discuss challenges to be addressed for successfully achieving the Mediterranean energy market integration.

The main discussions revolved around:

- The Policy and Regulatory Framework of the Energy Union and Mediterranean Integration
- The economics of Mediterranean electricity exchanges and interconnections
- The Complementarity Roles of Public and Private Financing in Pursuing the COP21/22 Objectives.

More info on the meeting and discussions can be found here

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The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) is a multi-partner platform where development agencies, Governments, local authorities and civil society from around the Mediterranean convene in order to exchange knowledge, discuss public policies, and identify the solutions needed to address key challenges facing the Mediterranean region. Members of the CMI include Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region, City of Marseille, the European Investment Bank and the World Bank Group, and the European External Action Service (EEAS) as an observer. Web: www.cmimarseille.org; Facebook: CMI Marseille; Twitter: @cmimarseille