



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

*"To raise awareness of the threat of climate change and
to promote policies which counter that threat"*



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
London

Mediterranean Solar Power Initiative: Using the enormous potential of the Mediterranean countries for producing electricity

London, 7 July 2009

CONFERENCE OUTLINE

The European Union is the driving force behind international climate protection policy. Key elements of the EU policy in that field are the efficient use of energy and a massive increase in the use of renewable energies. Renewable energy trading between countries having different types of resources with intermittent availability, such as with wind and solar, is likely to become a significant part of the European energy scene.

Looking beyond Europe, it will be crucial for a successful international climate strategy to get as many countries as possible, including developing countries, involved. To this aim, the Union for the Mediterranean provides a good opportunity for making progress with regard to the use of renewable energies in the EU as well as in the countries of Northern Africa.

In this context, Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) could play a key role. More and more countries are recognising the enormous potential of solar thermal power plants for a sustainable energy supply. Power plants are currently being built or planned in Egypt, Algeria, Australia, China, India, Iran, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Spain, the USA and the United Arab Emirates.

A coordinated effort to develop and deploy solar plants and an appropriate supergrid is being carried out at the European level. It will be beneficial not only as a means of producing cheap clean solar-based electricity for all Europe, but also as an infrastructure for redistributing the energy produced by other sources across the continent, and as a fruitful experience in view of deploying such technologies in developing countries.

The conference aims at bringing together a selected number of panellists who show how the Mediterranean Solar Plan can be realised. Investment opportunities and financial feasibility will be shown alongside the more technological aspects. Finally, the framing of common initiatives will be discussed.

The aim is to convey a positive and constructive message to the audience about the convenience of tackling these goals at an international level.