



vienna  
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CONCEPT NOTE

Under the Patronage of

**H.E. Prof. Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen**  
**Federal President of the Republic of Austria**

**10<sup>th</sup> ARAB-AUSTRIAN ECONOMIC FORUM & EXHIBITION**

**Conference on:**  
**Energy Transition – Urban Technology and Sustainable Cities**  
**New Opportunities for International Cooperation and Partnerships**

**1 -2 October 2018**  
**Vienna, Austria**

Organised by:

**Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC)      Vienna Business Agency (VBA) / City of Vienna**

**Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)**

In cooperation with:

**Union of the Mediterranean (UfM)**



Union pour la Méditerranée  
Union for the Mediterranean  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

**The United Nations Industrial  
Development Organization (UNIDO)**



**UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION**

## **1. Background**

The Arab-Austrian Economic Forum & Exhibition is a yearly event organized every time on a specific topic of mutual interest between the Arab countries, Austria and Europe. It aims at exchanging views, experiences and technologies in that field in particular and to strengthen the economic relations and cooperation in general.

## **2. Introduction:**

The sustainable use of energy is a central question in modern global societies. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency have become major factor for effective urban planning for Sustainable Development. This applies not only in rural (off-grid) areas, but also particularly in highly populated areas. Topics like access to energy, sustainable mobility, public utilities, distributed generation; passive housing and design of urban communities are depending on the efficient use of energy.

A wide range of innovative technologies are available mostly all over the world, but that does not guarantee the best solution for the very specific demands of each city. Therefore, the process of exploring and planning the most suitable solutions in cooperation with stakeholders from business, administration and policy is gaining crucial importance for the decision itself, but even more so for the implementation and smooth management and operation of these new systems. Such inclusive processes increase acceptance, ownership and ongoing prosperity of cities.

Europe and the Arab region share close geographic proximity and are both affected by the impacts of climate change. Urban agglomerations in large capitals of the region call for energy efficient solutions and enhancement of innovation to improve livelihoods. This leads to the development of new technologies for the sustainable use of resources and diversification of energy sources in the region.

Austria has an outstanding expertise in these areas, and new programmes and projects for the effective use of energy and new urban developments are launched in many Arab countries.

## **3. Objective of the 10<sup>th</sup> Forum:**

The forum will focus to bring in decisions makers, investors, financing institutions, manufacturers, think tanks and experts to work together to fill the missing link to upscale projects building on technology and knowledge transfer. It will focus on the tools and the enablers for fostering climate change mitigation measures in relation to energy sector. This will be based on the well presentation of the energy status in the Arab region and discussing different future scenarios for its transition. The discussion will involve different stakeholders to clarify their roles for guaranteed implementation of sustainable energy projects.

This year, the forum aims at:

- Highlighting and analysing energy profile in the Euro-Arab region showing the current transition and the needs for future actions.
- Building up partnerships to promote investments, financing and up-scaling sustainable energy projects via strengthening the cooperation with private sectors in the mentioned regions. This shall be facilitated by launching and promoting a “High Level Policy Dialogue” (HLPD) between Europe and Arab countries.
- Identifying related financial tools, incentives and investment development: funds, benefits, challenges, potential areas for future investment etc.
- The exchange of experiences, technologies and solutions for modern and sustainable urban developments.

#### **4. Structure of the forum:**

The Forum is designed in one ministerial and three main sessions; the first one will give an overview on the energy sector within the Euro-Arab context. The second session will discuss focus on the establishing of the HLPD gathering investors, financing institutions and energy agencies. The HLPD will be considered as a platform to promote the use of RE&EE in the region and through fostering climate change mitigation measures via meaningful partnerships between Europe and the Arab countries. The HLPD aims to come up with a well-articulated and well-studied list of bankable and realistic projects ideally based on NDCs<sup>1</sup> of the southern Mediterranean countries with the aim of benefiting from the GCF and all other concessional financing initiatives for financing relevant Climate Action.

The third session will be focusing on urban planning and sustainable cities and will discuss the role of cities in future transition towards green economies and sustainable development.

This is illustrated through the following topics:

- Energy outlook of the world, EU and the southern region,
- Future energy transition scenarios and socio-economic consequences
- Climate finance to promote mitigation and adaptation measures
- Enhancing partnership between energy services providers, IFIs, investors, think tanks, governmental and intergovernmental organizations and decisions makers.
- Investments, risk mitigation and increase projects bankability enabling factors.
- Building partnership and energy synergies.
- Urban planning for local authorities
- Sustainable cities

#### **5. Organisers:**

##### 5.1. Organizers:

- Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC)
- Vienna Business Agency (VBA) / City of Vienna
- Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)

##### 5.2. Cooperation partner:

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

##### 5.3. Supporters:

- OFID (OPEC Fund for International Development)
- Government of the Netherlands
- League of Arab States
- European Commission
- Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Arab Republic of Egypt
- MEDENER
- Related semi-governmental institutions

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<sup>1</sup> National Determined Contributions

## **6. Target Groups & Partnering Institutions:**

Private sector groups, government authorities, financial and research institutions from Arab States are the expected target beneficiaries, namely:

- Related Ministries and official institutions;
- Union of Arab Chambers (UAC);
- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC);
- Regional and local chambers in Arab countries;
- Embassies and diplomatic representations;
- Local governments and Municipalities;
- European Union (EU)/European-Mediterranean Assemblies for Energy, Environment and Water (EUROMED);
- Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO);
- Investment authorities & institutions, Investors and funds;
- Universities, Educational Institutions and Research institutions;
- Companies and Corporate Leaders;
- Major developmental organizations and financial institutions;
- MSME agencies;
- Chambers of Commerce, Business Associations and entrepreneur's networks;
- Technology providers;
- Others

## **7. Exhibition:**

Display of companies, enterprises and international institutions in various fields together with the diplomatic representations of Arab countries in Austria, offering special opportunities to meet with the business community and establish personal contacts.

## **8. Dates and Venue**

The Conference is scheduled for:

1 October 2018:

Vienna City Hall,  
Friedrich-Schmidt-Platz 1  
1010 Vienna, Austria

2 October 2018:

Sight visits in Vienna

## **9. Language:**

English

## **10. Tentative Agenda:**

### **Monday, 1 October 2018 | Conference & Exhibition**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 9:00                 | Registration & Networking Coffee  |
| 9:00 – 16:00         | Exhibition  |
| <b>09:30 - 10:15</b> | <b>Opening of the Conference</b>  |
| <b>10:15 – 11:00</b> | <b>Panel Discussion:<br/>Ministerial Level Dialogue</b>   |
| 11:00 - 11:15        | Break   |
| <b>11:15 - 12:30</b> | <b>Session I:<br/>Energy Outlook; Innovations and Markets</b>                                       |
| 12:30 - 13:30        | Lunch break   |
| <b>13:30 -14:45</b>  | <b>Session II: Investment Enabling Environment<br/>“First Round of High Level Policy Dialogue”;</b> |
| 14:45 -15:00         | Coffee break  |
| <b>15:00 -16:15</b>  | <b>Session III:<br/>Smart Urban Management / How to implement Innovation;</b>                       |
| 16:15                | End of the Conference   |
| 19:30                | Gala Dinner   |

### **Tuesday, 2 October 2018 | Programme**

Sight visits and practical presentations of renewable projects in Vienna

## **11. Invited Personalities & Potential Speakers:**

- **H.E. Dr. Michael Ludwig**, Governor and Mayor of Vienna
- **H.E. Mr. Miguel Arias Canete**, Commissioner of the European Union for Climate Action and Energy
- **H.E. Mr. Karmenu Vella**, Commissioner of the European Union for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- **H.E. Mr. Saleh Kharabsch**, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jordan
- **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Shaker Al Marqabi**, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy
- **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Al Bakhit**, Minister of Electricity and Water / Acting Minister of Oil, Kuwait
- **H.E. Dr. Karin Kneissl**, the Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria
- **Dr. Wilhelm Molterer**, Managing Director of European Fund for Strategic Investments at European Investment Bank
- **H.E. Senator Nael Al-Kabariti**, President of the Union of Arab Chambers, Lebanon
- **H.E. Dr. Kamal Ali**, Assistant Secretary General and Head of Economic Affairs, League of Arab States
- **H.E. Dr. Khaled Hanafi**, Secretary General of the Union of Arab Chambers, Lebanon
- **H.E. Dr. Mustafa Al-Hiti**, Head of the Reconstruction Fund for Areas Affected by Terroristic Operations
- **H.E. Mr. Li Yong**, Director General of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- **H.E. Mr. Suleiman Al-Herbish**, Director General of OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)
- **Prof. Stefan Schennach**, Chairman / Head of Delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of the Mediterranean (PAUFM)
- **Mr. Dawood Al-Shezawi**, President of Annual Investment Meeting, Dubai
- **Dr. Eugen Antalovsky**, CEO, Urban Innovation Vienna, City of Vienna
- **Univ. Prof. Dr. Margarete Rammerstorfer**, University Professor for Energy Markets and Investments, Vienna University of Economics and Business
- **Dr. Barbara Flügge**, Head of Smart Logistics Initiative, SAP AG
- **N.N.**, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)
- **N.N.**, World Bank
- **N.N.**, Green Climate Fund
- **N.N.**, FMO Entrepreneurial Development Bank
- **et. al.**