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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 17 June 2025 Report on the MED9 Meeting of Energy and Environment Ministers (Portorož, Slovenia 1-2 June 2025) - Information from Slovenia

The MED9 group, comprising Cyprus, France, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Slovenia, was established in 2013 to promote cooperation among EU Member States on common issues in the Mediterranean. The countries in this group represent a third of the EU Member States and around 45 % of the EU population.

The MED9 group is committed to strengthening cooperation on key EU issues and to better coordinating their positions within the EU on areas of common interest. The priorities include not only political dialogue and cooperation, security and stability in the region, but also other common challenges and opportunities that link all shores of the Mediterranean, such as coping with the adverse effects of climate change, energy and food security, migration, water, youth, the green and digital transitions, the blue economy and economic development.

The third MED9 energy ministerial meeting was held back to back with the second meeting of MED9 environment ministers, which was the first one to take place in person. Ministers or their representatives were joined by the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency, the Senior Deputy Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean, responsible for Energy and Climate Action, and a representative from the European Commission.

During the energy meeting, ministers discussed energy connectivity in the region and advancing cross-border renewable energy projects. They reaffirmed their commitment to a clean, just, inclusive and competitive energy transition in the Mediterranean. As the region holds a unique geostrategic position and vast renewable and clean energy potential, the MED9 countries share a vision of transforming the Mediterranean into a green energy hub and a corridor for renewable and clean energy, strengthening energy security, sustainability and economic resilience.

Recognising the urgency of the energy transition and the strategic importance of enhancing Europe's energy resilience, ministers in their joint statement underscored, among other priorities, the need to:

- strengthen cross-border and cross-Mediterranean energy interconnections,
- enhance cooperation in renewable energy projects, and
- ensure competitiveness, affordability and social fairness through clean energy.

During the joint working lunch of the MED9, energy and environment ministers discussed challenges and opportunities that the decarbonisation and clean energy transition presents as regards maintaining the competitiveness of the region's economies. They also discussed possibilities for deepening energy and climate cooperation with other Mediterranean neighbours through existing regional organisations and platforms such as the Union for the Mediterranean, which can enhance regional stability, enable clean energy trade and foster mutually beneficial economic development.

During the environment and climate meeting, ministers discussed strengthening climate resilience in the Mediterranean, this being one of the most climate-vulnerable regions in Europe, increasingly recognised as a climate change hotspot.

In their joint statement, environment and climate ministers emphasised the importance of coordinated action to strengthen resilience and integrate adaptation across all policies, and of supporting multidisciplinary research and sustainable innovation in this area. Recognising the interdependence of biodiversity, desertification and climate crises, they affirmed the essential role of nature restoration and sustainable land management for more effective adaptive measures. Transboundary water cooperation and integrated water resource management are of critical importance, and should also support food security, soil health, drought prevention and pollution reduction through resource efficiency and circular economy practices. Ministers agreed that the announced New Pact for the Mediterranean provides an opportunity to advance a shared vision for climate resilience and sustainable resource management in the region.
