



European Commission - Speech [Check Against Delivery]



Remarks by Commissioner Simson after the EU-Algeria High-Level Energy Dialogue

Algiers, 10 October 2022

Good afternoon!

I am delighted to be in Algiers today.

I am very grateful to Minister Arkab for his hospitality and for the excellent discussion that we have had this afternoon.

The ties in the energy sector between Algeria and the EU and its Member States are historical, strong and deep. We want to consolidate them and further develop an energy partnership that is mutually beneficial to the Algerian and the European people.

Therefore today I proposed to Minister Akrab to hold the EU-Algeria high-level energy dialogue on an annual basis.

I see three very promising areas where Algeria and the EU can have a win-win cooperation:

The first one is **gas**. Algeria has long been, and still is, an important and reliable natural gas supplier to the EU. The EU is the biggest market for Algerian gas. We are long-standing partners and would both benefit from increasing the volumes of Algerian gas potentially available for export to Europe.

This increase could be achieved in cooperation with European companies, by tapping into new gas fields.

Another promising avenue is to further reduce fugitive methane emissions and flaring, which would make more gas available for trade. I have today proposed a concrete project of cooperation to Minister Akrab in this regard.

The second area of common interest is **renewable energy**.

Algeria has abundant renewable energy sources, solar and wind, and is geographically close to Europe.

Algeria therefore has a great potential to become a global leader in the production of clean energy, for local consumption but also for export, including towards Europe.

Using more sun and wind to generate electricity would yield multiple benefits:

- Decarbonize the Algerian electricity system
- Boost economic growth and create jobs
- Leave Algeria with higher volume of natural gas for export.

We are already working together on the development of renewable energy with our joint Taka Nadifa project.

But the EU is ready to do much more: We can mobilise significant European funding from the European Fund for Sustainable Development in cooperation with our development banks like the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Boosting renewable electricity generation is important also because it is a precondition for the development of the **green hydrogen industry**. This is the third policy area where I see a very clear common interest for Algeria and the EU to work together.

A possible EU - Algeria Hydrogen Partnership could work jointly to develop the production, consumption and trade of renewable hydrogen and hydrogen based derivatives. This would also facilitate the clean transition of Algeria, especially by greening the local industry.

We need to work together to create the right conditions to attract investments and to promote partnerships of European and Algerian companies. The Energy Business Forum that we co-organised

and that will start tomorrow is a good example of this.

Ladies and gentlemen, not only Europe but the world is facing an energy crisis, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It is likely that we will witness volatility and tightness of the market for some time.

But strong and reliable partnerships are key for overcoming this global crisis. I am here in Algiers to take the EU-Algeria energy cooperation to the next level.

Thank you.

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Press contacts:

[Tim McPHIE](#) (+ 32 2 295 86 02)

[Giulia BEDINI](#) (+32 2 295 86 61)

General public inquiries: [Europe Direct](#) by phone [00 800 67 89 10 11](#) or by [email](#)