

JOINT STATEMENT
OF THE MED9 ENERGY MINISTERS
Opatija, Croatia
25 and 26 May 2026

**Strengthening Energy Security and Security of Supply
through a Resilient and Competitive Clean Energy Transition**

The Energy Ministers of the Group of Southern EU Member States (MED9) (hereinafter: the Ministers), meeting in Opatija, Croatia on **25 and 26 May 2026**;

Recalling the strategic importance of energy security for the economic stability, social cohesion and strategic autonomy of the European Union;

Recognising the specific vulnerabilities and strengths of the Mediterranean region;

Affirming our shared commitment to the EU's climate objectives;

Taking into account the emerging policy framework of the Pact for the Mediterranean, which aims to strengthen regional cooperation, resilience and sustainable development across the Mediterranean basin;

Have adopted the following statement:

The Ministers **underline** that **energy security and security of supply remain core pillars of the clean energy transition, alongside decarbonisation and competitiveness**. Recent crises have demonstrated the need for resilient and interconnected infrastructure, system flexibility, including storage capacity, well-functioning markets and effective protection of critical energy assets. Given the specific characteristics of MED9 energy systems-including, seasonal demand peaks, exposure to climate risks and concentrated coastal infrastructure targeted and timely action is required to ensure a resilient, socially acceptable and economically sustainable transition.

The Ministers **stress** that energy **affordability and competitiveness are inseparable from energy security**, as persistent price volatility disproportionately affects Mediterranean economies and energy-intensive sectors. Energy efficiency,

electrification, and the accelerated deployment of clean energy are essential tools to reduce costs, limit external dependencies and strengthen resilience, provided they are supported by timely investments in grids, storage and system flexibility, as well as streamlined permitting and connection procedures.

The Ministers **reaffirm technological neutrality as a guiding principle of the transition**, allowing renewable and low-carbon technologies (including nuclear) to contribute where they deliver the greatest system value, while safeguarding security of supply, system stability and competitiveness. As MED9 energy systems will rely on the parallel operation of multiple energy vectors, flexibility in technology choices and infrastructure planning is essential to avoid supply risks, stranded assets and unnecessary costs.

The Ministers **emphasise the strategic role of Mediterranean energy infrastructure** as a cornerstone of both regional and EU-wide energy security and supply diversification.

- The Ministers **call** for stronger focus on:
- coordinated cross-border infrastructure and grid planning,
- enhanced crisis preparedness, risk management and solidarity mechanisms
- enhanced supply chains on clean technologies for energy.

MED9 countries play a **key role in strengthening the Southern dimension of EU energy security, contributing to diversification of supply routes, market integration and system resilience, in line with the broader regional initiatives, such as the Pact for the Mediterranean.**

The Ministers therefore **call** for the **EU regulatory and financial framework** to better reflect the **specific characteristics and strategic importance of the Mediterranean region**, including:

- recognition of transitional security needs,
- support for strategic infrastructure, grids and interconnections,
- adequate funding for resilience, storage and flexibility solutions, including emerging energy value chains such as hydrogen
- promotion of renewable and low-carbon technologies including nuclear
- support for swift and flexible capacity-enhancing support mechanisms.

The Ministers **agree** that **enhanced MED9 cooperation** provides clear added value in addressing shared challenges. The Ministers will **strengthen coordination** on:

- energy security and crisis preparedness,
- infrastructure, grid and storage planning,
- permitting acceleration and implementation best practices,
- coordinated contributions to EU-level energy and climate policy discussions.

Through a coordinated MED9 perspective, **the Ministers aim to support a secure, resilient and competitive European energy system**, ensuring that the clean energy transition strengthens, rather than compromises, security of supply and economic stability.