PRESS RELEASE

More zero-carbon emission energy production in North Africa has strong potential to achieve European Union zero-carbon emission electricity targets

A political framework is required to facilitate investments in clean energy sources to generate electricity for local consumption and for export. The claim comes from climate change impacts experts gathered in Bali to present the European project CIRCE, that aims at evaluating adaptation and mitigation activities in the Mediterranean region.

Policy options and public private co-operations and the evaluation of the impact of the climate change at regional level, in particular in the Mediterranean, will be the themes of an event promoted by CIRCE (Climate change and impact research: the Mediterranean environment), the integrated European project granted by the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Union (EU).

The event will be held on 12th December 2007 in Bali at 13 pm (EU Pavilion - Room: LISBON) during the COP-MOP - United Nations Climate Change Conference a Bali and it will see the participation of Antonio Navarra, from INGV-CMCC and Circe coordinator, Laurence Tubiana, from IDDRI and co-chair of the Circe project, Elisabeth Lipiatou, from DG Research, European Commission and a panel of discussants.

Energy produced in North Africa can contribute at meeting the local increasing electricity demand and, if exported, at meeting the 20% zero-emission electricity targets of some European Union Member States. Condition for this to happen is a political framework which will allow imported renewable electricity to be included in the national targets. The EU Directive on renewable, currently under preparation, should take into consideration this option.

The renewable energy would also represent a concrete action to adapt to climate change. For instance, it can utilised to counterbalance, through desalination processes, the lack of water. In fact, climate change projections show a trend towards prolonged droughts periods in the region with potentially negative impacts on agriculture and water availability.

Constructive steps are being made in Bali to agree on a mandate to negotiate the post-Kyoto process. This would provide the required long term directions and confidence to the business community to channel investments in clean technology options thus opening the way also to a major exploitation of zero-carbon emission energy resources in North Africa.

"The Mediterranean region is a vulnerable area for climate change impacts as identified by the IPCC 4th Assessment report", adds Elisabeth Lipiatou from DG Research, Climate Change and Environmental Risks of the European Commission, "Within a strategy for climate change research, and as considered by the 7th Research Framework Programme, we should focus on regional studies to address climate change impacts in order to discuss appropriate adaptation strategies". But we need more powerful tools to achieve this. This is shown as well by a study in press in the *Journal of climate* by CMCC (Centro euro Mediterraneo per i cambiamenti climatici) and INGV (Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia) that investigates the importance of more powerful and detailed mathematical models to understand the impact of climate change at the regional rather than global level, as is the case of the Mediterranean. "Mathematical models on climate are the major tools to investigate climate

change and its impacts at regional level. The more they are detailed the more they can describe new climate phenomena in ways like nobody has ever seen before", comments Antonio Navarra from INGV-CMCC and co-chair of the Circe project.

CIRCE Scientists in Bali:

Antonio Navarra (CMCC & INGV): +39 334 6942203
Antonella Battaglini (ECF): in Bali 081 70819436; in Europe +49 170 5849229