Joint Declaration

on the priorities for cooperation between the European Commission
and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the energy sector

Introduction

This Joint Declaration between the European Commission and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (hereinafter referred to as "the participants") must be viewed against the background of the energy aspects of the European Union (EU) - Jordan Association Agreement, the EU-Jordan Action Plan, the Country Strategy Paper for Jordan for 2007-2013 and the National Indicative Programme for Jordan for 2007-2010 (stemming from the European Neighbourhood Policy).

Having regard to

- the Association Agreement between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which entered into force on 2 May 2002, establishes a legal basis for relations between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and encourages bilateral and regional cooperation in areas of common interest, including energy;

- the Action Plan between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan endorsed on 11 January 2005 in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy and in particular its energy chapter;

- the desire of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the EU to develop their relations further;

- the Action Plan for an "Energy Policy for Europe", adopted at the European Council of 8 and 9 March 2007, and in particular the importance of deepening energy relations between the EU and the energy-producing, consuming and transit countries in the Mediterranean region;

- the desire of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to manage its energy dependence and the commitment of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to embark on a programme of reforms in the energy sector with due regard to its social consequences;

- Jordan's interest in developing peaceful uses of nuclear energy that will allow also to improve its water security of supply through desalination;
Jordan’s wish to cooperate with the EU and its Member States on approaches regarding the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy;

the declaration of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in Barcelona on 27 and 28 November 1995 as well as the declarations of the Euro-Mediterranean Conferences on Energy held in Athens on 21 May 2003 and in Rome on 1 and 2 December 2003, to which Jordan is a party;

the Declaration of intent on the Euro-Mashreq cooperation in the field of natural gas (2 December 2003) and the ongoing activities of the Euro-Arab Mashreq Gas Market Centre in which Jordan participates;

the progress in development of the Arab Gas Pipeline and the potential of Jordan to become a transit country for natural gas supplies to the EU;


The European Commission and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan agree, in line with the EU-Jordan Action Plan, to assign priority to the following cooperation areas:

1) Strengthening Jordan’s energy policy with a view to the progressive integration of the Jordanian energy market into that of the EU.

2) Consolidating the policy of sustainable development in the Jordanian energy sector with a view to aligning it more closely with that of the EU.

3) Cooperation in the field of Nuclear Safety

1. Strengthening Jordan’s energy policy with a view to the progressive integration of the Jordanian energy market into that of the EU

1.1. The purpose of greater convergence between the energy policy of Jordan and that of the EU is to enable the Jordanian energy market to integrate gradually into that of the EU. The participants will study the conditions necessary for carrying out, as soon as possible, a joint appraisal of the state of convergence of Jordan’s energy policy with EU policies and legislation ("acquis communautaire"). In particular, key elements of the energy acquis including those on the internal energy market as well as relevant environmental, competition and trade rules will be taken into consideration. This joint appraisal, taking into consideration the Jordan’s ongoing update of the national energy strategy, could identify options for strengthening energy policy, regulation and legislation, including the gradual reduction of energy subsidies, while taking account of the social consequences of the reforms.

1.2. Where the natural gas sector is concerned, the appraisal will have to take account of the reform measures initiated in Jordan as well as of the Declaration of intent on the Euro-Mashreq cooperation in the field of natural gas (2 December 2003) signed in Rome on 2 December 2003, and the activities of the Euro-Arab Mashreq Gas Market Centre.

1.3. The participants will cooperate on the further development of energy statistics, which will support Jordan’s energy-monitoring instruments.
1.4. The participants will strive towards a progressive convergence of the rules and standards applied in the Jordanian gas and oil sector with those in the EU especially as regards emergency oil stocks and the quality of oil products.

1.5. The participants will work together to establish the organisational, institutional, regulatory and technical conditions necessary for the integration of the electricity and gas markets, in particular by providing advice to the bodies concerned.

1.6. In order to enhance the role played by Jordan in the security of regional energy supply, the participants will cooperate on improving energy network interconnections and their safety and security, including of those designed for transit towards the EU.

2. **Consolidating the policy of sustainable development in the Jordanian energy sector with a view to aligning it more closely with that of the EU**

2.1. The participants will assign particular importance to consolidating the policy of sustainable development in the Jordanian energy sector by incorporating the management of demand, the transparency of energy prices, the promotion of energy efficiency, the development of sources of renewable energy and substitute fuels, compliance with the targets set under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the implementation and prolongation of the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. In this connection, the Commission will support Jordan's participation in the relevant Community programmes and agencies such as the "Intelligent Energy Programme"\(^1\). The participants will contribute to the implementation of the objectives that Jordan has set itself in its Renewable Energy Program.

2.2. The participants will also contribute to the implementation of the Jordanian National Energy Efficiency Strategy.

2.3. The participants will strive to strengthen the Jordanian institutions in these fields.

2.4. The participants will support regional cooperation in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency including through the future regional centre of excellence to be established with Commission’s support in Egypt.

3. **Cooperation in the field of nuclear safety**

3.1. The participants reaffirm their support for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its strengthened safeguards system. They are committed to ensuring that the research, development and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes are carried out in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The participants are also committed to promotion of the highest standards of safety and security of nuclear installations.

3.2. The participants will explore the feasibility of a Euratom bilateral agreement. In this context, mutual cooperation could be developed regarding in particular:

- the legislative and regulatory framework for nuclear safety,

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\(^1\) Communication from the European Commission on the general approach to enabling countries which are partners in the European Neighbourhood Policy to participate in the Community agencies and programmes, adopted on 4 December 2006.
the establishment of an independent regulatory authority and a safeguards organisation in Jordan,
- training needs to increase technical expertise and awareness required for ensuring nuclear safety.

In this hypothesis, according to the relevant Treaty procedures, it is for the Commission to negotiate on the basis of any negotiating directives that may be issued to it by the Council.

4. General terms and conditions

4.1. The technical monitoring of activities covered by this declaration is intended to be assumed by experts of the Ministry for Energy and Mineral Resources of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and of the European Commission, who will report regularly to the subcommittee on energy matters set up under the Association Agreement.

4.2. In accordance with the National Indicative Programme for 2007-2010, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), including as appropriate through twinning and "TAIEX", will underpin the cooperation priorities set out above. The existing relevant instruments such as the instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation, could also be brought into play.

4.3. Financing decisions will be governed by Community rules.

Final provisions

This declaration is an expression of the administrative and technical cooperation intended by the participants and does not entail a legal undertaking.

This declaration shall take effect from the date on which it is signed by the two participants.

Signed at 31 Oct. 2002

For the European Commission

[Signature]

Benita Ferrero Waldner
Commissioner for External Relations and Neighbourhood Policy

For the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

[Signature]

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