

Press Statement JDOI AUT-ITA-DEU

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Germany, Austria, and Italy sign Joint Declaration of Intent for Southern Hydrogen Corridor Development

The JDOI aims to accelerate the establishment of a hydrogen corridor connecting the three countries following the creation of a trilateral multilateral working group

Berlin, Vienna, Rome — In an important move towards sustainable energy collaboration the ministers for Energy from Germany, Austria, and Italy have signed a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDOI) to develop a pioneering hydrogen import corridor connecting the three countries. The Southern Hydrogen Corridor has been already been selected on EU level as a Project of Common Interest (PCI).

The trilateral partnership aims to enhance energy security for the respective countries' main industrial demand clusters while simultaneously supporting the European Union's climate objectives.

The signing ceremony, held today in Brussels was attended by ministers and high-ranking officials from the three nations and the European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson.

The JDOI acknowledges the need for a European transition to hydrogen technologies to decarbonize in particular hard-to-abate sectors and the strategic importance of the Southern Hydrogen Corridor as one of the five large-scale pipeline hydrogen import corridors to realize the import of 10 million tons of renewable hydrogen by 2030. The development of the hydrogen import corridor is poised to become a cornerstone of Europe's green energy landscape, paving the way for a cleaner, more secure energy future.

Austrian Minister for Climate Action and Energy, Leonore Gewessler: “Renewable hydrogen will be an important building block in the green transition. For Austria, imports of renewable hydrogen and the development of a suitable infrastructure will play an important role in the future. The Southern Hydrogen Corridor will be crucial for the ramp up in a European market, this is why Germany, Italy and Austria have started a joint working group last year and are now signing the joint declaration of political intent today. This declaration will bring us one step closer to green hydrogen imports into the European Union.”

German Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Robert Habeck: “The Southern Corridor will play an important role, especially in supplying the southern German regions with green hydrogen. The development of a functioning hydrogen market in the EU is a guarantee for accelerating the energy transition and especially

reducing CO2 emissions in the hard-to-abate sectors. With a well-functioning cross-border hydrogen pipeline infrastructure on this corridor, a major step can be taken towards building a fully interconnected European hydrogen network. “

Italian Minister for Environment and Energy Security, Gilberto Pichetto Fratin: “The Southern Hydrogen Corridor project has been strongly supported by Italy since the beginning. It is an important project for our countries, for Europe and for Africa. Developing the clean energy potential of the African continent and connecting it to Europe -promoting growth and security on both shores of the Mediterranean- is a priority of the Italian Government and falls within the spirit of the Mattei Plan which aims for mutually beneficial partnerships with African countries”

Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for Energy, highlights: “I welcome the important cooperation between Austria, Germany and Italy on the Southern Hydrogen Corridor supported by the Commission through CESEC. This has the potential to be a key project to transport much-needed renewable hydrogen to Europe’s industrial heartlands and support their decarbonisation. It will also strengthen the interconnection between our Member States and with our partners in North Africa.”