

December 5, 2013

Comment from Spain— Approval by mail: Tunisia: Akarit Concentrated Solar Power Project (CTF) IBRD

Dear Patricia and Tunisian Team,

We welcome the proposed preparation grant for the Akarit CSP project. The priorities of the Tunisian government in the energy sector are the development of energy infrastructure , strengthening energy efficiency , development of renewable energy sources (with the objective of representing 30 % of the total in 2030) , strengthening the Maghreb- Mediterranean interconnection , reforms of the institutional framework of the sector and its reorganization. All these measures are of paramount importance in order to face an estimated 5% annual increase in energy consumption . The project seems very interesting for the achievement of the above mentioned goals.

We would like, in any case, emphasize aspects which, in our opinion, should be considered:

- Expropriation. In the event of land expropriation being necessary, we should have a guarantee that this land is going to be available before starting the project. In our experience, this point is very important. A Spanish firm is developing wind farm in Bizerte. This plant should have been opened in August 2011 and has not been finalized because of expropriation problems in the area.
- Location , job creation and technology transfer . Any project implying that a portion of the components can be made by the Tunisian industry (that means job creation , education or training and / or technology transfer to the country) is more likely to success and would ensure medium/ long term sustainability.

Best regards
Aize

Aize Azqueta Quemada

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