

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



MEDREG is co-funded by the European Union.

#### **CREDIT**

EDITORIAL PROJECT AND CONTENT MEDREG Secretariat

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Published by the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG) in 2018.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

### WHAT IS MEDREG?

Established 10 years ago, MEDREG is the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators, which includes 25 regulators from 21 countries, spanning the European Union (EU), the Balkans and North Africa.

Mediterranean regulators work together through constant cooperation to promote a permanent exchange of know-how, best practices, data collection and dissemination of expertise, making use of comprehensive studies, recommendations, reports and specialised training sessions. The European Union has been a continuous promoter of MEDREG since its creation, through the active involvement of the European Commission's Directorate General for Energy (DG ENER) and the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), which co-finances MEDREG activities.

- 25 regulators from 21 countries
- Mixed membership with regulators from 9 European Union countries,
   4 Balkan countries and 8 Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) countries
- 4 Baikan countries and 8 Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) countri
- 11 members regulate electricity and gas, 10 regulate electricity only and 4 regulate gas only
- Some also regulate **other sectors** such as water, oil, waste and telecommunication
- 20 are independent regulators, while 5 are ministries
- The MEDREG regional cooperation project started in 2007

### OUR MISSION

MEDREG's mission is to provide a level playing field for all Mediterranean energy actors by encouraging and facilitating the establishment of a sound legal and regulatory framework. Based on independent and objective regulatory bodies, energy markets are more likely to attract investment, ensure the efficient use of the system and of investments and encourage fair practices towards consumers.

#### Mediterranean energy regulators work together to:

- Foster **cooperation, information exchange and assistance** among members, providing a **permanent discussion framework** and cooperation network
- Provide **capacity development activities** through study visits, training sessions and workshops
- Support initiatives of common interest in key areas such as **infrastructure investment and development**, innovative financing solutions for the Mediterranean and research in the field of energy regulation
- Foster **sustainable development** in the energy sector through greater efficiency and integration of energy markets based on secure, safe, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable energy systems
- Promote a greater **compatibility** of the energy markets and legislation and seek **progressive market integration** in the Euro-Mediterranean region

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MESSAGE

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

t is a pleasure for me to present MEDREG's 2017 annual report and to introduce our major achievements over the past year.

One of MEDREG's core objectives is to provide a peer-to-peer platform for exchange of experience and assistance between our members. This is true as regards our standard regulatory responsibilities, but also in terms of developing new approaches, implementing new market models and managing the rapid changes that are taking place in the energy sector.

With this in mind, in 2017 we launched a renewed and reinforced strategy to provide targeted support to our members on energy regulatory developments and market reforms. In addition to tailored seminars and workshops, we undertook institutional visits to members to underline our commitment to understanding their individual circumstances.

This report contains details of our different activities and concrete work in terms of regulatory institution-building, of which I am particularly proud. By way of example, we held workshops with Morocco and Egypt on the establishment of independent regulatory authorities in view of ongoing institutional changes in both countries.

The year was also significant in terms of MEDREG's heightened visibility and outreach to international energy actors, with MEDREG presentations and interventions at 25 major international events, from the European Parliament to the World Energy Council to the Africa Energy Forum (AEF). Indeed, I was much impressed by the strong recognition of MEDREG's message at the AEF regarding the critical importance of independent regulation in leveraging investments in the energy sector. As part of this outreach, we placed a particular emphasis on regional cooperation, working with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), MED-TSO, the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME) and other partners to embed the regulatory perspective in the development of Mediterranean energy relations.

On a technical front, MEDREG addressed a range of policy issues. We developed an infrastructure map of natural gas in the region, monitored the evolution of the Mediterranean electricity market, identified gaps in energy regulation in the Mediterranean, assessed competition and gas market prices and defined good practices on gas tariff methodologies, benchmarked and assessed the development of renewables, collected national methods to regulate disconnection procedures and much more...

Our entry into social media (LinkedIn, YouTube) and our reinvigorated communications strategy are helping to make our work more visible and the delivery of our messages more effective.

For me personally, this past year has been about developing and deepening MEDREG's activities through a major overhaul of its planned priorities in the coming years, including successfully concluding a new financial partnership with the European Commission and restructuring and strengthening MEDREG's highly committed and enthusiastic Secretariat. By increasing the Milan-based team, clarifying their responsibilities and contracting a Deputy Secretary General, we have ensured that MEDREG has the proper tools to support regulators further and to deliver our common objectives. Objectives and priorities which we have reviewed and reinforced as part of our new partnership with the European Commission.

In the years that I have had the opportunity to participate in MEDREG, I have seen it evolve considerably, growing gradually into the mature and professional organisation it is today. We are now an established and respected player in the Mediterranean energy policy arena, contributing an essential regulatory perspective to the sector's development. I have great confidence in MEDREG's continuing relevance and determination to foster the establishment of a sound legal and regulatory framework as well as to support regulators in their efforts to attract investment, ensure efficient

use of the energy system and encourage fair practices for consumers.

None of the achievements presented in this report would have been possible without the support of the Secretariat, and without the engagement of MEDREG members. To them, my heartfelt thanks and wishes for even greater things to come.

ALM

Alexandre Santos
MEDREG PRESIDENT



### كلمة الرئيس

تطرأ على قطاع الطاقة.

رسالتنا بشكل أكثر فعالية.

إنه لمن دواعي سروري أن أقدّم لكم التقرير السنوي لميدريج لعام 2017 وأن أضع بين يديكم أهم إنجازاتنا على مدى العام الماضي. أحد الأهداف الأساسية لميدريج هو توفير منصة بين النظراء لتبادل

بالنسبة لي شخصياً، أهم ما تميز به العام الماضي هو تطويرنا لنشاطات ميدريج وتعميقها من خلال الترميم الكامل لأولوياتها المُخطط لها في الأعوام المُقبلة، حيث نجحنا بعقد شراكة مالية جديدة مع المفوضية الأوروبية ويتقوية وإعادة هيكلة الأمانة العامة لميدريج التي تتمتع بمستوى عال من الالتزام والحماس. ومن خلال زيادة عدد أفراد فريقنا في مدينة ميلانو، ومن خلال توضيح مسؤولياتهم والتعاقد مع مساعد للأمين العام، ضم نا تزويد ميدريج بالأدوات المناسبة لمساندة الجهات التنظيمية بشكل أفضل ولتحقيق أهدافنا المشتركة والأهداف والأوليات التي راجعناها وعززناها كجزء من شراكتنا الجديدة مع المفوضية الأوروبية.

مع أخذنا لذلك بعين الاعتبار، أطلقنا في عام 2017 استراتيجية مُجددة ومُعززة لتقديم الدعم المُستهدف لأعضائنا في مجال التطورات التنظيمية والإصلاحات السوقية في مجال الطاقة. ويالإضافة إلى الندوات وورش العمل المُصممة حسب المتطلبات الخاصة، قمنا بزيارة بعض المؤسسات في الدول الأعضاء لنؤكد على التزامنا بفهم ظروفها الفردية. يحتوي هذا التقرير على تفاصيل نشاطاتنا المختلفة والأعمال المادية التي أنجزناها بالنسبة لبناء المؤسسات التنظيمية التي أفتخر بها أنا على وجه الخصوص. على سبيل المثال، أقمنا ورش عمل مع المغرب ومصر حول تأسيس سلطات تنظيمية مُستقلة في ضوء التغيرات المؤسساتية المُستمرة في كلا البلدين.

الخبرات وللمساعدة المتبادلة بين أعضائها. وينطبق هذا الأمر على

مسؤولياتنا التنظيمية القياسية بالإضافة إلى تطوير المنهجيات

الجديدة وتنفيذ النماذج السوقية الجديدة وإدارة التغيرات السريعة التي

في السنوات التي سنحت لي فيها الفرصة للمشاركة في ميدريج لقد شاهدتها وهي تتطور بشكل كبير وتنمو تدريجياً إلى أن أصبحت ما هي عليه اليوم، منظمة تتمتع بالنضج والمهنية. ولقد أصبحنا الآن أحد اللاعبين المهمين والذين يحظوا بالاحترام على صعيد سياسة الطاقة في منطقة البحر الأبيض المتوسط، ونحن نساهم بتقديم منظور تنظيمي هام لتطور القطاع. لديّ ثقة كبيرة بأهمية وتصميم ميدريج على تعزيز إنشاء إطار قانوني وتنظيمي سليم بالإضافة إلى دعم الهيئات التنظيمية في جهودها لجذب الاستثمارات وضمان الاستخدام الكفء لنظام الطاقة وتشجيع الممارسات العادلة للمستهلكين.

كما كان العام المُنصرم هاماً من حيث ازدياد وعي الجهات الدولية الفاعلة في مجال الطاقة بعمل ميدريج، حيث قدّمت ميدريج عروضاً تقديمية وتدخلات في 25 فعالية دولية كُبرى تراوحت من البرلمان الأوروبي إلى مجلس الطاقة العالمي وإلى منتدى الطاقة الأفريقي. وانبهرت حقاً من الاعتراف القوي برسالة ميدريج في منتدى الطاقة الأفريقي بالنسبة لأهمية التنظيم المُستقل في الاستفادة من الاستثمارات في قطاع الطاقة. وكجزء من النشاطات التوعوية هذه، ركزنا بشكل خاص على التعاون الاقليمي وعلى العمل مع الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط، ومنظمة مسيري شبكات نقل الكهرباء للبحر الأبيض المتوسط (ميد تسو)، والمرصد المتوسطي للطاقة، وشركاء آخرين لترسيخ المنظور التنظيمي في تطوير علاقات الطاقة في منطقة البحر لترسيخ المنظور التنظيمي في تطوير علاقات الطاقة في منطقة البحر

لما كان بالإمكان تحقيق أي من الإنجازات التي يستعرضها هذا التقرير من دون دعم ومساندة الأمانة العامة، ومن دون مشاركة أعضاء ميدريج. ولهذا أنا أقدم لهم خالص شكري وأمنياتي بتحقيق المزيد من المُنجزات في المستقبل.

الأبيض المتوسط.
الأبيض المتوسط.
أما من الجانب التقني، فقد تناولت ميدريج عدداً من المسائل السياسية حيث قمنا بتطوير خريطة للبنى التحتية للغاز الطبيعي في المنطقة، وراقبنا تطور سوق الكهرباء في منطقة البحر الأبيض المتوسط، وحددنا الفجوات في مجال تنظيم الطاقة في منطقة البحر الأبيض الأبيض المتوسط، وقيّمنا التنافسية وأسعار سوق الغاز ووضعنا الممارسات المُثلى

بالنسبة لمنهجيات تعرفة الغاز، وقيّمنا تطور مصادر الطاقة المُتجددة، وجمعنا الأساليب الوطنية لتنظيم إجراءات الفصل وغير ذلك المزيد... كما يساعد دخولنا لعالم وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي (لينكدإن ويوتيوب) واستراتيجتنا المُحدثة للتواصل بنشر الوعي حول أعمالنا ويإيصال

### LE MOT DU PRÉSIDENT

C'est un plaisir pour moi de présenter le rapport annuel de MEDREG pour l'année 2017 et de faire part de nos principaux accomplissements réalisés au cours de l'année écoulée.

L'un des objectifs essentiels de MEDREG est d'offrir une plateforme d'échange et de soutien aux entités homologues qui comptent parmi nos membres. Ceci est vrai en ce qui concerne nos responsabilités en matière de normes réglementaires, mais aussi en termes de développement de nouvelles approches, de mise en œuvre de nouveaux modèles de marché et de gestion des évolutions rapides que connaît le secteur de l'énergie.

Dans cette optique, nous avons lancé en 2017 une stratégie renouvelée et renforcée pour offrir à nos membres un soutien ciblé sur les développements réglementaires et les réformes du marché de l'énergie. Outre les séminaires et ateliers sur mesure, nous avons entrepris des visites institutionnelles à nos membres afin d'approfondir notre compréhension de leurs circonstances individuelles.

Ce rapport fait état des différentes activités et du travail concret réalisés en termes de renforcement institutionnel sur le plan réglementaire, ce dont je suis particulièrement fier. À titre d'exemple, nous avons organisé des ateliers avec le Maroc et l'Egypte sur la création d'autorités réglementaires indépendantes dans la perspective des changements institutionnels en cours dans les deux pays.

Cette année a aussi été marquée par une visibilité et une interaction accrue auprès des acteurs internationaux du secteur de l'énergie, avec des présentations et des interventions de MEDREG à l'occasion de 25 événements majeurs sur le plan international, allant du Parlement européen au Forum Africain de l'Energie (AEF) en passant par le Conseil Mondial de l'Energie. En effet, j'ai été impressionné par la forte reconnaissance du message de MEDREG à l'AEF sur la question de l'importance cruciale d'une régulation indépendante dans la mise en place d'un cadre favorable aux investissements dans le secteur énergétique. Dans le cadre de ces activités de représentation et de sensibilisation, nous avons accordé une attention particulière à la coopération régionale, travaillant avec l'Union pour la Méditerranée (UfM), MED-TSO, l'Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME) et d'autres partenaires pour consolider la perspective réglementaire dans le développement des relations dans le secteur de l'énergie en Méditerranée.

Sur le plan technique, MEDREG a traité une série de questions tenant aux politiques adoptées. Nous avons développé une carte des infrastructures de gaz naturel dans la région, surveillé l'évolution du marché de l'électricité, identifié des lacunes dans la réglementation

énergétique puis évalué la compétition et les prix sur le marché du gaz en Méditerranée. Nous avons également défini les bonnes pratiques à retenir en matière de méthodologies de tarification, posé des repères et évalué le développement des énergies renouvelables, collecté des données relatives aux méthodes nationales en vue de réglementer les procédures de débranchement et bien plus encore...

Notre entrée sur les réseaux sociaux (LinkedIn, YouTube) et notre stratégie de communication renforcée contribuent à rendre notre travail plus visible et à diffuser nos messages de manière plus efficace.

En ce qui me concerne personnellement, cette année écoulée aura été consacrée au développement et à l'approfondissement des activités de MEDREG à travers une révision majeure de ses priorités telles que planifiées pour les années à venir, y compris la conclusion avec succès d'un nouveau partenariat financier avec la Commission européenne ainsi que la restructuration et le renforcement du Secrétariat hautement dévoué et enthousiaste de MEDREG. En augmentant l'effectif du personnel basé à Milan, en clarifiant ses responsabilités et en engageant un Secrétaire Général Adjoint, nous nous sommes assurés que MEDREG dispose des outils adaptés pour soutenir davantage les régulateurs et atteindre nos objectifs communs. Objectifs et priorités que nous avons revus et renforcés dans le cadre de notre nouveau partenariat avec la Commission européenne.

Durant les années au cours desquelles j'ai eu l'opportunité de participer à MEDREG, je l'ai vu évoluer considérablement, grandissant graduellement pour devenir l'organisation mature et professionnelle qu'elle est aujourd'hui. Nous sommes à présent un acteur bien établi et respecté sur la scène des politiques énergétiques en Méditerranée, apportant une contribution essentielle à la perspective réglementaire visant au développement du secteur.

J'ai la plus grande confiance en MEDREG, en sa pertinence et sa capacité à favoriser la mise en place d'un cadre juridique et réglementaire solide, et à soutenir les régulateurs dans leurs efforts visant à attirer des investissements, à assurer une utilisation efficiente du système énergétique et à encourager des pratiques justes à l'égard des consommateurs.

Aucune des réalisations présentées dans ce rapport n'aurait été possible sans le soutien du Secrétariat et sans la participation active des membres de MEDREG. C'est à eux que j'adresse mes plus sincères remerciements et tous mes vœux de réussite pour les réalisations encore plus grandes que l'avenir nous réserve.

Alexandre Santos PRÉSIDENT DE MEDREG





### MEDREG'S OBJECTIVES: DEVELOPING A COMMON REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

#### Establish compatible regulatory frameworks

Within the scope of their duties, energy regulatory authorities play an important role in defining and enforcing energy market design and rules that ensure open and non-discriminatory market access, protecting consumers, and promoting and supporting public interest and policies. Indeed, energy regulation can facilitate sustainable investments, support market entry of new actors and promote the development of the energy sector, including addressing challenges such as the integration of renewables into the system and encouraging energy trading between EU and Mediterranean countries in the longer term.

The European legislative framework and the experience in market integration within the EU provide a strong reference for building enhanced and permanent collaboration among the regulatory authorities of the



Mediterranean. In the Southern
Mediterranean Basin, most countries
have already set up regulatory
authorities, or at least have designated
a specific service or department in
the relevant ministries responsible for
regulating the energy sector.
Over its 11 years of operation, MEDREG
has demonstrated that it can act
as a platform for the exchange of
institutional knowledge and technical
competences between regulatory
authorities in the region. Diverging
issues, mostly regarding organisational
and functional aspects, remain. This

is mainly due to differences in the regulatory framework and in the level of the competencies of the energy regulators, notably their independence vis-à-vis national governments and/or industry, as well as the structure of the national energy sector. Further efforts and systematic work are necessary to ensure that Mediterranean regulators receive technical assistance, knowledge and support, and that compatible regulation that facilitates energy integration and trade across countries is established in the region. MEDREG believes that such a regulatory framework should lead to the gradual opening-up of national markets and the integration of cross-border energy systems. Compatibility of rules and regulations across neighbouring countries is also key to draw countries nearer, as it supports more efficient access to, and operation of, interconnected infrastructure.

#### Intensify regional cooperation

MEDREG works to create a common

Mediterranean regulatory culture through an advanced level of regional cooperation and to embed a regulatory view in the development of Mediterranean energy relations. This objective of regional cooperation is pursued in all MEDREG's actions and activities top-down and bottom-up, in the context of MEDREG's Working Groups, the General Assembly, specific outputs and knowledge sharing events, as further detailed in the next sections. MEDREG is further pursuing cooperation with the other regional energy actors too, so that its members can benefit from the experiences of other Mediterranean cooperation platforms.



MEDREG's active role in the Union for the Mediterranean and in the Regional Electricity Market Platform (UfM REM Platform) already allows MEDREG to reach beyond the sphere of regulators and the other national authorities by participating in multi-stakeholder processes involving energy sector participants from across the region. Since 2015 and within the context of the UfM REM Platform, MEDREG cooperates with Med-TSO, the Association of the Mediterranean Transmission Systems Operators for electricity, to promote the progressive integration of power systems and markets in the Euro-Mediterranean region, by gradually removing financial, technical, physical and regulatory barriers so that electricity can be traded and flow freely across borders.

As part of its initiatives to intensify regional integration, MEDREG has also established relationships with the main energy stakeholders in the region, such as the European Commission (EC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the League of Arab States (LAS), the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME), the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), RES4MED, the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER), as well as with other associations of regulators such as the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB), the Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA) and the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER), with a view to sharing the Mediterranean energy regulators' vision and role. MEDREG continues to pursue active collaboration in this direction.



### **SUPPORTING NATIONAL REFORMS** AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Central to our activities is our support of national reforms in the Southern and Eastern shore of the Mediterranean region, by deploying different tools and reinforcing the expertise of our regulators. We adapt these tools to the different national situations and, thus, provide benefit to the day-to-day work of regulators whilst strengthening their overall role and effectiveness. As part of this objective, we continuously assess the progress and development of regulatory authorities in the region. Our benchmarking and technical reports evaluate the improvement of regulators' competences and their role in the oversight of energy markets.

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS →

### We identified gaps in energy regulation in the Mediterranean

Based on data collected from 20 Mediterranean energy regulatory authorities and ministries, the 2017 Energy Regulatory Outlook presents the status of energy regulation in the Mediterranean Basin and aims to provide a complete overview about how the national energy sectors are ruled, ranging from independent entities to governmental bodies. The report shows that most Mediterranean regulators are independent and empowered entities working to support the opening of the energy markets and mandated to define tariffs, issue binding decisions and to sanction sector participants. An overview of this major report is available on pages 14 and 15, providing information on the main regulatory trends in the Mediterranean.

### We trained the **Tunisian** Energy Ministry on cross-border interconnections

MEDREG organised a training session on "European rules for cross-border interconnections" for the Tunisian Ministry of Energy, Mining and Renewable Energies (MEMER) on 5 and 6 December in Tunis. Held in cooperation with several regional stakeholders, this 2-day training aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of the Tunisian Energy Ministry's staff as regards the realisation of crossborder electricity interconnection projects, including the identification of appropriate business models. Through the presentation of several cases, the staff of the Energy Ministry as well as members of STEG, the Tunisian electricity utility, learnt various ways in which such investments can be managed, in terms of access to and use of interconnection capacity, and the design of appropriate tariffs to ensure the financial sustainability of the project without overburdening consumers. They also explored the regulation associated with the European Union's Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) and their application to non-EU countries. They learnt the characteristics of existing and projected interconnection

infrastructure in the Mediterranean region.

# We supported the creation of the gas regulator in **Egypt**

MEDREG brainstormed in Cairo on the independence of regulators, their financial autonomy and gas market models during its workshop "Towards the establishment of an independent Egyptian Gas regulator: Market Model and License Fees" held on 30 March.

Based on their experience of funding mechanisms, the Turkish and Albanian regulators, EMRA and ERE, shared good practices and pitfalls to avoid in order to achieve a proper gas market model; they also explained how the evolution of license fees has accompanied the changes in their national markets. Meanwhile, the Portuguese regulator ERSE and the Greek regulator RAE introduced the core principles that characterise their market models, focusing on the relationship between the regulator and market players. Egypt's gas sector reforms established an independent regulatory authority for gas, "GasReg", which joined MEDREG in 2016.

### We accompanied the transformation of the **Moroccan** energy market

MEDREG joined the German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ) in discussing the evolution of the Moroccan energy market with the Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment (MEMEE), in a conference entitled "Energy Market transformation: challenges and implication" on 30 October. The event aimed at presenting international experiences that are in line with the efforts to reform Morocco's legislative and regulatory framework and support its ambitious low-carbon energy objectives.

The conference introduced the benefits of well-functioning markets towards sustainable policy goals, affordability and security of supply.

The event was followed by a two-day training on the basic principles of electricity regulation and the integration of RES in the grid.

MEDREG experts shared their experience and touched upon market design, RES support instruments, consumer issues and regulators' rules and tasks, with Mediterranean regulators focusing in particular on quality of supply issues.





### IDENTIFYING GAPS OF ENERGY REGULATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

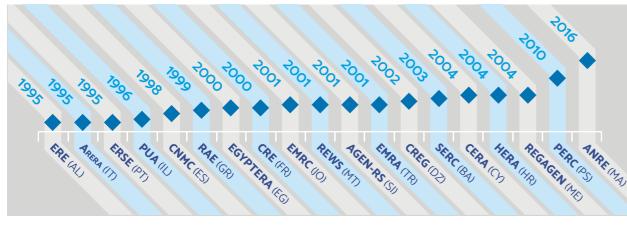
In 2017, MEDREG published an Energy Regulatory Outlook, which provides a picture of the existing energy regulatory frameworks in the Mediterranean region. Based on a questionnaire answered by 20 Mediterranean energy regulatory authorities—all members of MEDREG—the report highlights important aspects of national regulatory frameworks comprehended in the light of the following good regulatory principles defined by MEDREG in 2014:

- Independence
- Competences
- Internal organisation
- Enforcement
- Transparency
- Accountability

By assessing the current situation of each regulator and identifying scope for improvement, MEDREG aims to contribute to the development of a more independent and solid governance model.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS →

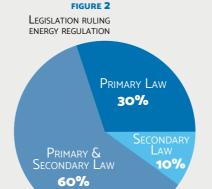
- Mediterranean National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) have comparable and satisfactory levels of independence
- Almost all MEDREG members are distinct and **functionally independent** from any other public and private entity;
- Almost all are **autonomous** in carrying out regulatory tasks;
- Conflicts of interest are prohibited and prevented in nearly every NRA;
- Almost every regulatory body is financed by its own resources.



FIGURE

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ENERGY REGULATORS

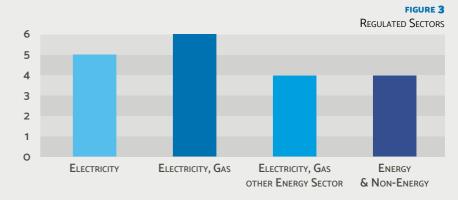
- The large majority of NRAs support full opening in the electricity market and, where possible, the gas market
- With the exception of Israel, Malta, and Turkey, there are national timetables for the full opening of the electricity and gas markets in all Mediterranean countries;
- All regulatory authorities cooperate with antitrust authorities so as to establish or maintain the competitive environment.



### The level of competence is overall satisfying and growing, but it varies from country to country

- The vast majority of NRAs have the power to fix and approve tariffs, although there are some differences among the MEDREG members and some have room to improve their competences or clarify their role;
- Not all NRAs are responsible for dispute settlement between industry and customers, and some NRAs may be entrusted with more powers in terms of dispute resolution;
- Every NRA sets or approves rules regarding the management and allocation of interconnection capacity;
- Most regulators are responsible for monitoring operators' performances;
- Most have the power to sanction sector participants; however, the extent of this power widely differs;

- The regulator's decisions are **binding** on every NRA;
- Every NRA is responsible for customer protection, although the level of responsibility differs, especially in terms of addressing vulnerable consumers' needs;
- The large majority of NRAs have the power to take decisions regarding their **internal organisation**, and most of them decide on human resource policy;
- Most NRAs publish information on their activities and make it available to stakeholders through publication of an annual report and the regular use of consultations;
- The majority are under the **obligation to report** to another public body, such as the government, ministry, or parliament.



### → Next steps

- MEDREG will **fine-tune** and programme its **actions** besides developing **recommendations** for the improvement of regulatory approaches in the region;
- Member regulators will be able to **compare their situation** in detail to that of their neighbours;
- This report will be **shared with and used by** the Union for the Mediterranean **(UfM)** Regional Electricity Market (REM) Platform, and contribute to the **identification** of the **regulatory gaps** and challenges in the region.



### ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS TO ATTRACT INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

One of MEDREG's most valued activities, for its members and all energy stakeholders in the Mediterranean Region, is the focus on establishing conditions to attract investment in electricity transmission projects.

MEDREG is committed to enriching MEDREG members' mutual knowledge and lessons learnt concerning the analysis of investment decisions.

We work to highlight open issues that concern various clusters of Mediterranean countries and regulators and discuss how to set up a favourable climate for the development of infrastructure investments.

Therefore, MEDREG is developing a methodology to establish a cost-benefit analysis for new interconnections. In the framework of our support to the work of the UfM Energy Platforms, we are deepening the analysis of investment projects and the Mediterranean PCI concept, in liaison with Med-TSO.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS →

### We adopted a pragmatic strategy for regulating the Mediterranean electricity markets

The geography of the Mediterranean often presents challenges to cross-border integration, particularly due to large territories, which result into long distances between consumption areas. We promote the strengthening of systems and the covering of growing needs through the development of a "snow ball strategy", which dispenses 5 principles:

- Knowledge sharing and co-learning must work in both directions:
- Benchmarking between countries should always focus on meaningful comparisons;
- Integration between systems should follow a step by step approach;
- EU regulators have a "savoir-faire" to share with colleagues of the Southern shore, in particular regarding the relationship with TSOs and decision making procedures; and
- The approach adopted towards the market and its level of competition should be very flexible and meant to be a tool, rather than an outcome.

### We monitored the evolution of the Mediterranean Electricity Market

We elaborated and published (in January 2018) the Mediterranean Electricity Market Observatory (MEMO) report, which is a periodic assessment conducted every three years. It helps to monitor the evolution in national, sub-regional, and regional electricity markets and reports on the perception that national regulators have on this evolution. In 2017, we completed the update of the national electricity markets, presenting the development of the regulatory framework over the last decade in the MEDREG region, converging towards effective and liberalised national electricity markets.



### We identified electricity projects of mutual and regional relevance

Effectiveness in regulation requires good "diagnosis", as a solution fit for a specific country or region may not be adapted to another. We support our members in determining rules of governance for electricity projects starting from the concrete situations and issues, through concrete studies and cooperation initiatives among regulators, with the goal to achieve a very good level of mutual understanding between regulators. This preliminary work will be used for the fact finding and the identification of concrete challenges in infrastructure

investment.

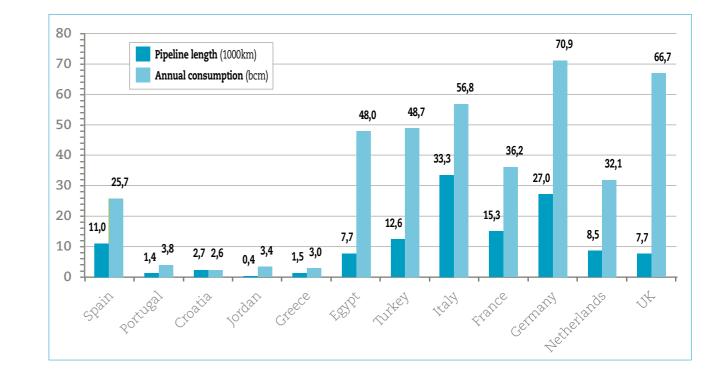
### We welcomed the liberalisation of the Egyptian electricity market and the strengthening of the Algerian regulator's organisational and administrative capacity

5 MEDREG members participated in 2 European Commission twinning activities which ended during 2017. The positive results of these twinning activities will help MEDREG to develop follow-up activities to support national regulatory reforms that can respond to the specific national needs in each country through a tailor made approach. The regulators that participated in these twinning projects were Egyptera (Egypt), RAE (Greece) and Arera (Italy), as well as CREG (Algeria), CNMC (Spain) and E-Control (Austria). Beneficiary countries praised the very positive impact that the twinning had in improving and reforming their energy regulation. Egyptera explained that its involvement in the process allowed the liberalisation of the Egyptian electricity market. For its part, CREG indicated that the twinning initiative helped to strengthen its organisational and administrative capacity as the national authority and to improve the quality of public services and the efficiency of the regulatory framework.



## FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPARENT GAS MARKETS AND EMPOWERING GAS CONSUMERS

We have been working to address the well-known dilemma of "information asymmetry" between regulators/public authorities and market actors, which has a negative effect on the efficiency, competition and transparency of the sector. Indeed, transparency and access to information are essential to allow a level playing field in the market. As part of our cooperation on gas issues, we are identifying and promoting regulatory practices that provide clear rules and obligations on all parties, as well as a regulatory framework which guarantees the ability and powers for regulators to supervise the performance of these actors. In addition, we are supporting our members in their efforts to empower gas consumers by increasing household access to reliable, affordable, grid connected natural gas supply. Indeed, several Southern Mediterranean countries are currently opening their gas market to household consumers.



### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS →

### We set the ground for good practices in capacity allocation

During 2017, we elaborated a methodology to establish guidelines of good regulatory practices aimed at facilitating the identification of capacity allocation criteria and mechanisms. Market participants, in order to be able to fulfil their contractual obligations and establish their position in the market, require access to gas transmission systems.

The allocation of capacity on gas transmission systems is regulated through various mechanisms, which could either favour the supplier and/or encourage a consumer-oriented approach. We are studying the mechanisms currently applied in the Mediterranean region and will next define MEDREG good practice guidelines for capacity allocation.

### We assessed competition and market prices, and defined good practices on tariff methodologies

This assessment (published in April 2018) presents the degree of competition of gas markets in MEDREG countries and analyses their gas retail prices. More specifically, the report displays the level of competition in retail gas markets for household and non-household consumers.

This study was complemented by a collection of good practices and information developed by MEDREG regulators regarding the calculation of gas network access tariffs for transmission networks, distribution networks, LNG terminals and underground storage.

### We drew a gas infrastructure map

Based on information collected from 14 regulators, this study (published in 2018) provides a picture of gas infrastructure in the region, including interconnection points, transmission pipelines, transmission and storage capacity, usage of this capacity and future investment plans across MEDREG members. This map enables a better grasp of the expectations, aims and motives of Mediterranean countries when they evaluate and implement an infrastructure investment, such as increasing security of supply, providing market security and diversifying natural gas sources or routes.





# ACCOMPANYING DEVELOPMENTS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY REGULATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

As part of our work on renewables (RES) and energy efficiency, we provide support to MEDREG members undergoing a transition towards green energy through the delivery of support activities, recommendations and guidelines on promoting the use of RES and energy efficiency. This includes monitoring investments in RES generation and setting rules for providing proper revenues. Furthermore, we study technological innovations that can support integration of RES in the markets. In particular, we focus on regulation's direct effect on the innovative process, as well as the impact of technical change on regulation. We regularly monitor technological changes in the field of renewables and evaluate the regulatory impact that they can have on the realisation of ambitious RES projects in the region.



### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS →



#### We benchmarked and assessed the development of RES in the Mediterranean

At the end of 2017, we published the 6th RES Benchmarking Assessment, which provides an overview of the current situation in MEDREG countries with regard to power generation, total demand and the share of renewable energy sources over demand. This edition offers wider information that enabled new comparisons on different characteristics of members' electricity markets, such as carbon emissions and intensity. The assessment shows an increase in installed capacity and RES electricity generation in almost all MEDREG members, although it also reveals a high annual variations, mainly due to weather conditions and their influence on hydro and wind technologies. For instance, in the last two years there was a slight decrease in RES generation, because of a decrease in electricity from hydro technology in some countries. This report also addresses the role and competencies of the energy regulator in each country, and includes four national case studies.

### We engaged with energy conservation agencies to increase regional cooperation on sustainable energy

During a joint workshop held on 23 November, MEDREG and the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER) drew parallels between their areas of responsibility and demonstrated the complementarity of their activities in fostering renewables energy and energy efficiency in the Mediterranean. Speakers at the workshop analysed legislative and regulatory practices to manage and promote energy efficiency and RES in Mediterranean countries. They underlined that the energy transition demands a multi-purpose approach, which can contribute to achieving simultaneously security of supply, climate change mitigation, economic growth and jobs creation in the region. Participants also discussed practices that can promote a coherent legislative approach to energy efficiency and RES in the region.

### We advocated the importance of a clear, transparent and predictable regulation for the energy transition in Tunisia

MEDREG participated in a conference organised by Solidar Tunisie on 15 December debating the energy transition in Tunisia and its challenges and opportunities for Europe and the Mediterranean. By presenting its analysis of national RES markets, MEDREG highlighted the importance of establishing a clear, transparent and predictable regulatory framework to create the conditions for the energy transition and the achievement of the ambitious objectives set by Tunisia, in terms of renewables and diversification of sources. Participating in a panel entitled "How to create a vast Euro-Mediterranean energy zone: Governance, regulation, infrastructure?" MEDREG underlined that the regulatory, legal and fiscal framework for the production and distribution of renewable energies must be able to attract investment.



### PROMOTING A COMMON APPROACH FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

Energy is a crucial part of citizens' daily lives and is essential for economic and societal development. We work with Mediterranean regulators to promote awareness among consumers of their rights, and support their education to sustainable and efficient use of energy. In addition, our activity on vulnerable consumers focuses on those whose ability to look out for their interests and rights in the electricity market is significantly lower than that of the average consumer. We are deploying a plan of action to identify both potential and actual vulnerable consumers, as well as to help MEDREG Southern regulators identifying suitable regulatory tools to support the governments in empowering them.

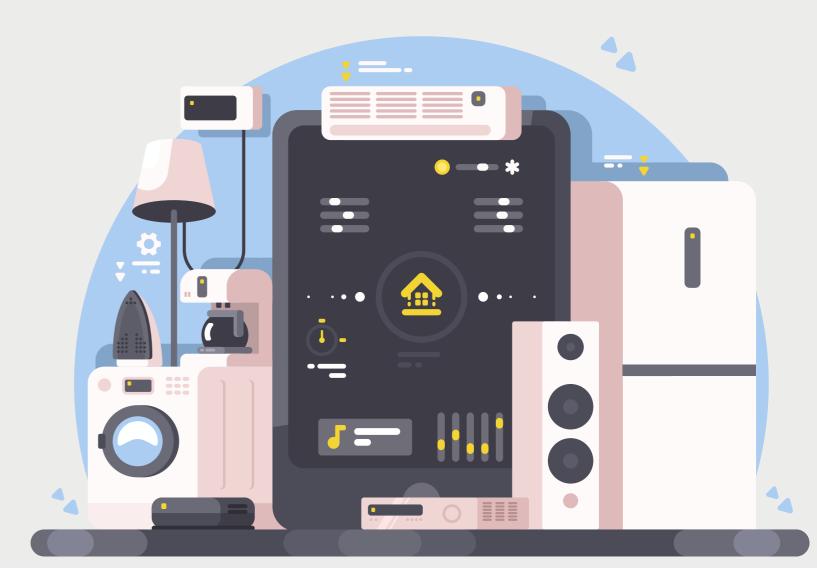


### ➡ We collected national methods to regulate disconnection procedures

From the consumers' perspective, connections, disconnections, and maintenance are crucial aspects and in many cases, they represent the consumer's first interaction with the energy market. When these processes are well designed and functioning efficiently, consumer perception of the energy market will improve. With the aim of promoting and encouraging best practices, we gathered information on national methods and concepts for the disconnection of household consumers due to unpaid bills. Based on this data collection and general overview, regulators will exchange experiences and select the main issues for which they would welcome recommendations to empower consumers vis-a-vis their supplier. The recommendations will be finalised in 2018 in cooperation with the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB), which brings together regulators from South East Europe and the Black Sea region. We will also work on a joint report with ECRB on the status and nature of complaint handing, dispute settlement and consumer awareness in ECRB and MEDREG members.

### We promoted best practices for engaging with consumer organisations

We collected examples of best practices on several issues, such as on consumer engagement in regulation; information and education tools; complaint management and protection measures. Regulators detailed their objectives, strengths and challenges, explained what stages of the regulatory processes are impacted by the contribution of consumers, and explained their methods to involve consumers, the resources they devote to this activity and the resulting feedback. The report posited that the use of Internet reduces both physical and social distance among institutions and citizens and promotes accessibility to a large amount of information. The study also shows how gathering stakeholders in organised groups is an effective way to engage consumers on key topics, as this allows regulators to share studies and data with the interested parties, allowing a more transparent and evidence-based regulation.





### COMMUNICATING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Taking stock of 10 years of activities, during 2017 we renewed and reinforced the ways in which we communicate. The goal was to improve internal communications and interaction between members, as well as to further raise the organisation's profile and accountability with external partners. As a regional association representing regulatory bodies, we aim at disseminating and sharing our technical expertise and knowledge with our members and energy stakeholders but also at informing a wider audience of the concrete impact of our work, including international institutions, decision-makers, companies and consumers.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS →

### We adopted a new communication strategy

MEDREG's Communication Officers (COs) network contributed to the launch of a new communication strategy. The new plan calls for a greater emphasis on our concrete results and for their wider dissemination to the press, decision-makers and external stakeholders.

Implementing the new communication plan, 2017 saw a diversified and increased promotion of MEDREG's achievements.

### We promoted our key achievements

MEDREG's 2016 Annual Report was disseminated electronically to 2,300 contacts while hard copies were sent to 130 external partners and were distributed to members for national promotion. The Annual Report was also promoted on our website, through LinkedIn and on the EU Neighbours South Portal. In addition, printed copies were disseminated at international events.

### → We joined social media and refreshed our website

MEDREG began broadcasting its activities on popular social media with the opening of a LinkedIn profile and a YouTube channel.

Launched in July 2017, our LinkedIn page issued 55 updates, attracting more than 350 followers, 250 likes and 50 shares. 16 recorded interviews of MEDREG's President, Vice-Presidents and Working Group Chairs were posted on our You Tube channel, viewed almost 1,000 times.

Our website also saw the addition of some engaging elements such as videos and photos, refreshing the home page and making it more dynamic. The website attracted nearly 7,000 visitors while the members' area counted around 2,500 logins.



#### We kept our external partners, stakeholders and the media abreast of our activities

In 2017, 18 news alerts and 4 newsletters were sent to 2,300 subscribers throughout the Mediterranean region, informing members, external partners and stakeholders of our activities. 7 press releases were issued, generating 37 articles covering MEDREG's latest developments and achievements in the European and local press of Mediterranean countries.



### **ADVOCATING** OUR REGULATORY VISION

MEDREG is an active contributor to high-level international conferences and meetings related to energy in the Mediterranean basin. MEDREG uses these fora to advocate its regulatory vision at regional level and to cooperate with international organisations, financial institutions, regional and international associations such as fellow regulators, companies, consumers and energy conservation agencies.

In addition to hosting and co-organising several events, MEDREG actively participated in a wide range of international energy events, thus engaging with external partners and key Mediterranean energy stakeholders. In total, MEDREG successfully contributed to 25 events during 2017.

As presented in the previous sections, we also developed and approved a series of policy papers, including benchmarking and assessment reports, good practice recommendations and infrastructure maps.

### → REPORTS adopted in 2017

#### **TRANSVERSAL**

 Mediterranean Energy Regulatory Outlook 2017
 Published January 2018

#### **ELECTRICITY**

 Towards a MEDREG Electricity Market Observatory, Part one National Market Observatory-2017 Update

Published March 2018

#### GAS

- Gas Infrastructure Map of the Mediterranean Region Published May 2018
- Assessment of Natural Gas Competition and Market Prices within MEDREG Members

Published April 2018

### ENVIRONMENT, RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

• **Benchmarking Assessment**Published February 2018

#### **CONSUMERS**

- Survey on Disconnection Procedures
   Published May 2018
- Best Practices to Enhance Consumers' Engagement Published October 2017

#### **→** EVENTS

- Eurogas Policy seminar at the European Parliament on the role of gas in the Mediterranean
- 8 March, Brussels (Belgium)
- Med-TSO workshop on
   "A common target regulatory framework for the Mediterranean
   TSOs -Harmonization of technical rules"
- 15 March, Madrid (Spain)
- MEDREG 2nd Gas workshop on "Towards the establishment of an independent Egyptian Gas regulator: Market Model and License Fees"
- 30 March, Cairo (Egypt)
- UfM Energy Platforms
   coordination meeting
   30 March, Brussels (Belgium)

- MED-TSO Open Panel Session on Euro-Mediterranean Regional Electricity Market platform
- 20 April, Tunis (Tunisia)
- Meeting with the Tunisian
   Energy Ministry
- 21 April, Tunis (Tunisia)
- Paris-Dauphine workshop on "Regional Cooperation among Regulators"
- 25 April, Paris (France)
- 36th ICER virtual Steering Committee
- 4 May
- MEDELEC technical workshop
- 10 May, Istanbul (Turkey)
- World Energy Council
   National Conference on LNG
   10-11 May, Naples (Italy)

- Africa Energy Forum
- 7-8 June, Copenhagen (Denmark)
- 1st Sustainability Forum
   "Clean Energy for a Sustainable
   Future"
- 9 June, Vienna (Austria)
- 5th High-level meeting of Regional Associations of Emerging Markets
- 11 July, Budapest (Hungary)
- Preparatory visit to the Jordanian regulator EMRC
- 25 July, Amman (Jordan)
- Kick Off Meetings of UfM Gas Platform Working Groups
- 15 September, Paris (France)
- International Beirut Energy
   Forum
- 19 September, Beirut (Lebanon)

- 16th ERRA Energy
   Investment and Regulation
   Conference
- 25-26 September, Astana (Kazakhstan)
- 1st UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum
- 18 October, Cairo (Egypt)
- GIZ Conference on "Energy Market transformation: challenges and implication"

30 October, Rabat (Morocco)

- EU-Arab World Summit
- 9 and 10 November, Athens (Greece)
- Meeting with Israel's Energy Minister, Dr. Yuval Steinitz, and with the Energy Regulatory Authorities of Israel
- 15 November, Jerusalem (Israel)

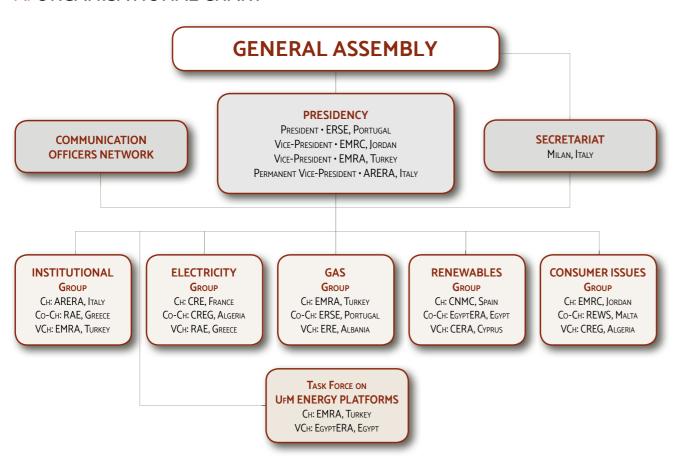
- Meeting with Palestine's Energy Minister,
   His Excellency Eng.
   Zafer Melhem, and with the Palestinian Electricity
   Regulatory Council (PERC)
   Joint PERC and USAID
   Conference on Regulating the Electricity Market
- 16 November, Ramallah (Palestine)
- MEDENER-MEDREG
  joint workshop on "Sustainable
  Energy in the Mediterranean:
  The Role of Energy Regulators
  and Agencies for Energy
  Conservation"
- 23 November, Brussels (Belgium)

- MEDREG training on European rules for cross-border interconnections
- 5-6 December, Tunis (Tunisia)
- Solidar Tunisia Conference on "Energy Transition in Tunisia, challenges and opportunities for Europe and the Mediterranean" 15 December, Tunis (Tunisia)
- Eurogas Gas Distribution
  Committee Meeting
  19 December Athens

19 December, Athens (Greece)

### **ANNEX 1**OUR GOVERNANCE

#### A. ORGANISATIONAL CHART



#### **B.** BOARD OF PRESIDENTS



#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly (GA) is the decision-making body responsible for defining MEDREG's strategy and for approving the Action Plan, operational guidelines, budget, reports and position papers elaborated by Working Groups and Task Forces. It is composed of high-level representatives from MEDREG members. In 2017, the GA met in Athens on 25 May (Greece) and on 29 November in Larnaca (Cyprus).

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee (SC) prepares the work of the General Assembly and supervises the implementation of the Action Plan. The Steering Committee is composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Chairpersons of Working Groups and Task Forces as well as the Secretariat.

#### C. OUR MAIN AREAS OF WORK

MEDREG focuses on six areas of activity through its Working Groups (WGs) and Task Force (TF) which are led by regulatory staff. MEDREG is grateful for their commitment. In 2017, each WG met twice: in spring (March and April) and in autumn (October).

### Inst

#### Institutional INS WG

This Group studies and promotes the role and competencies of regulatory authorities and coordinates MEDREG's institutional presence in EU and international contexts. The INS WG coordinates MEDREG dialogue on energy regulation with the European Union, international institutions, regional regulatory organisations and other bodies.



This Group assesses the current status of natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) markets in Mediterranean countries, their regulatory frameworks and possible evolutions. The GAS WG elaborates Guidelines of Good Practice (GGP) and recommendations that could lead to the development of an integrated, competitive, transparent, secure and effective gas market in the region.

### Electricity ELE WG

This Group monitors the status of electricity markets and the regulatory frameworks in MEDREG countries and proposes viable paths for their harmonised development. The ELE Group identifies essential requirements that will lead to strengthened and well-functioning regional electricity markets in the region.



### Environment, Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency RES WG

This Group focuses on the legislative and regulatory mechanisms used to promote renewable electricity generation, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources (RES) deployment in the Mediterranean basin, with particular attention to off-grid solutions and independent power producers (IPPs).

### Con

#### Consumers CUS WG

This Group works on enhancing the protection of household consumers in MEDREG countries. It produces surveys and recommendations on energy billing, consumer protection and information. The Group also identifies and promotes best practices in consumer protection, including vulnerable consumers, quality of service for electricity and gas and consumer associations.



#### Contribution to the UfM Energy Platforms TF

This Task Force coordinates the participation and contribution of MEDREG representatives to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Energy Platforms on Gas, the Regional Electricity Market (REM) and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE).

### ANNEX 2 OUR SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat is hosted by the Italian regulator ARERA in Milan.

It implements MEDREG's strategy as defined by GA members, enhancing MEDREG accountability and institutional cooperation in the Mediterranean energy sector.

The Secretariat provides continuous support to the President, Vice-Presidents and members, as well as to the Working Groups and Task Force in the implementation of the Action Plan and the organisation of a variety of capacity-building activities. Moreover, the MEDREG Secretariat fosters information exchange among its members through a Communication Officers network that promotes MEDREG's message in each member country.



**Fabio Tambone** Secretary General



**Hasan Ozkoc**Deputy Secretary General



Veronica Lenzi
Policy and Content
Manager



**Bardhi Hoxha**Regulatory Affairs
Manager



**Céline Lièvre**Administration
and Financial Officer



Daphné Lacroix
Communication
Officer



**Silvia Bologna**Office Assistant



**Matteo Lambicchi**Junior Policy Expert

### ANNEX 3 OUR MEMBERS

Albania	E	ERE	Albanian Electricity Regulatory Authority
Algeria	CREG	CREG	ELECTRICITY AND GAS REGULATION COMMISSION
Algeria	ARH Ann Segunda destruction	ARH	Hydrocarbon Regulatory Authority
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	SERC	State Electricity Regulatory Commission
Croatia		HERA	Croatian Energy Regulatory Agency
Cyprus	and permits again saling and sali	CERA	Cyprus Energy Regulatory Authority
Egypt		EGYPTERA	Egyptian Electric Utility and Consumer Protection Regulatory Agency
Egypt	GASREC و Gas Regulatory Authority بمار تنظيم اسطق القبار القطاع المقطة سوق القبار	GASREG	Egyptian Gas Regulator
France	COMMISSION DE RÉQUEATION DE L'ÉNERGIE	CRE	REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ENERGY
Greece	PAERAE	RAE	REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR ENERGY
Israel	Palitada Palitada	PUA	Public Utilities Authority - Electricity
Israel		NGA	Natural Gas Authority
Italy	ARERA	ARERA	Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment
Jordan		EMRC	Energy & Minerals Regulatory Commission
Jordan		MEMR	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources
Libya		ME	MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY & RENEWABLE ENERGY
Malta	REGULATOR FOR ENERGY & WATER SERVICES	REWS	REGULATOR FOR ENERGY & WATER SERVICES
Montenegro	. 0000	REGAGEN	Energy Regulatory Agency
Morocco		MEM	Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development
Palestine	(2)	PERC	Palestinian Electricity Regulatory Council
Portugal	<b>€</b> ERSE	ERSE	Energy Services Regulatory Authority
Slovenia	e	AGEN-RS	Energy Agency of the Republic of Slovenia
Spain	CNMC	CNMC	National Commission on Markets and Competition
Tunisia	SEPURADE TANSENCE (O	MEMER	Minister of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energies
Turkey	<b>€?)</b> (	EMRA	Energy Market Regulatory Authority



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