



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MEDREG launches its first public consultation on the report “Interconnection Infrastructures in the Mediterranean: A challenging Environment for Investments”**

11 February 2015

The Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG) has recently approved a consultation document entitled "**Interconnection Infrastructures in the Mediterranean: A Challenging Environment for Investments**". The report maps current and projected interconnection infrastructures for electricity and gas in the Mediterranean basin, and discusses the challenges to finance them properly in the absence of an harmonized regulatory framework at regional level. This document provides the vision of Mediterranean regulators on the main barriers to efficiently using existing infrastructure and financing new projects.

MEDREG considers that investment issues are at the forefront of Mediterranean energy issues. Mediterranean national energy markets are today at very different degrees of maturity. The presence of independent regulators then becomes pivotal to guarantee that the reform balances the needs of investors, the industry and consumers, and to provide investors with a clear, stable and transparent legal and regulatory framework.

Moreover, the report stresses that a suitable regulatory framework at national level is essential to overcome a number of significant barriers to the efficient operation of existing infrastructure, facilitating the path for new projects. The main barriers identified are: insufficient market demand, lack of internal reforms, insufficient coordination and cooperation among market actors, political instability and lack of a clear institutional framework, technical and financial barriers as well as regulatory and/or legal obstacles. Data for the report came from official sources provided by MEDREG's members through a dedicated questionnaire.

This public consultation seeks the advice of stakeholders in order to provide an input to the conclusions of the document, which aim at assessing a comprehensive set of actions to revive energy infrastructure investments in the Mediterranean region.

Given the importance of the theme of investment, MEDREG is looking for the active participation in the consultation process of the major stakeholders in energy in the Mediterranean such as regulatory institutions, political bodies, operators, international financial institutions and academic and research institutions.

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Interested parties are invited to participate in the public consultation starting from 11 February 2015. **Answers will be accepted until 18 March 2015 only through the dedicated online questionnaire available on the MEDREG website ( [www.medreg-regulators.org](http://www.medreg-regulators.org) ).**

After the consultation, MEDREG will organize a **roundtable** to present the evaluation of responses and discuss their most interesting aspects. The event will take place **on 29 April 2015 in Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt).**

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MEDREG - Mediterranean Energy Regulators - The Association, founded in 2006, brings together **24 energy regulators of 21 Mediterranean countries** (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey). MEDREG promotes a common framework of rules to facilitate investment in energy infrastructure, improves the integration and efficiency of energy markets, ensures adequate protection of final consumers and consolidates the regulatory institutional relations between countries consumers and producers of energy.

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