



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMPOWERING REGULATORS TO FACILITATE RENEWABLES DEPLOYMENT

Marrakech, 18 November 2016

Speaking at a joint side event¹ held on 16 November in Marrakech in the framework of the COP22, Mediterranean energy regulators (MEDREG)² and GIZ³ exposed the challenges they face in integrating electricity generated from renewables (RES) within their markets and drew a set of proposed actions as a way of empowering regulators.

Kindly organised by GIZ, the event marked the beginning of MEDREG's efforts, in collaboration with GIZ and other interested parties, to support the Moroccan Energy Ministry in the establishment of Morocco's new electricity regulatory authority (ANRE) which is set to assume direct responsibilities for the Moroccan electricity sector within the next year.

Underlining the important role of energy regulation, Mr Alexandre Santos, MEDREG-Vice President, stated: *"Mediterranean regulators are at different stages of market development and therefore need a flexible and case-by-case approach to developing their regulatory frameworks. Within MEDREG, we aim at addressing the real situations and practical considerations of our individual markets. Sharing experience on the regulatory issues related to the integration of renewables is a concrete example of Mediterranean regulators contributing to the fight against climate change."*

Mr. Gunnar Lorenz, Manager of the GIZ project "Support for Morocco's energy policy (PAPEM)", in charge of supporting the Moroccan government to implement the regulator, welcomed participants to the event.

Mr. Arne Schweinfurth, managing the GIZ renewable energy projects in Tunisia, explained that *"a regulating entity is key to develop Renewable markets and ensure that RES regulatory provisions are effectively implemented on the ground"*.

Mr. Hajroune, Director of Electricity at the Moroccan Ministry of Energy, laid down the three main challenges that await the newly established Moroccan regulator: accompanying the substantial technologies changes that will take place in the Moroccan electricity sector; ensuring competition in a free market; and supporting the integration of Morocco in the regional electricity market.

As a result of a fruitful exchange between the panelists and the participants, the following priority initiatives were suggested to enable regulators to overcome the difficulties they are confronted with:

- Increase confidence in fair rules to strengthen investment security
- Attract and retain technical expertise
- Ensure the implementation of adequate regulatory provisions
- Monitor the markets
- Build stakeholder engagement
- Exchange good practices at international level

END (see notes for Editors)

Notes for Editors

1. MEDREG-GIZ Side Event on “How Energy Regulators Fight Climate Change”, 16 November 2016, COP 22, Marrakech, Morocco

Speakers at the joint event included Mr Mohamed Hajroune (Director of Electricity at the Moroccan Ministry of Energy), Mr. Alexandre Santos (MEDREG Vice-President, Commissioner at ERSE, Portugal), Mr. Arne Schweinfurth (GIZ, Tunisia), Mr. José Miguel Unsión (MEDREG Renewables WG Member, CNMC, Spain); Ms. Veronica Lenzi (MEDREG Secretariat); and Mr. Konstantin Petrov (DNV Consultancy). Mr. Karim El Aynaoui, Managing Director of OCP Policy Centre, moderated the event.

A joint conclusions document which captures the essence of the discussions on the day will be available on [MEDREG website](#) in the next few days.

For further information on the event, please contact:

Daphné Lacroix at dlacroix@medreg-regulators.org and Gunnar Lorenz at gunnar.lorenz@giz.de

2. MEDREG

MEDREG is an Association that brings together 25 energy regulators of 21 countries around the Mediterranean in order to promote a clear, stable and harmonized legal and regulatory framework through a continuous cooperation among the Northern, Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean basin. MEDREG's Secretariat is located in Milan, hosted by AEEGSI, the Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas and Water.

To learn more about MEDREG's activities, please visit: www.medreg-regulators.org

3. GIZ

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a federal enterprise with worldwide operations. We support the German Government in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. We are also engaged in international education activities around the globe. Through our work we assist people and societies in shaping their own future and improving living conditions. GIZ offers demand-driven, tailor-made and effective services for sustainable development. The agency has activities in over 90 countries.

To learn more about GIZ, please visit: www.giz.de