



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Newly elected MEDREG Presidency committed to supporting regulatory reforms in the Southern Mediterranean**

*Rome, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016*

On the occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly\*, marking the tenth anniversary of MEDREG activities, Mediterranean Energy Regulators elected yesterday their new President, Mr. Alexandre Santos, Member of the Board of Directors of the Portuguese regulator, along with two Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Güleşan Demirbaş (EMRA, Turkey) and Ms. Wijdan Al Rabadi (EMRC, Jordan). They join the MEDREG Permanent Vice-President, Ms. Valeria Termini (AEEGSI, Italy), thus increasing significantly women's representation at the head of the Organisation.

Presenting his vision for the association for the two-year term, Mr Santos, stated:

*“My main priority will be to strengthen MEDREG’s capability to support its members, through tailor-made approaches that address market and regulatory developments and priorities in our countries.”*

### **Celebrating 10 years of regional cooperation in energy regulation**

This 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MEDREG, created in 2006 with the aim of establishing cooperation among Mediterranean Energy Regulators. Today, MEDREG counts 25 members from 21 Mediterranean countries, the newly established Egyptian gas regulatory authority being the most recent member. Over the past 10 years, MEDREG has facilitated remarkable achievements in the empowerment of energy regulators in the Mediterranean region; one of its recent achievements is the support provided to the Egypt's electricity and gas regulatory colleagues during the opening of the Egyptian energy market to competition. Since its creation, MEDREG has developed a strong and extensive network with international energy stakeholders and established itself as a key institutional partner in the region.

### **A good balance of Northern, Eastern and Southern shore members leading the Working Groups and Task Force**

The five Working Groups and Task Forces have appointed their Chair, Co-Chair and Vice-Chair, resulting in a good geographical balance between EU and non-EU countries\*\*. Members' engagement in MEDREG's technical activities has steadily increased, demonstrating the value of exchanging experience and regulatory knowledge. The Organisation remains committed to providing technical support to the work undertaken by the European Commission in the region through its Neighborhood Policy.

### **MEDREG's updated objectives are setting a high bar for further cooperation of Mediterranean energy markets**

MEDREG is intensifying its support to Southern Mediterranean members in setting up effective electricity and gas regulatory bodies, dedicating its resources to support national regulatory reforms by providing trainings, peer-review and capacity building activities to its members. This activity seeks to help regulators fulfill their role in a context of increasing demand and growing regional integration. Furthermore, consumer protection remains at the heart of MEDREG's priorities with awareness-raising activities among members, with the aim of increasing access to information and addressing the particular situation of vulnerable consumers. Thanks to the generous support of the European Commission, as well as MEDREG's engagement in regional institutional frameworks (such as the Union for the Mediterranean and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean), regulators continue to promote effective energy sector regulation and energy policy development in our countries.

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\* Kindly hosted by the Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity Gas and Water (AEEGSI) at the Italian Foreign Affairs Ministry

\*\* The new composition of the Working Groups and Task Force is available in Annex 1

**MEDREG brings together energy regulators from 21 countries around the Mediterranean in order to promote a clear, stable and harmonized legal and regulatory framework through continuous cooperation among the Northern, Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean basin. The MEDREG Secretariat is located in Milan, Italy, hosted by the Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas and Water (AEEGSI). For more information, visit [www.medreg-regulators.org](http://www.medreg-regulators.org)**

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