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Regulators and Agencies for Energy Conservation to work hand in hand towards regional cooperation and sustainable energy transition

Brussels, 23 November 2017

Today, during a joint workshop held at the European Parliament in Brussels, the Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG*) and the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER**) discussed how they can step up their cooperation with coordinated actions that concretely promote sustainable energy in the Mediterranean.

The two organisations drew parallels between their initiatives and demonstrated the complementarity of their activities in fostering renewables energy and energy efficiency in the Mediterranean. Note that both Associations are active players in the Energy Platforms of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

Opening the workshop, Mr Michael A. Köhler, Director of Neighbourhood South at DG NEAR, European Commission stated:

“Today’s workshop comes at a very timely moment: first of all, COP23 just closed, with its load of commitments, hopes but also challenges. We all assume our share of responsibility and “homework”, and I wish the Mediterranean could become a “pilot region” in the shortest possible time frame, considering its intense exposure to climate change.”

Welcoming the EC’s upcoming European External Investment Plan aimed at fostering local private and foreign investment and the provisions of the “Clean Energy for All Europeans” Package, which sees the integration of regional markets in the Mediterranean region as a key aspect for cost-efficient investments, MEDREG underlined the crucial role of regulation in encouraging investments in renewables and energy efficiency.

The Moroccan Energy Ministry demonstrated how Ministry works hand in hand with the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy and for Energy Efficiency (MASEN) as well as with the National Office of Electricity and Drinkable Water (ONEE) which acts as the transport and distribution system operator, to deliver coherent RES and energy efficiency policies, regulations and projects responding to the carbon free energy transition.

As an illustration of the tangible support provided by the organisation to its members to deploy renewable energies, MEDREG’s Secretary General, Mr. Fabio Tambone, reported on “guarantees of origin” schemes currently implemented in the region. He highlighted MEDREG’s recommendations to introduce these schemes in Southern shore countries, developed through the analysis of national case studies and best shared practices provided by the members of the Association.

Mr. Tambone and Mr Dario Chello, MEDENER’s President declared:

“Regulators and Agencies for Energy Conservation play an important and complementary role in accompanying the Mediterranean Countries in their energy transition towards a low carbon economy. Our two organisations are committed to further strengthen regional cooperation among the energy players and to inform and support the work programme of the UfM energy platforms”.

Participants to the workshop included Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), high representatives of the European Commission (DG NEAR and DG ENER), representatives of the Lebanese, Moroccan and Tunisian Ministries and Energy Conservation Agencies as well as energy stakeholders such as the Union for the Mediterranean, MED-TSO, Embassies of Southern Mediterranean countries based in Brussels, ENEL and EDF among others.

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***MEDREG** is the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators which benefits from European Union's financial support and which brings together 25 regulators from 21 countries, spanning the European Union (EU), the Balkans and North Africa.

Mediterranean regulators work together to promote greater harmonization of the regional energy markets and legislations, seeking progressive market integration in the Euro-Mediterranean basin.

Through constant cooperation and information exchange among members, MEDREG aims at fostering consumers rights, energy efficiency, infrastructure investment and development, based on secure, safe, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable energy systems.

MEDREG acts as a platform providing information exchange and assistance to its members as well as capacity development activities through webinars, training sessions and workshops.

The MEDREG Secretariat is located in Milan, Italy. For more information, visit www.medreg-regulators.org

** **MEDENER** is the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation. It brings together agencies in the Mediterranean region in charge of energy efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy sources, two key conditions for the success of the energy transition. In 1997, due to the need for stronger cooperation for the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Mediterranean region, MEDENER was created in Tunis in the form of an international non-profit organisation. Today, it brings together 12 national agencies from the northern and southern banks of the Mediterranean. MEDENER is a decisive actor in the energy transition: promotes regional projects related to energy efficiency and renewable energy development; facilitates the sharing of experiences, know-how and best practices among its members and international partners; it accelerates the transfer of skills, methods and technologies in the area of energy efficiency and renewable energy; it assists countries in the Mediterranean region with the design and implementation of energy management policies.

The MEDENER Presidency is located in Brussels, Belgium. For more information, visit www.medener.org