

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Turkish Energy Regulator takes on the MEDREG Presidency with the election of Güleşan Demirbaş**

*Istanbul, Thursday 29 November 2018*

Gathered today in Istanbul for the organisation's 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, MEDREG Members have elected their new President Mrs. Güleşan Demirbaş, Head of the Strategy Development Department at the Turkish Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA\*). Mrs. Demirbaş, who acted as MEDREG Vice President in her former mandate, has been a long-time member of MEDREG Working Groups and is well aware of the organisation's priorities and challenges. After her election, she declared:

*"EMRA is an active member of MEDREG and has supported the objectives promoted by the organisation since its establishment in 2007. Leaning on our three previous mandates as Vice President and on our tireless involvement in the various working groups, we are in a good position to pursue the fruitful cooperation that MEDREG has facilitated over the past 11 years. Our organisation will continue to play a major role in the Mediterranean in enhancing regulatory stability and in contributing to socioeconomic prosperity in the region by supporting the establishment of secure, sustainable and competitive Mediterranean energy markets. As the President of MEDREG, I, together with honourable Vice-Presidents and the new Steering Committee members, and with the support of the Secretariat, will work harder for a more robust MEDREG which is more inclusive and more productive."*

President Demirbaş will be supported by three Vice-Presidents, Mr. Petrit Ahmeti President of the Albanian Regulator ERE, Mrs. Christine Chauvet, Commissioner of the French Regulator CRE, and the President of the Italian regulator ARERA, Mr. Stefano Besseghini. The new Board expressed its willingness to give a new impulse to MEDREG's strategy and voiced their common ambition to support regulators, finding concrete and mutual solutions to the problems they face:

*"Our actions should be closer to national realities in order to deliver concrete and effective results. Therefore, MEDREG is fully committed to respond to its Members' expectations for technical assistance, in particular from our Southern countries, through a constant dialogue and an in-depth understanding of their priorities."*

In order to meet its objectives, MEDREG will continue to provide capacity building activities, technical study visits to fellow regulators, personalised reports, analysis and recommendations as well as peer reviews. These tools revealed to be very effective to implement national reforms in a long-term perspective. Finally, the promotion of a strong and independent regulation will remain at the heart of MEDREG's priorities.

Beside the election of its new Board of Presidents, MEDREG adopted a series of report meant to reinforce the regulators' capacities and knowledge in the areas of infrastructure investment and smart grids. An assessment of the opening of the gas market in the last two years as well as of the status of consumer dispute settlement and complaint handling in the Mediterranean were also presented.

Moreover, Mediterranean Regulators approved an ambitious work programme planned for 2019, with a strong emphasis on tailored-made support activities to Northern African and Eastern Members, which will be based on a diagnostic of their particular needs.



Co-funded by the European Union

**MEDREG** is the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators, 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 compatibility of the regional energy markets and legislation, seeking progressive market integration in the Euro-Mediterranean basin. Through constant cooperation and information exchange among members, MEDREG aims at fostering consumer rights, energy efficiency, infrastructure investment and development, based on secure, safe, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable energy systems. MEDREG acts as a platform providing assistance to its members as well as capacity development activities through webinars, training sessions and workshops as well as personalised hands-on initiatives. The MEDREG Secretariat is located in Milan, Italy.

MEDREG is co-funded by the European Union.

For more information, visit [www.medreg-regulators.org](http://www.medreg-regulators.org)

**EMRA** is a public corporation with administrative and financial autonomy. EMRA is the sole regulator of electricity, gas, and fuel and lubricant markets. As an independent regulator in terms of decision making which is guaranteed by the primary law, EMRA is endowed with regulatory functions such as licensing to transcribe the entries and exits to the market; regulating the market to assure non-discriminatory third party access to the monopolistic infrastructures such as grids; ratemaking to inhibit monopoly rents; and supervising and penalizing, if necessary, to make sure that the market participants are in compliance with the rules and regulations. EMRA which is governed by a 7 membered board employs about 500 civil servants and has an independent annual budget of roughly € 50 million.

**For further information, interviews and related material please contact:**

Daphné Lacroix

MEDREG Communication Officer

Tel: (+39) 026 55 65 553

Mob: (+39) 389 69 11 797

[dlacroix@medreg-regulators.org](mailto:dlacroix@medreg-regulators.org)

XXXX