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**MEDREG teams-up with Balkan regulators to facilitate sustainable energy schemes**

*Tirana, Wednesday 19 June 2019*

The Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG\*) held its 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on 18-19 June in Tirana, which was marked by a redoubling of the organisation's efforts to **promote and facilitate the deployment of sustainable support schemes for Renewable Energy Sources (RES)**.

On 18 June, in a workshop jointly organised with the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB)\*, MEDREG promoted the role that energy regulators play in Renewable Energy Sources (RES) auction mechanisms and called on International Financial Institutions to support the development of net metering. A large array of stakeholders took part in the discussions including the European Commission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), regulators, consultants, DSOs, etc.

Earlier this year, MEDREG assisted its Algerian member to successfully launch a call for tenders to determine RES prices through auctions in Algeria, and advised the Palestinian Energy Regulator on the opportunity to establish a net metering system in Palestine, illustrating the organisation's commitment to accompany the sustainable energy transition in the Southern shore.

**Mr Leonidas Kioussis from the Energy Directorate General of the European Commission** recalled the Clean Energy for all Europeans package that will enter into force by mid-2019. The package aims to make the EU electricity market fit for the challenges of the clean energy transition, and make it better connected, better protected against black-outs, better able to integrate renewable energy, more market-based and more consumer-oriented.

For her part, **Mrs. Dorina Perister from the EBRD** indicated that EBRD works closely with energy stakeholders and regulators to promote RES. The European Bank supports competitive and sustainable projects that comply with environmental standards, of small scale but also large scale that follow a merchant structure.

Wrapping up the workshop, **Mrs Nina Grall from the ECRB** suggested that net metering be seen as a means to achieve the energy transition that can support energy efficiency and therefore reduce electricity losses. Mr Grall also called on regulators to cooperate claiming that they all have a lot in common and experience to share. Meanwhile, **Mr Hasan Ozkoc from MEDREG** recommended regulators to start using regulatory sandboxes where they can test the impact of regulations in a controlled environment and see if they can be replicated to larger areas, especially for issues related to smart grids.

MEDREG has been coordinating and multiplying initiatives to **foster electricity market integration**, through its tightened cooperation with Med-TSO and other stakeholders under the umbrella of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Energy Platforms. The two organisations are working jointly on regulatory



Co-funded by the European Union

harmonisation, the development of common network codes and standards as well as on a concept of Mediterranean Project of Common Interest to boost infrastructure investments.

Acknowledging the valuable technical and institutional contributions of MEDREG to the UfM Energy Platforms and its Southern members, the European Commission has stated its intention to renew the EU's financial support to the Association for the next three years.

MEDREG also **reinforces partnerships and cooperation with other energy stakeholders** of the region and beyond on common priorities, facilitating synergies between similar organisations. In this context, MEDREG is planning a trilateral workshop later this month with ECRB and CEER\* that will identify regulatory tools that make customer empowerment a reality, analysing experiences from the three regions.

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**MEDREG** is the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators, which brings together 27 regulators from 22 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)

**ECRB** is the Energy Community Regulatory Board which is an institution of the Energy Community Treaty. It aims to create an integrated regulatory space that is harmonised with the pan-European energy market and regulatory practise by implementing the *acquis communautaire* on energy, respecting national specificities of Contracting Parties and without diminishing the independence of national regulatory bodies; and enhancing the security of supply to ensure stable and continuous energy supply that is essential for economic development and social stability.

**CEER** is the Council of European Energy Regulators. It aims at promoting a broad and representative vision of Europe's energy markets; promoting the development of efficient and competitive internal markets for electricity and gas in Europe; setting up cooperation, information exchange and assistance, providing a framework for the discussion of regulatory issues and exchange of experience; and cultivating relations with similar associations outside the EU area.

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