



## Press Release

Press Release (CEER-PR-19-08)

# European and Mediterranean regulators team up on empowering consumers to benefit from the energy transition

Brussels/Vienna/Milan, 26 June 2019

Yesterday's trilateral workshop of the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER<sup>1</sup>), the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB<sup>2</sup>) and the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG<sup>3</sup>), in Brussels, aims to strengthen regulatory dialogue across Europe and the broader Mediterranean region to support consumers in becoming active energy market participants. The focus of this joint event was on consumer empowerment in the digital era and in the context of the Clean Energy for All Europeans package.

Digitalisation provides opportunities to increase the productivity of the existing energy system and introduce new business models and enables new products and players to enter the markets. It enables home management and mobility services, makes switching easier for consumers and facilitates consumer participation. At the same time digitalisation brings new challenges to ensure data protection and privacy. Regulators of the three regional regulatory bodies, together with representatives of the European Commission, discussed how to enable digitalisation and protect consumers against the risks as well as the role of smart grids, self-consumption and energy communities for collective engagement. Regulators agreed on the importance of market monitoring to ensure that markets deliver benefits for consumers.

The joint workshop, the second such tri-lateral workshop, is the result of enhanced cooperation between the three institutions confirmed in a cooperation arrangement that was signed in December 2018<sup>4</sup>.

**CEER Vice-President Anne Vadasz Nilsson** said: *“Europe’s Clean Energy Package offers a number of instruments to create truly consumer-driven energy markets. Europe’s energy regulators are supporting customers in availing of these opportunities. CEER has just published a report on empowering and engaging consumers through self-consumption and energy communities<sup>5</sup>.”*

**ECRB President, Mr Giorgi Pangani** added: *“Digitalisation links energy markets more closely across borders and regions. Our duty as regional regulatory bodies is to join our forces and address the potentials and challenges of digitalisation in a coordinated way”.*

**MEDREG Deputy Secretary General Mr Hasan Özkoç** underlined: *“Decentralised and self-energy production has increasing potential in the Mediterranean region. This can put consumers in a driving seat if we join our regulatory activities to support them in this transition period.”*

**ENDS** (See Notes for Editors below)



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1. The Council of European Energy Regulatory (CEER) is the voice of Europe's national energy regulators. Its Members and Observers are the independent statutory bodies responsible for energy regulation. CEER, based in Brussels, deals with a broad range of energy issues including retail markets and consumers; distribution networks; smart grids; flexibility; sustainability; and international cooperation. CEER represents 38 energy regulatory authorities, comprising 29 Members (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and 9 Observers (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and the Swiss Confederation). See [www.ceer.eu](http://www.ceer.eu)
2. The Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB) has nine Contracting Parties - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*<sup>1</sup>, North Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. ECRB is the independent regional body of energy regulators in the Energy Community and beyond. ECRB activities build on three pillars: providing coordinated regulatory positions to energy policy debates, harmonising regulatory rules across borders and sharing regulatory knowledge and experience. ECRB is an institution of the Energy Community. The Energy Community is a union of nine members from South East Europe and the Black Sea region and the European Union. ECRB promotes the development of a competitive, efficient and sustainable regional energy market that works in public interest. See [www.energy-community.org](http://www.energy-community.org). This 2019 Eastern Partnership workshop is supported by the EU4Energy Governance project implemented by the Energy Community Secretariat.
3. 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 legislations, 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 is co-funded by the European Union. See [www.medreg-regulators.org/](http://www.medreg-regulators.org/)
4. The 1<sup>st</sup> trilateral CEER-ECRB-MEDREG workshop took place on 27 June 2018 in Vienna and focussed on consumer involvement and retail market opening. The annual trilateral workshop is an important part of CEER's, ECRB's and MEDREG's work programmes and an element of the cooperation arrangement signed between the three regional regulatory bodies in December 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



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5. The new [CEER Report “Regulatory Aspects of Self-Consumption and Energy Communities”](#) presents some case studies of energy communities and analyses the regulatory implications of the formal recognition of citizen and renewable energy communities in Europe’s Clean Energy Package (CEP). CEER sees the formal recognition of energy communities in the EU framework as a positive development, provided that energy communities do not become a vehicle to circumvent existing market principles, such as unbundling, consumer rights or the cost sharing principles applied to energy grids. The report includes recommendations to aid the national transposition of the relevant provisions of the CEP.

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