

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Energy Regulators Exchange at the Highest Level to Respond to the Challenges of Growing Role of Gas and Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean**

*Rome, Tuesday 10 December 2019*

Today, the Presidents and Commissioners of Mediterranean Energy Regulatory Authorities are gathering in Rome to exchange approaches and good practices with regards to renewable energy development and the growing role of gas, which imply important challenges and require the adaption of the energy regulation from both a policy and regulatory perspective.

Organised at the initiative of Mr. Stefano Besseghini, MEDREG Vice President and President of the Italian Energy Regulator ARERA, this meeting is the first of its kind and is meant to foster cooperation at the highest level of national regulatory authorities, leading to the development of a shared vision for the changing role of Regulators in the Mediterranean energy market.

Opening the event, **MEDREG President Ms. Güleşan Demirbaş** highlighted that:

*“Today we witness an increased importance of MEDREG for its member regulators. The more our challenges grow, the more it is important to be able to rely on a network of fellow National Regulatory Authorities which share the Mediterranean borders and work towards increased interconnection and compatibility of the legislations among countries, with a view to establishing a functioning and competitive Mediterranean energy market which can create ample benefits for all”.*

**ARERA President Mr. Stefano Besseghini** added:

*“MEDREG is a very important platform to share experiences and develop a common understanding of the main issues and challenges currently faced by Mediterranean Energy Regulators. Such cooperation should be increasingly translated into joint actions with practical and visible outcomes.”.*

Participants raised country-specific problems and questions, to which fellow Presidents answered in the framework of three sessions of discussion and interaction that brought together the different stances and challenges of the Mediterranean countries.

**Under-Secretary of Italian Ministry of Economic Development Ms. Alessandra Todde** said:

*“The Mediterranean is our present and represents future opportunities in our region. Energy interconnections and investments will surely reinforce and strengthen our historical relations to favour social and economic growth”.*

The Presidents of the Moroccan and Egyptian regulators ANRE and GASREG respectively explained how energy regulation is being affected and shaped by the growing importance of renewable energy electricity production and gas trade in their countries. These sharing of experience was enriched by the perspectives of the industry with active contributions of the Italian energy company ENEL and gas utility SNAM.

Looking at what the future lies ahead for MEDREG, the President of the French Energy Regulatory Commission CRE, Mr. Jean-François Carencu, explored new perspectives for the Organisation and stressed the pillar role that MEDREG plays in the Euro-Mediterranean energy relations. He further emphasised the importance of the continued support received from the European Union.

This Presidents' meeting followed MEDREG's Brussels Forum held last November, which addressed the challenges and opportunities for reinforced cooperation that gas and renewable energy development imply in the Mediterranean region through a proactive dialogue of energy experts from international institutions, regulators, industry and academia.

In the recent years, MEDREG has produced a series of reports looking at smart grids, RES auctioning systems, natural gas infrastructure and gas market competition as well as LNG and storage infrastructure. It also elaborated good practices on tariff methodologies, transparency, capacity allocation and third party access in the Mediterranean region, in addition to personalised workshops, trainings and other studies for its Southern members aimed at supporting energy regulators in exercising their prerogatives for the establishment of a competitive and functioning energy market.

[www.medreg-regulators.org/Publications.aspx](http://www.medreg-regulators.org/Publications.aspx)

In the margin of this Presidents' meeting, MEDREG is holding in Rome a joint training with the Association of Mediterranean Electricity Transmission System Operators (Med-TSO), meant to build the knowledge on infrastructure investments and the bilateral dialogue between the staff of regulators and TSOs.

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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 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)

**ARERA** is the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment that carries out regulatory and supervisory activities in the sectors of electricity, natural gas, water services, waste cycle and district heating. Established by Law No. 481 of 1995, ARERA is an independent administrative authority that operates to ensure the promotion of competition and efficiency in public utility services and protect the interests of users and consumers. These functions are performed by balancing operators' economic and financial objectives with general social objectives, for environmental protection and the efficient use of resources.

For more information, visit [www.arera.it/it/inglese/index.htm](http://www.arera.it/it/inglese/index.htm)

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

Daphné Lacroix  
MEDREG Communication Officer  
Tel: +39 026 55 65 553  
[dlacroix@medreg-regulators.org](mailto:dlacroix@medreg-regulators.org)