



## Press Release

# European and Mediterranean regulators join efforts to accelerate the energy transition

Vienna, 15 June 2022

The energy sector is currently facing a major transformation which implies multiple challenges, such as price surge and security of supply concerns and increasing energy poverty as well as many opportunities like digitalisation in light of the Clean Energy Package, as well as the transformation of heating and energy generation to meet decarbonisation goals. These themes were addressed at the workshop jointly organised by 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>) on 15 June 2022 in Vienna.

The workshop aimed at maximising the exchange of best practices and experiences, as well as promote convergence of regulatory practices across the three regions in these sensitive issues. The current geopolitical context, coupled with rising energy prices as of summer of 2021 not only affected the energy sector but also first and foremost consumers. Facilitating the energy transition in an equitable way, leaving no one behind, is a guiding principle of the regulatory mission of CEER, ECRB and MEDREG. Ensuring security of supply and energy independence by accelerating the energy transition and mitigating energy poverty are the regulatory priorities in these times of turmoil.

This fourth edition of the trilateral workshop is an example of enhanced cooperation between the three regional organisations of energy regulators, confirmed in a cooperation arrangement that was signed in December 2018<sup>3</sup>.

**CEER President Ms. Annegret Groebel** said: *“The current geopolitical context marked by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the high volatility of prices in the energy sector requires immediate and long-term behavioural adjustments within the current market-based framework. The primordial goals of achieving energy independence and delivering the energy transition in a fair and holistic way, leaving no one behind, must not be obfuscated by the necessary short-term measures to protect consumers and guarantee the security of supply. As regulators, CEER is determined to promote active consumer engagement in energy markets by ensuring consumer-centric dynamic regulation as embedded in the 2022-2025 CEER Strategy: Empowering Consumers for the Energy Transition<sup>5</sup>. Therefore, this trilateral workshop presents itself as a timely and essential opportunity for cooperation with our European and Mediterranean colleagues in this joint effort to deliver the energy transition with a consumer-centric approach.”*

**ECRB Customers and Retail Markets Chairman, Mr. Edin Zametica** added: *“The efforts to accelerate and facilitate the energy transition have led to significant changes in the energy system at the global and local level. The recent price spikes were driven by increased demand for energy in the context of a severe winter in Europe and exacerbated by a challenging geopolitical milieu, as well as a global pandemic. In this context, reliable support, affordable*



*prices, and sustainable and green energy products are of the utmost importance for consumers. In addition, markets need to become more flexible and consumer-oriented by facilitating active participation. Combating energy poverty has featured high on the ECRB agenda and regulators have a crucial role to play in cooperating to promote a carbon-neutral energy system and empowering consumers.”*

**MEDREG Director, Mr. Hasan Ozkoc** underlined: *“The current political, economic and energy landscapes have emphasised the urge of ensuring a coherent regulation in our region, considering the security of supply concerns. The Mediterranean region possesses significant energy resources from various perspectives, which could be used to improve energy integration, independence, as well as the security of supply. Digitalization is of utmost importance; however, for the southern shore countries, we need to think of tackling the essentials for that region, for example the cross-subsidization. One of MEDREG’s main goals is to promote consumer protection and awareness so that they can have an active role in the energy transition. Overall, promoting a common regulatory framework is an opportunity to accelerate decarbonisation and sustainable energy developments to reach our long-term objectives of 2050.”*

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

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 39 energy regulatory authorities, comprising 30 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, Slovakia, 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).
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

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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.



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 2<sup>nd</sup> trilateral CEER-ECRB-MEDREG workshop was held on 25 June 2019 in Brussels and focussed on consumer empowerment in the digital era and in the context of the Clean Energy for All Europeans package. 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.
5. The [CEER 2022-2025 Strategy Empowering Consumer for the Energy Transition](#) aims to unite European energy regulators with a view to promoting the energy transition and contributing to a carbon-neutral society and economy. CEER is committed to empowering energy consumers for the transition by enabling energy system integration, placing consumers at the centre of energy markets, and ensuring open, well-functioning, resilient national European markets.

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