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Newly Elected MEDREG President calls for Extended Consultation, Cooperation and Mutual Support for Clean, Safe, Reliable and Affordable Energy

Cairo, Thursday 1 December 2022

Gathered in Cairo for their 34th General Assembly, MEDREG members appointed **Mr. Abdellatif Bardach, President of the Moroccan Electricity Regulatory Authority ANRE**, as the **new President of MEDREG**. Mr. Branislav Prelevic, Chairman of the Montenegrin member REGAGEN, and Mr. Konstantinos Tsimaras, Board Commissioner of the Greek member RAE, were also nominated Vice Presidents, joining Mr. Stefano Besseghini, who is Permanent Vice President of MEDREG and President of the Italian member ARERA. MEDREG is an association co-funded by the European Union.

Soon after his election, **Mr. Abdellatif Bardach** stated:

“I consider this election as an honour and a set of responsibilities that I must carry out, with the Vice Presidents, to meet the expectations of the member countries and to continue the great work with significant progress that has been initiated by the previous Presidency board, led by President Ahmeti.

The idea is to continue and develop the actions undertaken by showing more initiative and by exploring boldly the means to foster consultation, fruitful cooperation, and mutual support between member countries and between the regional organisations involved in the energy field, inside and outside the Mediterranean area.

It is imperative to further engage in the effort to move towards the creation of an integrated Euro-Mediterranean market that responds to the challenges of the rise in energy consumption, mainly the electricity, especially in the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries.

Furthermore, the organisation is aiming to modernise the energy sector through digitalisation, acceleration of electric mobility, research relevant storage solutions, access to innovative vectors, in particular, green hydrogen, and, of course, strengthening energy efficiency.

Finally, it is important to also recall that our ultimate goal is to make clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy available to the final consumer, especially to the vulnerable ones. This can only be achieved through an enhanced coordination between all stakeholders of the energy sector with a decisive participation of our Association.”

Handing over the reins to Mr. Bardach, **Mr. Petrit Ahmeti, MEDREG outgoing President and Chairman of the Albanian Energy Regulatory Authority ERE**, indicated:

“During my term, I endeavoured to make the most of MEDREG’s resources to minimise the impact of the pandemic and volatility of the very high energy prices on consumers. We reconsidered our strategies to accelerate the energy transition with an emphasis on security of supply, energy efficiency, and used regulation to respond effectively to the undergoing dramatic changes. I am proud that MEDREG has become a landmark reputable institution in the field of energy cooperation, receiving longer financial assistance from the European Commission as well as restructuring the Secretariat with a view to improving the efficiency and ensuring better coordination among the staff as well as Members.

I wish the best success to my successor in his mission”.

For his part, **Mr. Karem Mahmoud, CEO of the Egyptian Gas Regulatory Authority GASREG** stated:

“It is a great pleasure for me to welcome my Mediterranean regulatory peers in Cairo. I highly value the crucial role of regional organisations in promoting coherent regulations to accelerate the energy transition. This comes at a very timely moment, following the COP27, where a clear message was conveyed about the

pathways to follow to address climate change and transitioning to a green economy. They should be aligned with the adaption of practical measures reinforcing the security of supply, and investments in new sources of energy that are clean, affordable, accessible, sustainable, and reliable.”

The Presidency board elections were preceded by the General Assembly’s adoption of technical reports elaborated by the organisation’s working groups during the year, which monitor the evolution in national, sub-regional, and regional gas and electricity markets, as well as provide a timely overview of the existing regulatory frameworks in MEDREG’s member countries.

The day before, in a high-level Workshop in Cairo, MEDREG exchanged with regional and European organisations active in the field of energy about the role of regional entities, and in particular of regulatory authorities, in accelerating the energy transition in the Mediterranean. They envisaged scenarios with integrated working approaches to enhance and activate the roles of regional entities, through possible cooperation projects between the different parties.

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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

The Gas Regulatory Authority of Egypt GASREG is an independent public body established by Law since 2017 for “Regulation of Gas Market Activities”. GASREG’s missions are to monitor the functioning of the gas market, encourage new investments, regulate the gas market activities, introduce competition amongst potential market players by allowing Third Party Access to gas networks and availed facilities under a fair and non-discriminatory basis, and increase the quality of services provided, and protect the consumers’ rights. GASREG exercises all powers needed to achieve those objectives acting independently in a fair, transparent neutral and non-discriminatory manner.

For more information, visit www.gasreg.org.eg/

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