

MEDREG Cooperates with Lebanon's Energy and Water Ministry on the Creation of a Lebanese Electricity Regulator

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Lebanon has long envisioned the creation of an Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) to regulate the sector and to restructure the electricity market.

As the Ministry of Energy and Water has prepared an organisational structure of the board members and is currently in the process of recruiting them, **HE Minister Dr. Walid Fayad** invited **MEDREG President Mr. Abdellatif Bardach**, also President of the Moroccan Electricity Regulatory Authority (ANRE) to share views and advice on that process, taking into account all MEDREG members' experience.

This peer-to-peer exchange demonstrated to be extremely valuable as Morocco and some other MEDREG members went through a similar experience with the creation of their independent regulators. Indeed, several MEDREG members established their independent regulators with appropriate skills and resources to accompany the gradual opening and liberalisation of the energy markets.

During the exchange, **President Bardach** stated:

“MEDREG has a lot to share with Lebanon with regards to the establishment of a regulatory authority. Our members have gone through similar processes and practices with a view to creating a functioning and competitive energy market. Therefore, we are delighted to support the Lebanese Ministry in these first steps and transitional period which will lead to a fair and efficient electricity market, offering reliable energy and affordable prices to Lebanese consumers”.

For his part, **Minister Dr. Walid Fayad** indicated that:

“We feel lucky to be able to benefit from the insights of our partner the MEDREG whose involvement in the process brings years of experience and best practices in energy regulator setup, utility corporatization as well as private sector participation”.

During this visit, a committee formed by the **HE Minister of Energy and Water Walid Fayad**, discussed and evaluated the applications for the board members of the new to be established Electricity Regulatory Authority with the MEDREG Delegation. This committee adopted the recommendations of MEDREG concerning the extension of the ERA candidacy for an additional three-month period to allow more participation and specifying that the remuneration ought to be in line with the international standards.

It is worth mentioning the Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF)¹ initiated by the UN, the World Bank and the EU, and the work of its Electricity Working Group in which technical discussions are led by the government to present their plans, strategies and obstacles, and in which international actors can provide help. The World Bank is also engaged in supporting the reforms of the energy sector including the establishment of the regulator, private sector participation as well as other institutional enablers.

MEDREG President reiterated his willingness to welcome the future Lebanese regulator among the Association's members, to deepen the technical cooperation and harness the invaluable experience and knowledge that its network can offer to the nascent authority.

¹ <https://www.lebanon3rf.org/>



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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

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