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Powering the Lights: *Energy Regulation, Resilience and Regional Integration in the Mediterranean*

MEDREG High-Level Workshop

26 November 2025

CNMC Office
C. Alcalá, 47
28014 Madrid | Spain



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CNMC COMISIÓN NACIONAL DE LOS
MERCADOS Y LA COMPETENCIA

CONCEPT NOTE

The Mediterranean region stands at a decisive crossroads for its energy future. Recent events in the EU serve as a powerful and urgent reminder of the relevance of reinforcing the interconnected power systems and addressing the challenges to accelerate the decarbonisation process across the entire Mediterranean basin.

Energy systems are increasingly interdependent: a disturbance in one country can rapidly spread across borders. This reality makes coordination between governments, regulators, and system operators an absolute necessity to secure supply. Ensuring sufficient cross-border interconnection capacity, harmonised protocols for emergency response, coordinated crisis communication, and shared contingency planning are not optional but are fundamental tools for safeguarding regional energy security.

Regulators play a crucial role in these efforts. They are tasked with creating the robust legal and institutional frameworks necessary to embed resilience directly into market design and operational rules. To ensure security of supply, regulators must be empowered to act swiftly, providing clear guidance and enabling flexibility in markets, and ensuring that exceptional measures are taken to protect citizens and critical infrastructure. Furthermore, their oversight is vital for ensuring that system operators maintain adequate investments in resilience measures such as black-start capability, demand response, and grid digitalisation.

Transmission System Operators (TSOs) and Distribution System Operators (DSOs) are the frontline actors in system stability. TSOs manage cross-border flows and system balancing, and their coordination across the Mediterranean is indispensable to avoid cascading failures. DSOs, closer to consumers, play a vital role in maintaining service continuity at the local level, managing distributed resources, and supporting demand-side responses during peak or emergency conditions. Strengthening this TSO-DSO interface and their cooperation with regulatory bodies and governments is key to creating a seamless and resilient electricity system.

From that perspective, building a truly resilient Mediterranean power system requires the full involvement of the southern shore countries. Nations such as Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt are not only important suppliers of energy resources but are also emerging as strategic partners in renewable energy and electricity interconnections. Their integration into the regional energy system enhances overall resilience, offering both diversification of supply and opportunities for mutual support during times of stress. A resilient Mediterranean power system cannot be built without their full involvement.

This MEDREG High-Level Workshop will therefore serve as a platform to explore how all Mediterranean countries can collaborate more closely—across policy, regulation, and technical domains—to build a secure, resilient, and interconnected energy future.

Our Objective: Through structured dialogue and expert exchange, the workshop will define concrete, actionable recommendations for regulators, system operators, and policymakers to further commit to reinforce the cross-border interconnections, strengthening system resilience, and permanently safeguarding the energy security of all citizens across the Mediterranean.

Agenda

09:00 - 09:30	Registration	
09:30 - 10:45	Introduction Session	
Welcome addresses		
09:30 - 09:45	Veljko Vasiljević <i>President of MEDREG and of the Montenegrin Regulator - REGAGEN</i> Ángel García Castillejo <i>Vice-President of the Spanish NRA - CNMC</i>	
Keynote speeches		
09:45 - 10:30	Keynote 1 – Joan Groizard <i>Secretary of State for Energy– Spain</i> Electricity Interconnections as Strategic Infrastructures to Guarantee the Security of Supply	
10:30 - 10:45	Keynote 2 – Cristina Lobillo <i>Director, Energy Security and International Relations (DG ENER - European Commission) – Online</i> The Strategic Role of Southern Shore Countries in Mediterranean Energy Security	
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 - 12:30	Panel 1: Powering Change: The role of Interconnections in the Energy Transition	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Moderator:</u> Stefano Besseghini <i>MEDREG Permanent Vice President and President of ARERA (Italy)</i> ○ <u>Panellists:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Milou Beerepoot <i>Programme Manager Energy (DG MENA - European Commission)</i> ○ Mohamed Bernannou <i>Board Member ANRE (Morocco)</i> ○ Pedro Verdelho <i>President of ERSE (Portugal)</i> ○ Andrea Gasparella <i>Business Development Manager (EMEA), ZHERO</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Topics covered:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interconnection policy and cross-border trade (EU-EU, EU-non-EU) ○ Regulatory incentives for resilience, black-start, demand response ○ Market design: balancing renewables with dispatchable capacity ○ Legal/institutional frameworks to enhance regional cooperation ○ Q&A
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break	

13:30 - 15:00

Panel 2: The Road to Electrification, Building System Security and Resilience

○ Moderator:

Valérie Plagnol | *Commissioner of CRE (France)*

○ Panellists:

○ **Mohammad Almaiah** | *MEDREG Vice-President and Energy Affairs' Commissioner EMRC (Jordan)*

○ **Belén Díaz Guerra** | *Head of Electrical Reliability, REE TSO (Spain)*

○ **Wassila Atimene** | *President of CREG (Algeria)*

Topics covered:

- Grid stability: voltage/frequency control, oscillations, system inertia.
- Storage and black-start capabilities
- Renewable integration and variability (solar/wind etc.)
- Interconnection capacity, bilateral and multilateral interconnectors (including undersea)
- Demand-side measures, digitalisation, smart grids
- Q&A

15:00 - 15:30

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

M^a Jesús Martín | Commissioner of CNMC

Hasan Ozkoc | Director of MEDREG Secretariat

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for a common energy future*

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