MedReg
Mediterranean Energy Regulators

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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MedReg Mediterranean Energy Regulators MEMBERS

Albania	**ERE**	Albanian Electricity Regulatory Authority
Algeria	**CREG**	Electricity and Gas Regulation Commission
Algeria	**ARH**	Hydrocarbon Regulatory Authority
Bosnia and Herzegovina	**SERC**	State Electricity Regulatory Commission
Croatia	**HERA**	Croatian Energy Regulatory Agency
Cyprus	**CERA**	Cyprus Energy Regulatory Authority
Egypt	**EGYPTERA**	Egyptian Electric Utility and Consumer Protection Regulatory Agency
Egypt	**EGR**	Egyptian Gas Regulator
France	**CRE**	Regulatory Commission of Energy
Greece	**RAE**	Regulatory Authority for Energy
Israel	**PUA**	Public Utilities Authority - Electricity
Israel	**NGA**	Natural Gas Authority
Italy	**AEEGSI**	Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas and Water
Jordan	**EMRC**	Energy & Minerals Regulatory Commission
Jordan	**MEMR**	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources
Libya	**ME**	Ministry of Electricity & Renewable Energy
Malta	**REWS**	Regulator for Energy & Water Services
Montenegro	**REGAGEN**	Energy Regulatory Agency
Morocco	**MEMEE**	Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and the Environment
Palestine	**PERC**	Palestinian Electricity Regulatory Council
Portugal	**ERSE**	Energy Services Regulatory Authority
Slovenia	**AGEN-RS**	Energy Agency of the Republic of Slovenia
Spain	**CNMC**	National Commission on Markets and Competition
Tunisia	**MEMER**	Minister of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energies
Turkey	**EMRA**	Energy Market Regulatory Authority

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

CONTENTS

1. President's Message 4
2. The present and future of Mediterranean energy regulation 10
3. Empowering member regulators 15
4. Making progress in the integration of Mediterranean gas and electricity markets 21
5. Designing consumer-friendly markets that achieve RES targets 27
6. Dissemination of MEDREG messages 33
7. Appendixes 35

1. President's Message

Dear Members, dear Friends,

Towards the end of 2016, I had the honor to be elected by my Mediterranean colleagues to succeed our esteemed Egyptian President, Mr. Hatem Waheed, for a mandate of two years. I am joined by three Vice-Presidents, Ms. Wijdan Al Rabadi (EMRC, Jordan), Mrs. Gülefşan Demirbaş (EMRA, Turkey) and Ms. Valeria Termini (AEEGSI, Italy).

Building on 10 years of successful cooperation, there is much work ahead for MEDREG members to continue and reinforce our efforts to mutually support each other through the major changes facing the energy sector. Our efforts should be effective in promoting the development of our markets and encouraging much needed investments. Therefore, my main priority will be to strengthen MEDREG's capability to support its members, through tailor-made approaches that address market and regulatory developments and priorities in our countries. These activities seek to help regulators fulfil their role in a context of increasing energy demand and growing regional integration. As an example, we are exchanging experiences and good practice with Egyptian and Moroccan colleagues as they set up new regulatory bodies for gas and electricity, respectively.

Thanks to the generous support of MEDREG's main contributor, the European Commission, as well as MEDREG's engagement in regional institutional frameworks such as the Union for the Mediterranean and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, we have continued in 2016 to promote effective energy sector regulation and energy policy development in our countries. In parallel, we issued technical papers on key regulatory and market issues, such as methodologies to evaluate investment plans, performance indicators for generators and renewable energy origin regimes. Consumer protection also remained at the heart of our work, with awareness-raising activities among members, aimed at increasing access to information and addressing the particular situation of vulnerable consumers.

As the only organization bringing together the public regulatory authorities in the region, MEDREG is a unique and powerful instrument for regulatory cooperation. Cooperation continues to grow and deepen. MEDREG will continue to be a key partner in intergovernmental and EU initiatives to promote market integration and harmonization in the Mediterranean region.

Convinced of the necessity of close cooperation between Mediterranean countries and being believers in energy as a vector of stability and economic growth, my Presidency colleagues and I will endeavor to take forward MEDREG's commitment to promote fair and effective regulation in the region, and will accompany our members in this process as closely as possible.

Alexandre Santos
MEDREG President

1. Le mot du Président

Chers Membres, chers Amis,

En novembre 2016, j'ai eu l'honneur d'être élu Président par mes collègues méditerranéens pour un mandat de deux ans, succédant ainsi à notre Président égyptien, M. Hatem Waheed, pour lequel j'ai beaucoup d'estime. Je suis entouré de trois Vice-Présidentes, Mme Wijdan Al Rabadi (EMRC, Jordanie), Mme Gülefşan Demirbaş (EMRA, Turquie) et Mme Valeria Termini (AEEGSI, Italie).

Forts de 10 années de coopération fructueuse, en tant que membres de MEDREG nous avons encore beaucoup de travail devant nous pour poursuivre nos efforts et renforcer l'entraide mutuelle nécessaire pour accompagner les changements importants que connait le secteur de l'énergie.

Nos efforts doivent être réels afin de promouvoir le développement de nos marchés et encourager les investissements. Par conséquent, ma principale priorité sera de renforcer la capacité de MEDREG à soutenir ses membres, par le biais d'approches adaptées et sur mesure qui répondent aux développements du marché et de la réglementation des pays de nos membres ainsi qu'à leurs priorités. Ces activités aideront les régulateurs à accomplir leur rôle dans un contexte de demande croissante d'énergie et de développement de l'intégration régionale. Par exemple, nous facilitons l'échange d'expériences et de bonnes pratiques auprès de nos collègues égyptiens et marocains, qui ont respectivement créé de nouvelles commissions de régulation pour le gaz et l'électricité.

Grâce au soutien généreux de la Commission européenne, et à l'engagement de MEDREG au sein des institutions régionales telles que l'Union pour la Méditerranée et l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Méditerranée, nous avons continué en 2016 à promouvoir une réglementation efficace du secteur énergétique et le développement d'une politique énergétique ambitieuse dans nos pays respectifs. Parallèlement, nous avons publié des documents techniques sur des questions clés liées à la réglementation et au marché, telles que les méthodologies d'évaluation des plans d'investissements, les indicateurs de performance pour les générateurs et les régimes d'énergies renouvelables. La protection des consommateurs est également restée au cœur de nos priorités, avec des activités de sensibilisation auprès de nos membres visant à accroître l'accès à l'information, et à répondre à la situation particulière des consommateurs vulnérables.

Seule organisation regroupant les autorités publiques de régulation de la région, MEDREG constitue un instrument de coopération unique et puissant en matière de réglementation. La coopération continue à se développer et à se renforcer. MEDREG continuera à être un partenaire essentiel des initiatives intergouvernementales et de l'UE visant à promouvoir l'intégration et l'harmonisation des marchés dans la région méditerranéenne.

Convaincus de la nécessité d'une coopération étroite entre les pays méditerranéens et fervents partisans de l'énergie en tant que vecteur de stabilité et de croissance économique, mes collègues de la présidence et moi-même nous efforcerons de faire avancer l'engagement de MEDREG pour promouvoir une régulation équitable et efficace dans la région, et accompagnerons nos membres dans ce processus de notre mieux.

Alexandre Santos
MEDREG President

1 كلمة الرئيس

السادة الأعضاء، أصدقائي الأعزاء،

بنهاية عام 2016، تشرفت بانتخابي من قبل زملائي في البحر الأبيض المتوسط خلفاً لرئيسنا المصري الموقر - الأستاذ/ حاتم محمد وحيد - وذلك لفترة عامين. ولقد انضم إلي ثلاث نواب للرئيس وهم الأستاذة/ وجدان الريضي (من EMRC الأردن)، الأستاذة/ جوليفشان ديميرباس (من EMRA تركيا)، و الأستاذة/ فاليريا ترميني (من AEEGSI إيطاليا).

استمراراً لعشر سنوات من التعاون ، مازال ينقصنا الكثير من الجهد لدعم بعضنا البعض، وذلك بهدف مواجهة التغيرات الرئيسية التي تطرأ علي قطاع الطاقة. ينبغي أن تكون جهودنا فعالة في تنمية أسواقنا وتشجيع الاستثمارات التي نحن بحاجة إليها. ولذا، فستكون أهم أولوياتي تعزيز قدرات تجمع منظمي الطاقة لدول حوض البحر المتوسط بهدف تقديم الدعم لأعضائه عن طريق نهج مصمم خصيصاً لمعالجة التطورات السوقية والتنظيمية والتي تحتل الأولوية في بلادنا. تهدف هذه الأنشطة إلي مساعدة أجهزة التنظيم في أداء دورها في مواجهة زيادة الطلب علي الطاقة و التكامل الإقليمي. ومثال علي ذلك، تبادل الخبرات فيما يتعلق بإنشاء جهاز تنظيم للغاز بمصر و جهاز تنظيم للكهرباء بالمغرب.

ويفضل رعاية الاتحاد الأوروبي لتجمع منظمي الطاقة لدول حوض البحر المتوسط، فضلاً عن تعاون التجمع من خلال أطر مؤسسية إقليمية مثل الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط والبرلمان الأورومتوسطي، فقد استطاع التجمع في 2016 أن يقدم الدعم الفني الفعال في مجال تنظيم قطاع الطاقة وتطوير سياسته في بلادنا. وبالتوازي، فلقد أصدرنا أوراق عمل فنية بشأن القضايا التنظيمية لأسواق الطاقة مثل أسس لتقييم خطط الاستثمار، ومؤشرات الآداء لإنتاج الكهرباء و نظم مصادر الطاقة المتجددة. ويظل حماية المستهلكين في صميم عملنا، عن طريق رفع الوعي بين الأعضاء بهدف زيادة فرص الحصول علي المعلومات خصوصاً فيما يخص المستهلكين الغير مؤهلين.

يعد تجمع منظمي الطاقة لدول حوض البحر المتوسط آداه فريدة لتحقيق التعاون بين أطرافه حيث يتميز بكونه الكيان الإقليمي الوحيد الذي يجمع بين جميع السلطات التنظيمية بدول حوض البحر المتوسط. ويبقي التعاون مستمراً. وسوف يظل تجمع منظمي الطاقة لدول حوض البحر المتوسط شريكاً رئيسياً في المبادرات الحكومية ومبادرات الاتحاد الأوروبي بهدف تعزيز تكامل وتوافق الأسواق في حوض البحر المتوسط.

واقتناعا منا بضرورة التعاون الوثيق بين بلدان البحر الأبيض المتوسط وإيمانا قويا بأن الطاقة هي أهم عامل للاستقرار والنمو الاقتصادي، سأسعي أنا وزملائي في الرئاسة، إلى المضي قدما في التزام تجمع منظمي الطاقة لدول حوض البحر المتوسط بتعزيز التنظيم العادل والفعال في المنطقة، ومشاركة أعضائه في هذا التطور قدر الإمكان.

ألكسندر سانتوس

الرئيس

2 The present and future of Mediterranean energy regulation

A. What is MEDREG?

Established 10 years ago, MEDREG is the **Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators, which includes 25 regulators from 21 countries**, spanning the European Union (EU), the Balkans and the MENA region.

Mediterranean regulators work together through constant cooperation to promote a permanent exchange of know-how, data collection and dissemination of expertise, making use of comprehensive studies, recommendations, reports and specialized training sessions.

Since its creation, the European Union has been a continuous promoter of MEDREG through the active involvement of the European Commission's Directorate General for Energy (DG ENER) and the Directorate General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), which financially supports MEDREG activities.

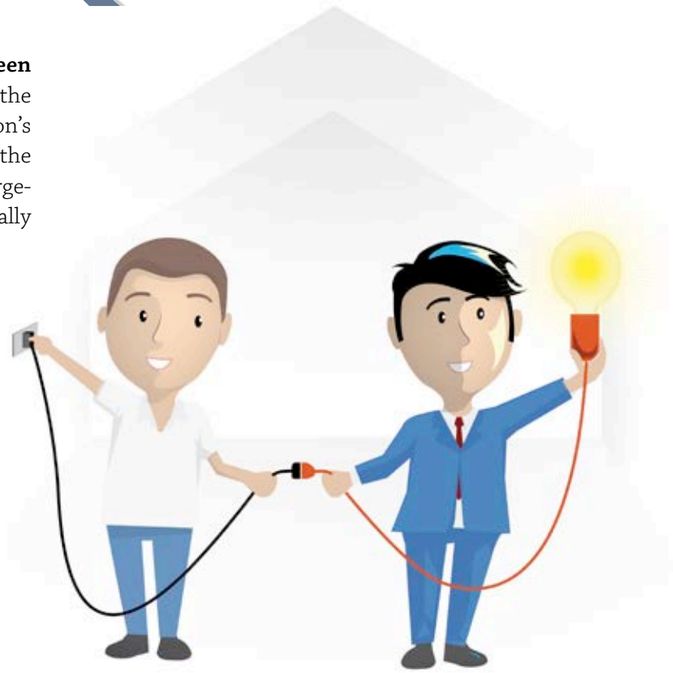
25 regulators
from **21 countries**

Mixed membership with regulators from **9 European** countries, **4 Balkan** countries and **8 Middle East and Northern Africa** (MENA) countries

11 members regulate electricity and gas, **10 regulate electricity** only and **4 regulate gas** only

20 are independent regulators, while **5 are ministries**

This regional cooperation project **started in 2007**



B. Mission

A sound legal and regulatory framework, based on **independent** and objective **regulatory bodies**, helps to attract investment, ensures the efficient use of the energy system and of grid investments and encourages fair practices towards consumers.
MEDREG's mission is to provide a **level playing field** for all Mediterranean energy actors.

MEDITERRANEAN ENERGY REGULATORS WORK TOGETHER TO

1. Promote a greater **harmonization** of the energy markets and legislations and seek **progressive market integration** in the Euro-Mediterranean region
2. Foster **sustainable development** in the energy sector through greater efficiency and integration of energy markets based on secure, safe, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable energy systems
3. Support initiatives of common interest in key areas such as **infrastructure investment and development**, innovative financing solutions for the Mediterranean and research in the field of energy regulation
4. Provide **capacity development activities** through webinars, training sessions and workshops
5. Foster **cooperation, information exchange and assistance** among members providing a **permanent discussion framework** and cooperation network

A SET OF FLEXIBLE AND EFFECTIVE TOOLS TO MOVE FORWARD

- **Peer review activities** and support in the drafting of members' secondary legislation
- **Training and capacity building** both in-house and in the form of MEDREG scholarships to external events, with the aim to address specific technical issues as well as to develop and empower regulatory institutions
- **Institutional partnerships**, notably by engaging financial institutions and other organizations active in the energy sector of the region
- **Ad hoc studies and benchmarking**, where appropriate and relevant with support of technical experts
- **Public consultations** on hot topics, including those raised by consumers who are becoming major market actors
- **Promotion of members' bilateral projects,** such as exchanges between experts and **initiatives involving South-South cooperation**

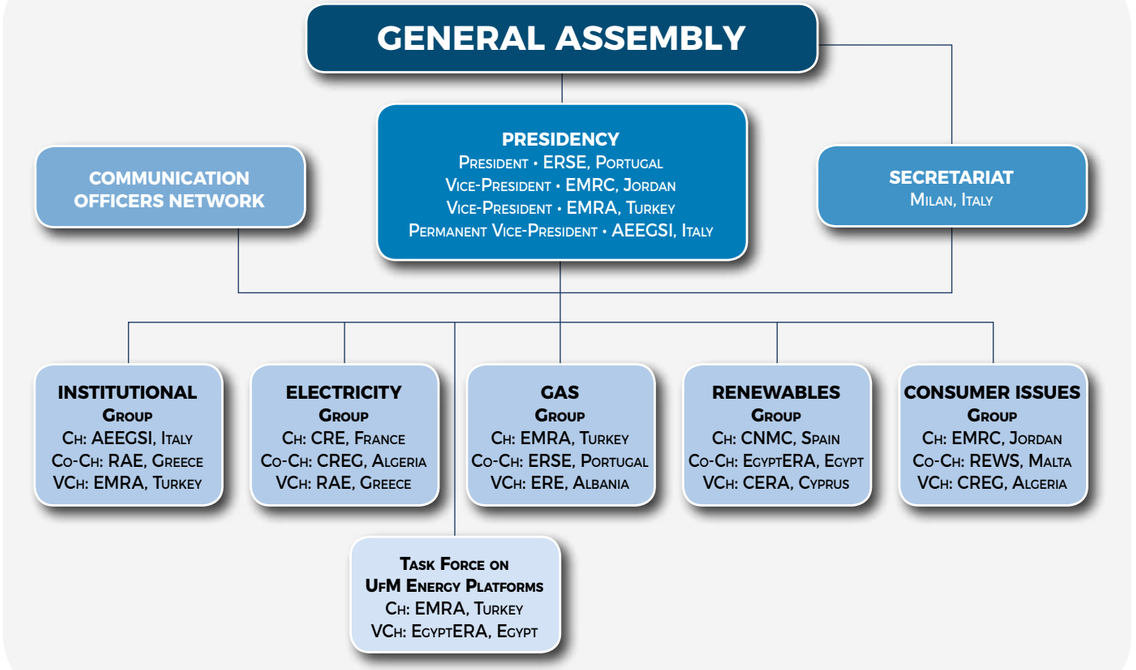
C. Launching tailored support for national regulatory reforms

The political agenda of the Mediterranean region has been reshaped by recent events concerning climate change, migration crises, swinging oil reserves and prices, the potential impact of the shale gas revolution, unstable financial markets, and social and political unrest. The growing complexity of the actors and layers involved calls for a **new and impactful role** for the **existing institutions supporting** the development of the **Mediterranean** region.

Regulation is a **key instrument to drive the change** and to support the need of Mediterranean Southern countries for substantial investments. Investments are indeed necessary to build generation plants based on modern technologies, develop transmission and distribution grids, ensure gas security of supply and promote the use of renewable energies as well as energy efficiency measures.

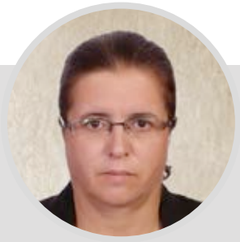
MEDREG has elaborated a **plan of support activities** based on a tailor-made approach that responds in a structured and comprehensive way to its members' national needs; one that reflects and **relates concretely to national developments**. The implementation of these activities will contribute to a more recognizable and effective role of regulators in the Mediterranean energy markets.

D. Organizational Chart



E. Presidency

Alexandre Santos
PRESIDENT
(ERSE, PORTUGAL)



Widjan Al Rabadi
VICE-PRESIDENT
(EMRC, JORDAN)

Gülefşan Demirbaş
VICE-PRESIDENT
(EMRA, TURKEY)

Valeria Termini
PERMANENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
(AEEGSI, ITALY)

General Assembly

The General Assembly (GA) is the decision making body responsible for defining MEDREG's strategy and for approving the Action Plan, operational guidelines, budget, reports and position papers elaborated by Working Groups and Task Forces. It is composed of high-level representatives from MEDREG members. The General Assembly meets every six months.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee (SC) prepares the work of the General Assembly and supervises the implementation of the Action Plan.
The Steering Committee is composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Chairpersons of Working Groups and Task Force as well as the Secretariat.

Working Groups

Our Working Groups (WGs) and Task Force (TF) are led by regulatory staff. MEDREG is grateful for their commitment.

Institutional (INS WG)

This Group has the objective of studying and promoting the role and competencies of regulatory authorities and coordinates MEDREG's institutional presence in EU and international contexts. The INS Group supervises MEDREG dialogue on energy regulation with the European Union, international institutions, regional regulatory organizations and other bodies.

Gas (GAS WG)

This Group assesses the current status of natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) markets in Mediterranean countries, their regulatory frameworks and possible evolutions. The GAS WG elaborates Guidelines of Good Practice (GGP) and recommendations that could lead to the development of an integrated, competitive, transparent, secure and effective gas market in the region.

Electricity (ELE WG)

This Group is in charge of monitoring the status of electricity markets and their regulatory frameworks in MEDREG countries and proposes viable paths for their harmonized development. The ELE Group identifies essential requirements that will lead to strengthened and well-functioning regional electricity markets in the region.

Environment, Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency (RES WG)

This Group focuses on the legislative and regulatory mechanisms used to promote renewable electricity generation, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources (RES) deployment in the Mediterranean basin, with particular attention to off-grid solutions and independent power producers (IPPs).

Consumers (CUS)

This Group works on enhancing the protection of household consumers in MEDREG countries. It produces surveys and recommendations on energy billing, consumer protection and information. The Group also identifies and promotes best practices in consumer protection, including vulnerable consumers, quality of service for electricity and gas and consumers associations.

Task Force on UfM Energy Platforms

The Task Force coordinates the participation and contribution of MEDREG representatives to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Energy Platforms on Gas, the Regional Electricity Market (REM) and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE).

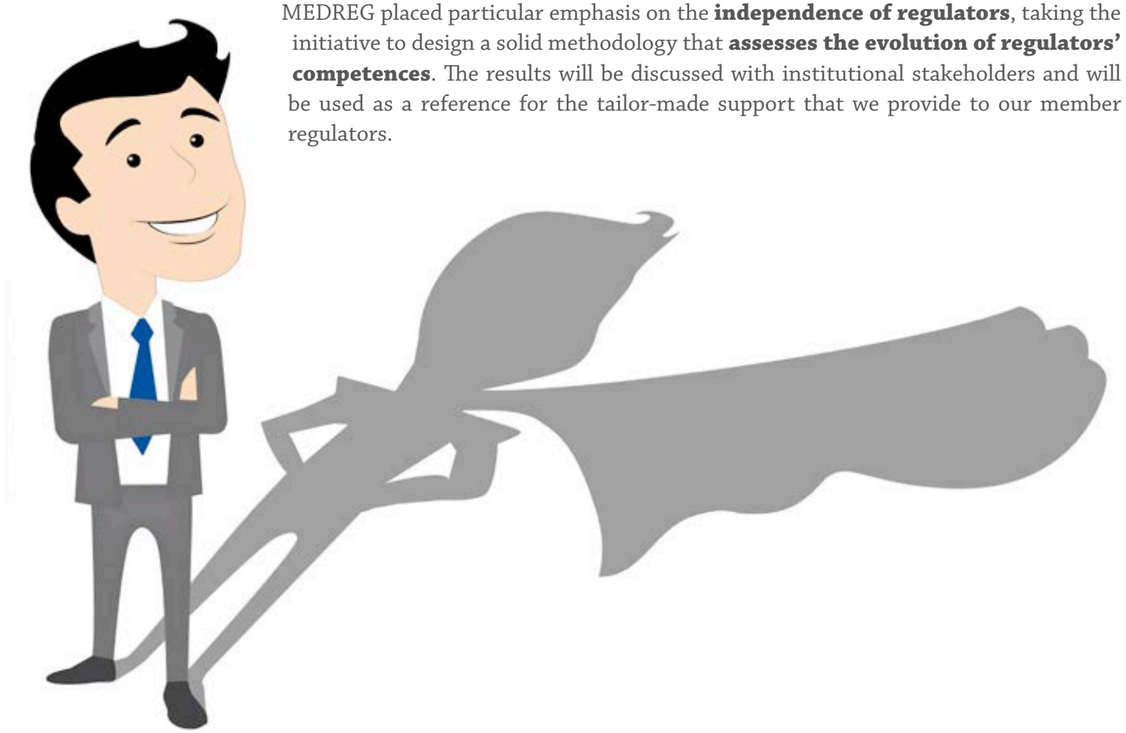
Secretariat

The Secretariat is hosted by AEEGSI in Milan. It implements MEDREG's strategy as defined by GA members, enhancing MEDREG accountability and institutional cooperation in the Mediterranean energy sector. The Secretariat provides continuous support to the President, Vice-Presidents and members, as well as to the Working Groups in the implementation of the Action Plan. Moreover, the MEDREG Secretariat fosters information exchange among its members through a Communication Officers network that promotes MEDREG's message in each member country.

Empowering member regulators 3

Regulatory authorities in the Mediterranean region are at various stages of development and activity. Building up the capacity of MEDREG's members is a powerful means to support the consolidation of regulatory principles and practices. MEDREG's **unique structure** of European and Southern Mediterranean countries enables the design of **targeted, practical and technical assistance** to members. It also facilitates **exchanges between regulators**, peer review activities and training sessions, which take full account of the differing needs of MEDREG's members.

In 2016, several countries were setting up, or reorganizing, their regulatory authorities. We worked to engage them on **MEDREG's Good Regulatory Principles** according to which electricity and gas markets can only be efficient and transparent with a sound institutional framework and a knowledgeable and independent regulator in place.



MEDREG placed particular emphasis on the **independence of regulators**, taking the initiative to design a solid methodology that **assesses the evolution of regulators' competences**. The results will be discussed with institutional stakeholders and will be used as a reference for the tailor-made support that we provide to our member regulators.

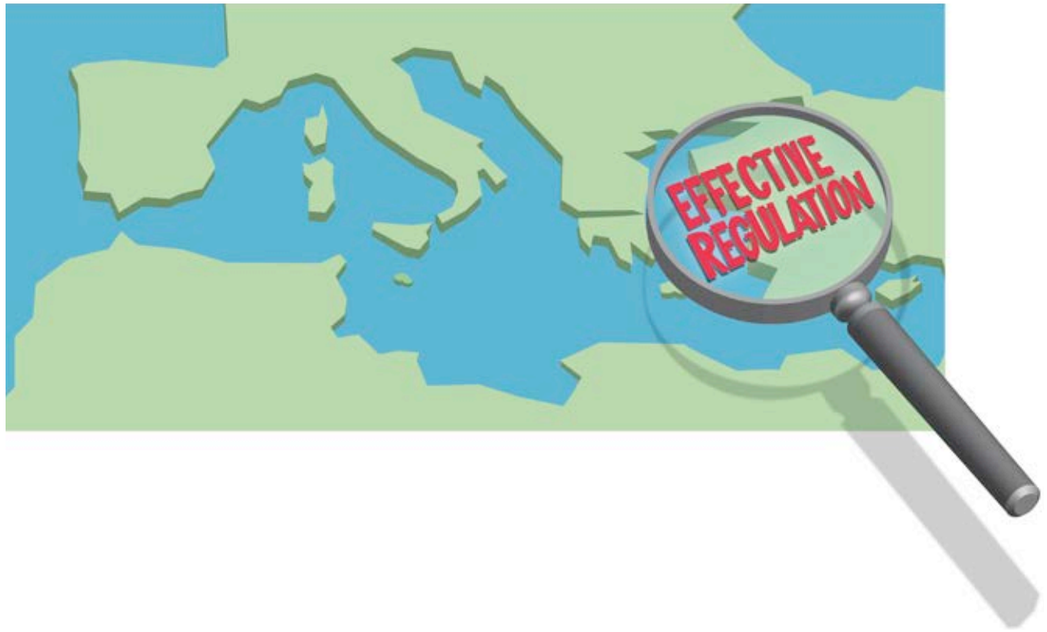
A. How are Mediterranean regulators doing?

MEDREG is committed to regularly providing an **overview on the existing regulatory frameworks** in member countries as well as to identifying some examples of good practice. In 2016, MEDREG placed particular emphasis on the **legal status** of Mediterranean regulators, taking the initiative to build a **Regulatory Outlook** for the region.

The Outlook will provide a review of the competences of Mediterranean energy regulators and their role in the market. The aim of this work is to contribute to the development of a more independent and solid regional regulatory model. The document will provide the means to **understand the regulatory condition of each country** and **benchmark regional challenges and gaps**, identifying scope for improvement.

Based on this analysis, the Outlook will develop **recommendations** for the development of regulatory approaches in the region, as part of the ultimate goal to encourage a consistent and robust regulatory climate in the Mediterranean.

The Outlook will also be used to support the work of the UfM REM Platform.



B. Egypt: Supporting a stronger electricity regulator

Following the adoption of the Law 87/2015, the Electric Utility and Consumer Protection Regulatory Agency (EgyptERA), the Egyptian regulator for electricity, was restructured to become an autonomous institutional entity in charge of handling and developing activities involving electricity producers, transmission operators, distribution companies and end users.

In 2016, MEDREG finalized its first voluntary **peer review** of the Egyptian regulator. EgyptERA saw this as an opportunity to **enhance its regulatory prerogatives** in line with its recently published national Electricity Law.

This exercise included **five evaluation** chapters on: **independence**; **duties and enforcement powers**; **accountability**; **transparency**; and **internal organization** of the regulator. Each chapter was analyzed with reference to a set of principles established at Mediterranean level, through the use of questionnaires, country reports and a constant dialogue with EgyptERA.

The peer review resulted in a **tailor-made report** for EgyptERA with critical suggestions and **recommendations**. The Egyptian regulator set for itself a **two-year rolling action plan to implement MEDREG's recommendations**.

"The analysis and recommendations provided by MEDREG's peer review activity have empowered EgyptERA to support the opening of a competitive Egyptian Electricity Market, for the benefit of both consumers and industry."

Mr. Hatem Waheed,
EgyptERA Executive Chairman and former President of MEDREG

LOOKING FORWARD: REGULATING ELECTRICITY IN EGYPT

- Strengthen EgyptERA's mission, powers and financial autonomy under the new legal framework adopted in 2015
- Definition of a clear policy to prevent potential conflicts of interest
- Competence on tariff-setting methodologies
- Ability of regularly reporting on unbundling and market competition measures
- Power to settle disputes among market participants and between market participants and consumers
- Increase EgyptERA's responsibility in defining network rules and standards, monitoring the market and the allocation of cross-border capacity
- Adoption of an internal code of ethics
- Establishment of a more formalized consultation process
- Establishment of a more regular, formal and rigorous communication with consumers, their associations and the press
- Establishment of a regular procedure for the parliamentary audit of EgyptERA
- Implementation of ex-ante regulatory impact assessment

C. Training the staff of the future Egyptian gas regulator

Considerable progress took place in the regulation of Mediterranean gas in the last year. Some **maritime gas fields**, potentially significant, were **discovered recently in the East Mediterranean region**, encouraging countries to equip themselves with proper rules to support the building of the necessary infrastructure.

Egypt is expected to continue playing an important role in the gas industry, especially now that the country is well on the path of reforms and is making efforts to re-attract foreign investment that will further develop its hydrocarbon potential.

Egypt began a substantial reform of its gas sector, including the **establishment of a regulatory authority for the gas market**. MEDREG members are sharing experience and good practices with the entity that will set up the regulator.

Together with the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS), MEDREG organized a workshop in Cairo that **identified actions to support the gas regulatory reforms**, along with the establishment of an independent regulator.

- The workshop "Lessons Learned from Market Reform: Key Roles of Regulators in Leading this Reform" was the occasion for MEDREG and EGAS to **identify a set of actions which will support the independent gas regulator in its new role** in the Egyptian gas market.

- MEDREG former President, Eng. Hatem Waheed, chaired the workshop confirming **MEDREG's commitment to assist the new Egyptian gas regulator** through trainings, capacity building activities and in the initial drafting of Egyptian secondary legislation for the gas sector.

- EGAS **officially joined MEDREG** during the 21st MEDREG General Assembly (Malta, 18 May 2016).

D. Supporting RES regulation in Morocco

In May 2016, his Majesty the King of Morocco signed into law an **act that sets up the Moroccan National Authority for the Regulation of Electricity (ANRE)**. We are offering our full support to this effort and to swiftly bring the new regulator up to speed on MEDREG activities.

On 16 November 2016, MEDREG and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ - German Corporation for International Cooperation) discussed how energy regulators can contribute to fighting climate change at a side event which took place in the framework of the COP22 in Marrakesh, in November 2016.

The event **marked the beginning of MEDREG's efforts**, in collaboration with GIZ and other interested parties, **to support the Moroccan Energy Ministry in the establishment of ANRE**, which is set to assume direct responsibilities for the Moroccan electricity sector within 2017.

EMPOWERING REGULATORS TO FACILITATE RES DEPLOYMENT

Regulators' role is pivotal to ensure that renewable energy technologies are properly integrated into the grids.

The following actions are paramount to empower regulators and overcome the challenges they face in integrating electricity generated from RES within their markets.

> Increase confidence in fair rules to strengthen investment security:
By ensuring that energy utility companies can run financially viable businesses, regulators deliver on their responsibility to keep the lights on. Particularly in the RES sector, utilities should be able to recover their costs and earn returns that justify the significant financial investment they make to install and maintain RES plants.

> Monitor the markets:
Regulators should not be solely responsible for drafting secondary legislation, but they are active referees in national markets. This entails being able to sanction market players and ensure non-discriminatory access to the grids. Regular market reviews also enable regulators to address technical and commercial innovations in due time, therefore anticipating the right architecture for future market evolutions.

> Ensure the implementation of adequate RES regulatory provisions:
The standard of RES installations is crucial to ensure that they successfully answer growing energy demand and provide good quality of supply. Regulators should ensure that new investments in RES-generated capacity are remunerated in a way that is economically sustainable.

> Exchange good practices at international level:
In the Mediterranean region, MEDREG promotes a demand-oriented approach that answers the concrete needs of its member regulators, providing tailor-made support. Regulators have the opportunity to benefit from each other's experiences and models, while retaining the specificities of their regulatory and market environment.

> Build stakeholder engagement:
As their decisions affect individuals, businesses, communities and organizations, regulators should work to reach out to all market actors. This is particularly relevant for RES-generated electricity, which has the potential to create new jobs and better connect people that have poor access to electricity.

> Attract and retain technical expertise:
Budget autonomy is key to ensure that regulators can hire competent and sufficient human resources. Regulators should be equipped with adequate human and financial resources that allow them to perform their tasks and fulfil their competences effectively.

Three main challenges await the newly-established Moroccan regulator: accompanying the substantial technological changes that will take place in the Moroccan electricity sector; ensuring competition in a free market; and supporting the integration of Morocco in the Mediterranean regional electricity market.

E. Cooperation initiatives in Algeria, Egypt and Israel

There is an **increasing integration between MEDREG activities and the European Union cooperation initiatives.** We welcomed the implementation of **two twinning projects** on energy regulation in the Mediterranean region with a strong focus on the **opening of the electricity markets, renewables** and **energy efficiency**:

- The **Algerian regulator** of Gas and Electricity (CREG) is working with E-Control (Austria) and CNMC (Spain) to strengthen its organizational and administrative capacity. One component of this project aims at reviewing CREG's scheme of feed-in tariffs for solar and wind power and at developing a scheme for generation from urban solid waste, biomass and cogeneration;
- Following the adoption of the new electricity law, the **Egyptian electricity regulator** (EgyptERA) is engaged with AEEGSI (Italy) and RAE (Greece) to support the opening of the Egyptian electricity market and to improve the current regulatory framework.

MEDREG organized its first workshop to discuss and compare the objectives and status of the two ongoing twinning initiatives in the region.

Through the effective cooperation that takes place within MEDREG, the **Natural Gas Authority** (NGA) **of Israel** developed a **project using the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX) of the European Commission, implemented by the Italian energy regulator (AEEGSI)**. At present, Israel does not have any regulation or standard regarding **supply of natural gas to household consumers**. There are plans to connect households in the next year and MEDREG is supporting NGA to create an appropriate regulatory framework.

KEY OUTCOMES

Our **peer review** report on EgyptERA defines the outcomes that the regulator should achieve to better perform its role and provides our tailor-made recommendations.

We are scaling up our **institutional and technical support** to the **newly established gas and electricity regulators in Egypt and Morocco**.

MEDREG has **collected data on the role and functioning of Mediterranean regulators** and is developing a report that will pave the way to the future activities of the UfM REM Platform.

WHAT'S NEXT?

MEDREG will launch its **second round of peer reviews** in the framework of the support we provide to member regulators undergoing national policy reforms.

MEDREG will **complete its Regulatory Outlook** and present it to the stakeholders of the UfM REM Platform.

MEDREG will **further support the new Egyptian gas regulator and Moroccan electricity regulator** through trainings, capacity building activities and in the initial drafting of relevant secondary legislation for the regulated gas and electricity activities.

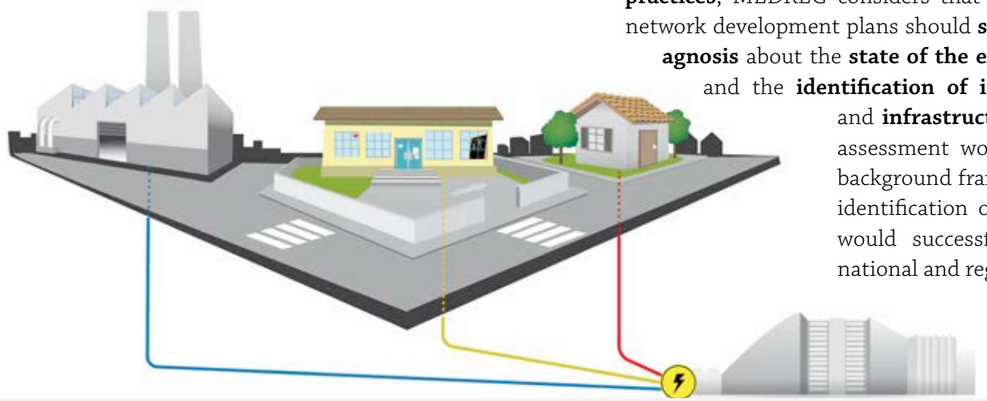
MEDREG has planned a **second workshop** to discuss the results of the **two ongoing EU twinning projects** on energy issues taking place in the Mediterranean, and to identify new similar initiatives that MEDREG can support in the future.

4 Making progress in the integration of Mediterranean gas and electricity markets

MEDREG promotes the view that **coordinated regulatory actions** are important to ensure a **stable and fair regulatory framework for investors**. While ensuring a satisfactory degree of opening to competition, regulation guarantees the existence of a set of transparent and stable norms which are also important for **consumers**. Through tariff elaboration and methodology, regulation operates so that energy prices **reflect the real costs** of production, transport and supply, benefiting consumers and protecting the most vulnerable ones.

A. Evaluating electricity investment projects and ensuring good performance of generators

In 2016, MEDREG **complemented** its early **work on infrastructure investment, drawing lessons from the European experience** in terms of network investment planning and cost control that could help improve the investment environment in the Mediterranean region.



MEDREG devoted resources to analyze and discuss the tools which can be used by regulatory authorities **to evaluate investments carried out by transmission operators**.

The experience of EU regulators shows that the **assessment of investment projects** and plans **requires a solid expertise on the evaluation of methodologies and scenarios used by the Transmission System Operators** (TSOs). The evaluation should be carried out both in the national investment plans and for the Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) developed by ENTSO-E at European level.

To encourage a **shift towards more harmonized practices**, MEDREG considers that Mediterranean network development plans should **start from a diagnosis** about the **state of the existing system** and the **identification of its weaknesses** and **infrastructure gaps**. This assessment would serve as a background framework for the identification of projects that would successfully fulfil the national and regional needs.

While the EU legislation has led to common principles and standards, and to a progressive harmonization of regulators' powers with regard to investments, governments still play an important role in non-EU countries.
In the EU, the market integration project is facilitating the coordination of grid development among the countries and the development of interconnections.
In non-EU countries, the situation is slightly different, in particular regarding the need for infrastructure development and the relatively lower opportunities for the development of interconnections.

The topic of **infrastructure investments** is **complementary** to the issue of **generation availability**, as both contribute to ensuring **security of supply**. In order to allow a constant **equilibrium between electricity supply and demand** – be it on a daily basis or when establishing forecasts - the **integration of intermittent energy sources** needs to be increasingly taken into account. This is especially the case for Southern Mediterranean countries, where the possibility for import-export is limited and therefore the means for conventional electricity production need to be strong enough to guarantee security of supply.

MEDREG discussed and **approved a list of 7 key indicators to evaluate the performance of electricity production**: availability factor; forced outage factor; scheduled outage factor; generating unit tripping; service factor; heat rate and auxiliary consumption.

MEDREG **compared** the **performance results of Mediterranean countries**. We identified the **relationship between regulators and generators** in Mediterranean countries, focusing on the regulated aspects in the generation activity and the peculiarities of generators located in small electrical systems (isolated grids, islands). We also discussed how non-liberalized markets could apply penalties in case of failures of generators.

Mediterranean regulators participate in the **development of penalty rules** and they are tasked with their **enforcement**. Regulatory provisions can provide for penalties, especially when the tariff received by production units is partially based on the level of pre-determined availability standards.

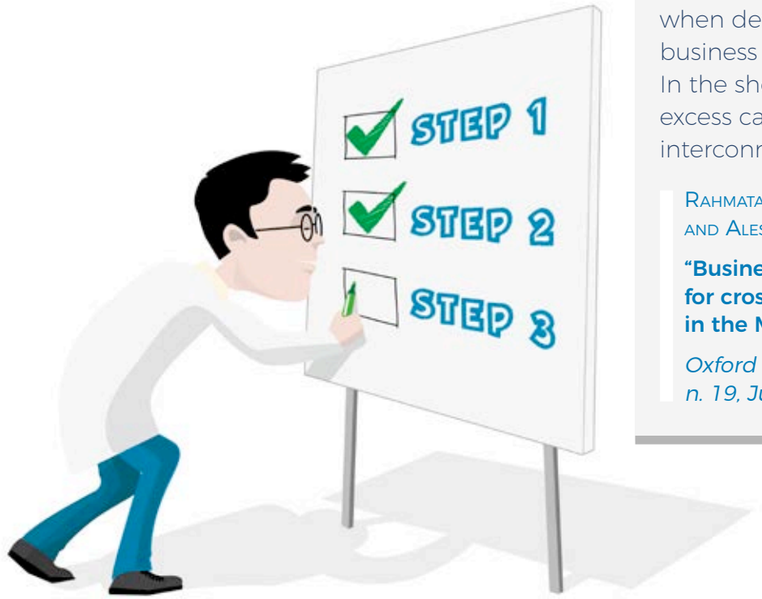
Regulators currently face a number of **challenges** in this regard, notably concerning the **availability of data** and **adequate information**.

B. Encouraging sound methodologies to design gas tariffs and allocate gas capacity

To achieve the long-run objective of developing an integrated, competitive and secure gas market in the Mediterranean region, one of the most important prerequisites is to ensure that **all suppliers and consumers have easy and non-discriminatory access to infrastructures**.

MEDREG is working to **collect** and **share good practices and information** regarding the **calculation of natural gas access tariffs** to transmission networks, distribution networks, LNG terminals and underground storage.

Further, in 2016 we started developing our **own guidelines on good capacity allocation mechanisms**, including the congestion management mechanisms that are strictly related to the efficient use of the capacity allocated. Given their diversity, we first launched an **assessment of the rules in place at national level** to provide a review of the different methodologies employed in the region.



(...) The fact that intra-regional interconnections are barely used signals that interconnection investment in the Southern region is driven by security of supply rather than the market.
It also shows the fundamental problem of the absence of shared rules and trust among Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.
These factors cannot be disregarded when defining a viable Mediterranean business model of interconnection.
In the short to medium term, the EU's excess capacity can be used to develop interconnections. (...)

Rahmatallah Poudineh and Alessandro Rubino

"Business model for cross-border interconnections in the Mediterranean basin"

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies Paper n. 19, July 2016, pp. 7-8.

C. MEDREG: A valued partner to the UfM Energy Platforms process

In 2016, **MEDREG's role in the UfM Energy Platforms was confirmed**. Following the signature of the UfM Ministerial Declaration and the approval of the Energy Platforms work programs in Rome on 1 December 2016, MEDREG and Med-TSO, the Association of Mediterranean Transmission System Operators, have been **recognized as the main responsible for technical deliverables for the REM Platform**. MEDREG is also **an important actor in the Gas and REEE Platforms**.

Under the umbrella of the UfM REM Platform, MEDREG and Med-TSO will perform three fundamental work streams:

- Evaluate and justify the adoption of regional and sub-regional approaches aiming at an overall integration, while respecting countries' diversity;
- Develop, share and discuss possible scenarios on Mediterranean power exchange developments for the short, medium and long term in order to secure competition and efficient supply of electricity and achieve the necessary degree of harmonization;
- Propose electricity projects of common interest for UfM Members and highlight needs in terms of developing Mediterranean domestic and sub-regional electricity markets. The UfM projects of common interest will be determined by the UfM Members through consensus and their financial and technical viability will be taken into account.

> *"The gradual integration of energy systems and energy markets in the UfM region and, in particular, the enhancement of electricity exchanges and interconnections [...] will never be possible without the support and active involvement of energy regulators [...]. Let me praise, in this context, the key role and work of MEDREG, the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators [...]. They are key players in the Electricity Platform and their contribution in setting up and running the Platform has been and will continue to be instrumental."*
>
> *Speech by Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE,* **European Commissioner for Energy and Climate Change** at the UfM Ministerial Conference on Energy
> Rome, 1 December 2016

The three UfM Energy Platforms shall work towards

(...) contributing to a suitable **institutional and regulatory framework** to facilitate the development of gas and electricity exchanges, *inter alia* through the cooperation between regulatory authorities and other relevant bodies, as well as the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures (...)

UfM Ministerial Declaration of Energy, *p. 4*

D. Extending market integration beyond borders

Over the years, the dialogue MEDREG established with fellow regulators has become increasingly global. In order to successfully maintain and enhance current relationships with other associations of energy regulators, we regularly hold bilateral and multilateral roundtable discussions with international and regional partners.

I Effective regulation: a shared vision between European and Mediterranean energy regulators

MEDREG and the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) continued discussions on energy topics of Euro-Mediterranean interest during their second joint roundtable in May 2016.

The event centered on four main issues:

- **Regulators' independence and principles that characterize an effective regulatory authority:** MEDREG and CEER consider that the **independence** of energy regulators is a **crucial** element for the **exercise of their duties** and thus represents **a core area of interest** for European and Mediterranean energy regulators. Peer reviews performed by fellow regulators can be a useful tool for national energy agencies to assess their performance and improve their role and scope.
- **Generation adequacy and the European capacity remuneration mechanisms (CRMs):** MEDREG and CEER members discussed the role and functioning of CRMs and highlighted the **infrastructure challenges** which emerge from the constantly **growing share of renewable** generation in the grid. They noted how **investments in cross-border electricity infrastructure are pivotal** to ensure continuous development and stability of national markets as well as security of supply.
- **Quality of supply for electricity:** MEDREG participants explained that **in several Southern shore countries, Distribution System Operators (DSOs) are the most direct counterpart of household consumers** in the energy market. CEER and MEDREG participants discussed the **importance of DSOs' work to provide detailed and accurate data to allow for evaluating quality of supply**. In turn, regulators provide DSOs with accurate, timely, and detailed information on the targets they have to achieve. The responsibilities of energy regulators concerning quality of supply are therefore evolving and take into account an increasingly complex environment.
- **Current challenges for the gas market in terms of market prices and security of gas supply:** Security of gas supply requires a constant enhancement of competition in the market through diversification, harmonization, connectivity and transparency in and between countries. MEDREG and CEER participants underlined that regulators should be able to collect **transparent and updated information on gas wholesale markets,** which is key to identify the best regulatory instruments to support the development of competition in national markets.

II Independent regulators to support regional electricity markets in the Mediterranean and the Balkan regions

In September 2016, MEDREG and the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB) held their third roundtable on the **independence of regulators and the development of regional electricity markets in the Mediterranean and the Balkan regions**. Participants to the meeting underlined the pivotal role played by regulators to build stable regional energy markets, which require a good combination of political will, technical sustainability and clear regulatory provisions.

The regular information exchange between MEDREG and the ECRB increases their mutual understanding of the Euro-Mediterranean energy sector and allow member regulators to **learn from best practices and errors** taking place in other environments.

III Exchanging perspectives on cross-border investments with regional counterparts of emerging markets

Together with the Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA), MEDREG hosted the **4th High-level Meeting of Regional Associations of Emerging Markets**, in November 2016. This annual event offers an **exchange platform** for Associations of regulators representing **emerging economies**, with the aim to **develop cooperation** and **explore common areas of interest**. In 2016, the event focused on **access to energy** and the **investment environment**.

Given the high interest raised by this annual initiative, the participating associations decided to **coordinate their efforts in view of the seventh edition of the World Forum on Energy Regulation (WFER)** due to take place **in Mexico in 2018**. The regional Associations will exchange ideas to identify topics and speakers of common interest that could be included in the WFER VII program.

KEY OUTCOMES

Following our 2015 **report on infrastructure investment**, we performed a **review of the methodologies used** by Northern and Eastern regulators to evaluate investments in electricity. In addition to providing insights on the European experience, we **identified key similarities** and **best practices among countries**.

We examined the different methodologies used to **calculate gas tariffs** in the different segments of the market. This comprehensive **review of best practices** will provide material for a **case study** to be published in 2017.

We continued providing our **technical expertise** to the work performed within the three **UfM Energy Platforms**.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We will **update our report** on the **status of the Mediterranean electricity markets**, which gives useful insights on the evolution of regulatory and policy provisions in the region.

We will develop **recommendations** regarding the cost-benefit analysis of **existing electricity infrastructures**, thus providing guidelines **to optimize their use**.

We will provide our members with **guidelines to establish and improve their gas capacity allocation mechanisms**.

We will continue **engaging** our **partner organizations** in fruitful exchanges of experience.

Designing consumer-friendly markets that achieve RES targets 5

Promoting sound regulatory frameworks and markets is key to encouraging investments in renewables and energy efficiency in the Mediterranean region. Regulators believe that, for renewable energies and energy efficiency initiatives to properly reach their market potential, it is necessary to establish policy frameworks and financial instruments that support the shift of investments from carbon-emitting conventional technologies to small, medium, and industrial investment in clean-energy systems and energy efficiency measures.

A balanced energy mix is also key to ensure consumers can access reliable and affordable energy. Regulators serve consumers well if they can ensure reasonable prices and fair standards of service. Regulators should be competent to set distribution and transmission tariffs that mirror this principle.

MEDREG remains committed to support the implementation of the Mediterranean energy transition, to the benefit of all types of consumers.

A. Improving the electricity disclosure system

It is crucial that electricity customers are provided with adequate, reliable and comprehensive information on the origin of electricity. By having access to such information, customers can be empowered to choose their electricity supplier and electricity contract not solely based on the price.

MEDREG contributed significantly to the debate on guarantees of origin from renewable energy sources and developed a comprehensive set of recommendations to implement a guarantee system in Southern shore countries:

- **Regulators must ensure that all electricity suppliers use the same methodology when providing information to their customers on the origin of their electricity.** A sample bill developed by the regulator or another competent body could serve as guidance for suppliers on how to display information concerning the origin of electricity in a clear manner.

- **National solutions can be reliable, but integration of non-harmonized national disclosure systems in the same market would be very costly.** Therefore, from an efficiency and affordability perspective, a harmonized solution is preferable.

- **Other tracking mechanisms, which are similar to guarantees of origin, are also being used but do not provide the same reliability.** Therefore, guarantees of origin should be used as the only instrument for tracking electricity from renewable sources, as they have a clear legal basis at international level.

- **So far, in most countries the implementation of the guarantee of origin system has primarily had a national focus.** In order to establish a transparent, secure and non-discriminatory Mediterranean market for guarantees of origin, it is necessary to establish a harmonized regional disclosure system for RES.

- **Although disclosure might appear to consumers as an abstract and complicated topic, it is important that clear information is made available.** It should be noted that electricity consumers are not a homogenous group, but pursue their own interests and have different levels of knowledge on these topics.

B. Contributing to the broader debate on RES policies and regulations

I Debating with regional partners on deploying RES and energy efficiency in the Mediterranean

Organized by MEDREG and hosted by the Spanish National Commission of Markets and Competition (CNMC) in April 2016, the workshop "Deploying renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures in the Mediterranean: State of play and way forward", **aimed at bringing together leading perspectives and expertise on RES potential in the Mediterranean region and identifying the most promising pathways to develop energy efficiency measures.**

MEDREG **brainstormed** with the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER), the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME) and the Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean (RES4MED) on **how** technical stakeholders, particularly **regulators**, could **contribute** to the **advancement of RES integration** in the grids and on **energy efficiency** measures adopted **in the Mediterranean** basin.

The four actors, which are all involved in the Union for the Mediterranean Energy Platform on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, **discussed the different modalities that could make RES financially sustainable in the Mediterranean electricity markets.**

II Engaging the industry on the issue of transition in the electricity sectors

MEDREG shared its vision of the implications of decarbonization, post-COP21 initiatives, the development of energy storage and the speed of the energy transition at the 24th edition of the POWER-GEN Conference on Renewable Energy Industries, which took place in June 2016 in Milan.

Invited to participate in the Joint Plenary Panel Discussion, we underlined the **key role of Mediterranean countries in supporting the achievement of Europe's energy targets**. Indeed, the contribution of Mediterranean countries' ambitious national renewable plans will be necessary and will require that the right regulation and innovation tools are available to support their implementation.

III Looking South: sharing our vision of regulation's role in developing RES in Africa

Represented by high-level speakers, MEDREG presented its latest reports and position on RES issues to the 2016 editions of the Africa Energy Forum and the related Africa Renewable Energy Forum, which took place in June and November 2016.

At the Africa Energy Forum, we outlined MEDREG's Good Regulatory Principles, stating the relevance of **mutual support among regulators** and gave account of the **relevant regulatory changes** which accompanied the **RES-oriented reforms** of the Mediterranean electricity markets.

During the Africa Renewable Energy Forum, we focused on the **regulators' role to develop renewable energy in Africa, using legal mechanisms and innovative solutions** from around the world. We also discussed with the private sector how regulators can help unlock the potential for renewable energy development.

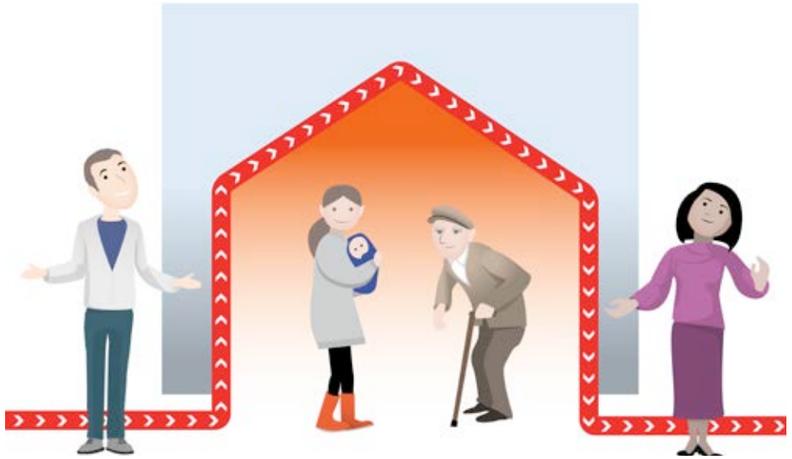
C. Identifying vulnerable consumers

We believe that **consumers should have a central role in energy retail markets** and that all our member countries should develop a **clear definition** of what a **vulnerable consumer** is. Through a members' survey and a dedicated report, MEDREG provided guidance to facilitate the identification of the category of vulnerable consumers, in order to encourage measures to protect them.

When available, the definition of **"vulnerable consumer"** given by Mediterranean countries **is specific to the energy sector**. Support schemes for Mediterranean vulnerable consumers can be provided for both electricity and gas consumption and consist of economic and non-economic means of protection.

Economic support schemes are widely applied in Mediterranean countries and consist of regulated prices and tariffs for specific groups of consumers. Most countries devote part of their public budget to the funding of support schemes specific to the energy sector. The different approaches towards the concept of "vulnerable consumer" result in very different coverage rates for household consumers, ranging from 0,8% to 100% of households receiving economic support for their electricity bills.

In the majority of cases, **non-economic support schemes refer to the protection against disconnection procedures.** This means providing a warning to all consumers that may be disconnected from the grid and forbidding the disconnection of specific categories of citizens.



We aim to **focus our attention on those consumers** who are significantly at risk of being **exposed to possible damages**.

We used a definition* of **vulnerability** that indicates a consumer is vulnerable when his personal circumstances and characteristics combine with aspects of the market to create situations where he or she is:

1. Significantly less able than the average consumer to protect or represent his or her interests in the energy market; and/or
2. Significantly more likely than the average consumer to suffer detriment, or that detriment is likely to be more substantial.

* This definition was elaborated by the UK regulator OFGEM

D. Mapping energy consumer associations

Mediterranean energy regulators have established several programs aimed at raising consumer awareness. MEDREG considers that the **periodical bill** sent to each household is a very **effective tool** not only **to inform about the costs** of energy consumption, but also **to provide details about the national energy mix** (coal, oil, gas, hydro, etc.) or on the latest regulatory provisions that impact end users.

However, information is only one half of the apple. It is also important to **take consumers' point of view into account in the regulatory decision-making processes.** Holding periodical hearings, debating public consultation documents, establishing working groups or technical committees on specific issues are all key elements **to making regulatory choices more accountable and transparent.**

MEDREG believes it is **essential to listen to the consumer's voice** when the regulatory provisions under discussion have the potential to impact households' daily lives. To this aim, we have **surveyed the main consumer associations** active in the Mediterranean **and their relations with national regulators.**

Mediterranean regulators generally value consumer associations, as they may provide support to enhancing and improving the regulatory processes. By taking into account consumers' needs and expectations, regulatory provisions respond to the importance of having good quality service at fair prices. Information coming from consumer associations may focus regulators' attention on issues occurring in everyday life, such as commercial dispute about bills or unfair behavior, delayed connection to the grid, unscheduled power interruptions, etc.

ACCORDING TO REGULATORS, CONSUMERS ASSOCIATIONS ARE BENEFICIAL TO:	%
1 RECEIVE SUGGESTIONS FROM CONSUMERS	83
2 ENGAGE CONSUMERS IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS	58
3 GIVE FEEDBACK ON REGULATORY DECISIONS	50
4 GATHER AND ANALYZE CONSUMERS' COMPLAINTS	41
5 PROVIDE SUPPORT ON SPECIFIC POLICIES	30

More than 80% of Mediterranean regulators consider that the main benefit provided by consumer associations is to gather consumers' points of view, making suggestions for better designing and implementing regulations.

60% of Mediterranean regulators believe that consumer associations **increase** the **transparency** of the **regulator's decision-making process**.

Mediterranean regulators generally emphasized that consumer associations **should improve their knowledge about the energy sector** in order to provide more accurate and informed contributions. Indeed, an informed and conscious counterpart is key to establish a productive dialogue to design regulatory provisions and provide adequate feedback on their results.

On the regulators' side, it was pointed out that regular **public hearings** and **workshops** on topics of interest may be important opportunities **to explain contexts**, scenarios and **reasons that informed a regulatory decision**. This approach increases transparency and may reduce uninformed opposition to regulatory provisions.

KEY OUTCOMES

We **provided recommendations** to improve the management of **electricity disclosure systems** in the Mediterranean.

We **brought the regulators' voice** to several debates **on the future of RES** deployment in the region.

We further **explored the condition of Mediterranean energy consumers**, focusing on vulnerability and representation issues.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We will **revise the methodology of our** biannual benchmarking of **RES and energy efficiency measures** in the Mediterranean to take into account the growing complexity of Mediterranean electricity systems.

We will **continue to look at provisions towards vulnerable consumers** by studying the disconnection procedures allowed under Mediterranean regulatory frameworks.

We will **evaluate tools to further engage consumer associations** in the regulatory process.

We will **assess the impact smart grids have on networks**.

Dissemination of MEDREG messages 6

In 2016, MEDREG promoted its vision and informed its external partners and wider energy stakeholders about its latest activities in order to support and advocate the organization's Action Plan and long-term strategy. On the one hand, our communication activities reinforced and consolidated internal collaboration and relations among MEDREG members and on the other hand, they raised the organization's profile and accountability with external partners.

Internally, we ensured the coherence of MEDREG messages, activities and practices **to all MEDREG members through the Communication Officers (COs) network. Externally, we spread our messages and engaged with stakeholders using a variety of tools** among which the most important were **the website, publications, newsletters and news alerts.**

Communication Officers (COs) Network

The Communication Officers network represents a **key tool** to ensure constant **internal communication among members**. It is composed of representatives from each of the 25 energy authorities who meet twice a year in order to get acquainted with the organization's latest developments and opportunities in terms of regulatory support. It seeks to **understand the individual and specific needs of members** and ensures that they are aware of the support MEDREG can offer them in terms of trainings and expertise on regulatory issues. Over the past year, the COs Network meetings have offered a platform to **discuss and identify ways to further engage members in the organization's activities** and to collect their needs and expectations. In addition, the COs Network has enabled MEDREG to **implement its communication strategy at national and regional level**.

Website

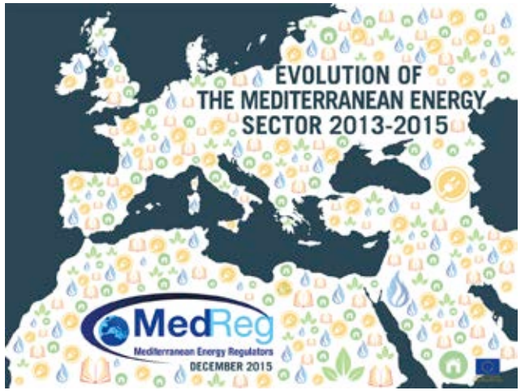
MEDREG's website acts as a **gateway** of our association. It provides information on our activities, latest publications and other resources. It consists of a public section where all official information is available, and of an **area dedicated and reserved to members**. This members' area presents scheduled internal meetings and draft working documents. It also offers a **web conference facility** enabling members to interact with each other. In 2016, **more than 6,000 users visited the MEDREG website** and the **members' area counted more than 2,500 accesses.**

Publications

- **Annual Report 2015**

The Annual Report 2015, which celebrated MEDREG's 10-year anniversary, was sent to members for national dissemination, to external partners, stakeholders and the media in electronic format. Printed copies were handed out on the occasion of conferences and institutional events.

- **Infographic on "Evolution of the Mediterranean energy sector 2013-2015"**
Collecting the achievements obtained by the Association in the last three years, this infographic was published in January 2016. A section of the publication informs on the main regulatory changes that took place in MEDREG countries. Information is simplified and presented in a visually engaging way. The infographic was sent to MEDREG members and external partners, and posted on the homepage of MEDREG's website. Several external partners (RES4MED, Energy Charter, UfM, Med-TSO and PAM) published it on their website and disseminated it through their newsletters.



Media, Newsletters and Alerts

- In 2016, **12 alerts** and **4 newsletters** were sent to 2,400 contacts throughout the Mediterranean region, informing members, external partners and stakeholders about our activities.

- **47 articles** describing MEDREG's latest developments and achievements were released in the press of Mediterranean countries.

2016 reports and presentations

Reports

Institutional
- Compliance Assessment Report of EgyptERA
October 2016

Electricity
- Methodologies used by Regulators to Evaluate Investment Projects and Investment Plans
June 2016
- Performance Indicators and Penalties Applicable to Generators in Case of Failure
November 2016

Gas
- Guidelines of Good Practice on Capacity Allocation – Work Methodology
November 2016

Environment, Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency
- Report on Certification Systems for Origin of Electricity from RES and CHP
November 2016

Consumers
- Vulnerable Consumers Report
May 2016
- Survey on Consumer Associations in the Mediterranean
May 2016

Articles

- Joint press release with the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER), the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME) and the Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean (RES4MED) on the workshop "Deploying renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures in the Mediterranean: State of play and way forward".
April 2016
- Article on "Energy Access as a Key Factor for Human Development: The View of Mediterranean Regulators", based on research done for the Expo-related initiative World Access to Modern Energy (WAME) initiative.
4th edition of the ICER Chronicle, 2016

Presentations

MEDREG is frequently invited to **intervene and present its role and activities** at various **high level international conferences** and meetings. In 2016, we presented our regulatory vision at **30 events**:

- 5th Conference of the Arab Union of Electricity (AUE)
27-28 January 2016, Marrakesh (Morocco)
- IV International Industrial and Academic Symposium on Energy and Environmental Policy
1-2 February 2016, Barcelona (Spain)
- UfM Energy Platforms coordination meeting
17 February 2016, Brussels (Belgium)

- Meeting with PAM
  19 February 2016, Tirana (Albania)
- UfM Energy Platforms on Regional Electricity Market and Gas
  7-8 March 2016, Barcelona (Spain)
- Lessons Learned from Market Reform: Key Roles of Regulators in Leading this Reform
  4 April 2016, Cairo (Egypt)
- Med-TSO 10th General Assembly
  21 April 2016, Istanbul (Turkey)
- 4th MEDENER conference
  25 May 2016, Algiers (Algeria)
- IAI and OCP Conference on The future of Natural Gas Markets
  27 May 2016, Rabat (Morocco)
- From COP21 to COP22: Renewables and Mediterranean Integration meeting organized by the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)
  27 May 2016, Tunis (Tunisia)
- Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Energy Academy (MEA)
  31 May 2016, Rome (Italy)
- Energy Charter Expert Meeting on Removing Pre-investment Barriers in Energy
  14 June 2016, Brussels (Belgium)
- 24th POWER-GEN conference on Energy Sector in Transition: Moving From Survival to Success and on Electricity in the Mediterranean: transition towards national reforms
  21-22 June 2016, Milan (Italy)
- 2nd Eurasian Natural Gas Infrastructure Conference
  22-23 June 2016, Athens (Greece)
- 18th Annual Africa Energy Forum
  22-24 June 2016, London (United Kingdom)
- S3P Energy: Smart Mediterraneo. Best practices, innovation and pilot projects in smart grid development in the Mediterranean region
  23-24 June 2016, Bari (Italy)
- UfM Steering Committee meeting with the UfM co-Presidency
  30 June 2016, Brussels (Belgium)
- 4th International Meeting of Experts on Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy
  13 July 2016, Tirana (Albania)
- 3rd ECRB-MEDREG roundtable
  27 September 2016, Athens (Greece)
- Union for the Mediterranean Energy Platforms and Senior Officials meeting (SOM)
  27-28 September 2016, Barcelona (Spain)
- International Annual Conference on Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Area
  6-7 October 2016, Capri (Italy)
- MEDREG initiative to support EU twinning projects on energy regulation
  18 October 2016, Milan (Italy)
- 15th ERRA Energy Investment Conference
  18-19 October 2016, Bratislava (Slovakia)
- International Conference on Regional Cooperation and Development of Energy Resources in the Eastern Mediterranean
  19 October 2016, Rome (Italy)
- Africa Renewable Energy Forum on Legal Mechanisms and Innovative Solutions from Around the World
  2-4 November 2016, Marrakesh (Morocco)
- 4th High-level Meeting of Regional Associations of Emerging Markets
  3 November 2016, Milan (Italy)
- COP22 Side event on How Energy Regulators Fight Climate Change
  16 November 2016, Marrakesh (Morocco)
- UfM Ministerial meeting
  1 December 2016, Rome (Italy)
- 2nd Mediterranean Dialogues Event: Promoting development in the MENA region through clean energy development
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The MEDREG Secretariat

Fabio Tambone
General Coordinator

Daphné Lacroix
Communication and External Relations Manager

Veronica Lenzi
Research and Scientific Manager

Céline Lièvre
Administration and Event Officer

Bardhi Hoxha
Programme Manager

CONTACT

Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators
Piazza Cavour, 5 · 20121 Milan, Italy
Tel +39 02 655 65 563 · Fax +39 02 655 65 562
info@medreg-regulators.org

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Alberto Villa, www.villalberto.it

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Marco D'Antonio, www.behance.net

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