



1 President's Message

As the world moves towards a more sustainable energy strategy, the Mediterranean region's vast energy resources have become increasingly important in ensuring secure and clean energy supply.

The 2022 energy crisis and price surge presented a daunting task for regulators in the Mediterranean region. They had to navigate the complex interplay between energy supply and demand. These challenges often manifested as sudden and unexpected disruptions to the energy supply chain, forcing regulators to make rapid decisions about how to allocate scarce resources. At the same time, regulators had to strike a balance between maintaining affordable energy prices and promoting the adoption of renewable energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Addressing these multifaceted challenges necessitated close collaboration between regulators and other stakeholders in the energy sector, including policymakers, system operators, International Financial Institutions, and private sector, to identify effective and equitable solutions. The regulators' ability to rise to these challenges played a crucial role in ensuring the stability and functionality of energy markets in the Mediterranean region. At this critical juncture, MEDREG's role in promoting fair, transparent, and harmonised regulations was deployed through the establishment of a specific task force to tackle these challenges.

As the elected President of MEDREG, I am committed to keep working closely with all the stakeholders to develop a coherent and effective regulatory policy that promotes sustainable and efficient energy. To achieve this goal, we have been focusing on building a platform for all stakeholders to engage in constructive discussions, share best practices, and develop innovative solutions that can help us achieve our common objectives. Through close collaboration and a sustained effort, we can ensure that the Mediterranean region's energy transition is achieved efficiently and effectively, while considering the unique circumstances of each member country.

Moreover, MEDREG is committed to empowering regulators to be independent, impartial, and transparent. We will continue to provide guidance, training, and best practices to our members to ensure they have the necessary tools and resources to effectively fulfil their regulatory duties. This includes promoting non-discriminatory and transparent regulations and enhancing the awareness of consumer rights and protections. MEDREG's efforts in this area aim to foster trust and confidence in the energy sector, ultimately leading to more stable and harmonised energy markets in the Mediterranean region.

In this context, MEDREG achieved and worked on many activities and deliverables supporting this cause, with its members and numerous partners. MEDREG designed a common approach to consumer protection principles, which is essential to ensure that consumers are adequately protected in the liberalised energy markets. Cross-border coordination for interconnection capacity development was also a priority for MEDREG in 2022. MEDREG assessed the rules preventing conflict of interest in the electricity and gas market and monitored the evolution of the regulatory framework, with a focus on the quality of service at the distribution level. Additionally, MEDREG explored the potential of hydrogen to meet flexibility and storage needs ensuring the continuous market functioning in the coming years. I cited only a few of the numerous MEDREG's achievements in 2022 which you will find detailed in this activity report.

We owe our accomplishments presented in this report to the relentless efforts of our working members, working groups, and secretariat, along with the continuous support of the European Commission. We express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who dedicated their time, energy, and expertise to our cause, and we are thrilled to see even greater achievements in the years ahead.

As we look towards the future, MEDREG will continue to work on strengthening the energy market's functioning and ensuring that consumers are protected. We will also focus on the deployment of recent technologies, such as renewable gases and hydrogen, to support the energy transition.

MEDREG will continue to be a platform for its members to jointly address the challenges facing the energy markets in the Mediterranean region. Together, we will build a more sustainable and resilient energy future for our region.

Kind Regards,

Mr. Abdellatif BARDACH
MEDREG President