



Mediterranean Gas and Energy Regulators Assembly

Extension of European Commission support offers new training opportunities MEDREG reinforces its institutional role in the Mediterranean energy market

Cairo, 9 June 2009

The Association of Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG) held its 7th General Assembly in Cairo on 9 June, hosted by the Egyptian regulator Egyptera (Egyptian Electric Utility and Consumer Protection Regulatory Agency). The meeting was attended by 17 Energy Regulators of the Mediterranean Basin together with other representatives from international organizations.

Mr Alessandro Ortis (Chairman of the Italian Authority for electricity and gas) as President of MEDREG, and Mr Hafez A El Salmawy, (General Manager of Egyptera) opened the meeting together with Undersecretary Dr. Khalil Yasso and the European Commission representatives (Mrs Marie-Christine Jalabert, DG Transport and energy, and Mr Ahmed El Beltagui, EC Delegation to Egypt). During the opening session has been also welcomed an address of the Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr. Hassan Younis; it underlined the importance of regulatory activities and cooperation to promote investments, market integration and liberalisation in the Mediterranean Basin.

An important step forward was made at the meeting as concerns the MEDREG Service contract: the EC agreed to extend it until end of 2009. Contract extension will allow the MEDREG Secretariat, in collaboration with the Florence School of Regulation (FSR), to organize a major “one-week ad-hoc training course” for 20 senior officials of MEDREG Members from Mediterranean Partner Countries. The course, to start in Milan on 13 July, aims at enhancing know-how of regulatory issues and promoting regulatory cooperation and networking.

The four *MEDREG ad hoc Groups* presented the major results of their ongoing activities.

- the *Institutional Issues Group* updated the General Assembly on the state-of-play in the discussion with the EC on how to disseminate and promote the “Recommendation report of the Minimum Requirement for Independent Regulatory Authorities”;
- the new Task Force (TF) on Customer issue (established during the last GA in Madrid) presented its Terms of Reference;
- the *Electricity Group* presented the results and conclusion related to the report on “Interconnection rules and practices” which underlines the need for a regional approach to harmonise and integrate Mediterranean electricity markets;
- the *Gas Group* presented the results and conclusion of the “Benchmarking report” concerning the current status of gas market in the basin, legal and regulatory aspects and the need for new investments;
- the *Group on Environment, Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency* presented the Benchmarking exercise update and two draft reports on the effects of the introduction of successful mechanisms to promote RES, CHP and energy efficiency in non-EU countries.

A special session was dedicated to MEDREG's increasingly important external relations activities. Collaborations highlighted included those with the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), the Plan Bleu, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the G8+ Energy Regulators Round Table, the Euro-Mashreq Gas Market project, the initiatives related to the Mediterranean Solar Plan and the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum.

The next General Assembly of MEDREG will be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, in November 2009.

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**MEDREG, created in May 2006, is a non-profit Association. It currently gathers energy regulators from the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. MEDREG website is:
<http://medreg.ipi.it/>*