

PRESS RELEASE

## **Stefano Saglia reconfirmed as Chairperson of the Balkan Energy School**

*The appointment was made at the 5th General Assembly held today. The Association's new website for sharing information and resources was also presented*

Milan, 14 November 2024 - Stefano Saglia, member of the Board of ARERA (the Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment), was reconfirmed as Chairperson of the Balkan Energy School (BES) during the fifth General Assembly held today in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina). The appointment further strengthens Italy's strategic role in the integration of the Euro-Balkan energy markets.

*"The integration of the Euro-Balkan markets calls for constant and concrete support in borrowing regulatory technical knowledge useful for the complete implementation and transposition of European energy measures", said Mr Saglia. "This is why the Balkan Energy School is committed to capacity building and technical knowledge exchange activities.*

On the same occasion, the Association's website ([www.balkanenergyschool.org](http://www.balkanenergyschool.org)) was officially unveiled, which will be an important platform for sharing information and resources.

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The **BES's work** mainly focusses on the development of electricity and gas networks, the integration of renewable energy resources, market coupling and other activities relevant to the energy transition and through intensive capacity building and know-how exchange.

Its founding **members**, in addition to ARERA, are the regulators of Albania (ERE), Bosnia and Herzegovina (SERC), Montenegro (REGAGEN) and North Macedonia (ERC). As of 2023, the Greek regulator (RAAEY) also became a member of the Association, while the Serbian regulator (AERS) is an observer. The geographical area of reference for the BES activity includes the countries that are signatories of the Energy Community Treaty, those of the European Union to which Title III of the same Treaty applies (i.e. the Member States bordering with the signatory countries), and those that have or may have an interest in such geographical area.

The **aim** of the Association is to **promote debate and the exchange of knowledge in the field of energy with particular reference to market development, regulation and integration**, also taking into account the new sustainability parameters. The Association's work is implemented through a training school that organises technical seminars fostering the acquisition and transfer of knowledge and the development of regulatory capabilities in the energy sector with special reference to the **Balkan region and South-Eastern Europe**. The BES also operates in an inclusive, stable and continuous institutional and capacity building action for the benefit of the Balkan region and in support of the Euro-Balkan market development and integration process, including through providing technical, regulatory and institutional support in respect of energy.

Since its inception, ARERA has initiated **intense international cooperation with regulators in European and non-European countries**, in order to promote the harmonisation of rules and the integration of the energy markets of neighbouring countries and to achieve the objectives of effective and efficient operation of the national market.

Over the years, ARERA's role in the international arena has also been consolidated through the **strengthening of bilateral relations** with regulators in other countries, which have led to the initiation of formal collaboration agreements on specific regulatory projects as well as **twining projects funded by the European Commission**.

The **BES, based within ARERA, in Milan, grew out of the experience of the KEP (Know How Exchange Programme) project, promoted and coordinated by ARERA** in recent years within the framework of the Central European Initiative (CEI) funding programme.