



PRESS RELEASE

The Mediterranean Working Group on Electricity and Natural Gas, MEDREG in short, strengthens cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean Energy Regulators with the support of the European Commission

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For immediate release

The Mediterranean Working Group on Electricity and Natural Gas Regulation (MEDREG) aims to create a stable and harmonized regulatory framework, in order to facilitate investments in infrastructures and the integration of energy markets. This contributes to the creation of a common energy market area in the Mediterranean Basin.

On the occasion of its fourth General Assembly (held in Rome on 15 November 2007), Mediterranean regulators signed a Constitutive Act, providing MEDREG with the legal status of a non-profit Association.

A service contract has been signed between MEDREG and the European Commission (EC). The EU finances MEDREG activities (up to € 300.000) to support the participation of Mediterranean *Partner Countries* (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) in MEDREG meetings and ad-hoc training courses for the period January 2008 – June 2009.

MEDREG is chaired by Mr Alessandro Ortis, President of the Italian Regulatory Authority. The Algerian and Turkish regulators are Vice-Chairmen. Its organisation is structured around a six-monthly General Assembly, as well as around four permanent Ad-Hoc Groups (AGs): (1) on Institutional Issues (chaired by France), (2) on Electricity (chaired by Egypt), (3) on Gas (chaired by Morocco) and (4) on Environment, Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency (chaired by Spain). Ad-Hoc Groups meet at least twice a year. They can furthermore create temporary Task Forces.

Euro-Mediterranean Energy Ministers gathered in Limassol (Cyprus) on 17 December 2007 reaffirmed the importance of cooperation among energy regulators, with the key objectives of reinforcing transparency, enhancing mutual knowledge and contributing to the harmonisation of the regulatory framework in the Euro-Mediterranean energy market. The Ministerial Declaration signed in Cyprus acknowledged the unique and strategic role of MEDREG to establish and enhance this form of cooperation.

For further information: Mr. Sandro Staffolani Communication and Press Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity and Gas <mailto:comunicazione@autorita.energia.it>; *tel* +39 06 69791437, *fax* +39 02 65565 231; +39 0669791 464

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European Commission
DG EuropeAid Cooperation Office
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium
Tel. +32 2 299 1111*

***MEDREG** members are the energy regulators of 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.*