



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MEDREG SIGNS MOU WITH DG ENER AND MED-TSO

Rome, 19 November 2014

Today, the Italian Presidency of the EU and the European Commission jointly hosted the high-level conference *"Building a Euro-Mediterranean energy bridge: the strategic importance of Euromed gas and electricity networks in the context of energy security"*. Relevant public and private stakeholders of the Mediterranean such as regulators, the industry and financial institutions took part in the event.

The conference identified concrete initiatives to support Euro-Mediterranean partners in achieving their energy policy objectives towards a Euro-Mediterranean market integration. **Michel Thiollière, President of MEDREG**, and Commissioner of the French Regulatory Commission for Energy (CRE), presented the main challenges for sound infrastructure investments in the region. He underlined that the MEDREG Strategy 2020-2030 strongly advocates for the creation of independent regulatory authorities for electricity and gas in all Mediterranean countries to provide an investment-friendly regulatory framework and protect consumers.

The conference was the occasion for MEDREG to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission and the Association of Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (Med-TSO) with the aim to establish a Euro-Mediterranean Platform on Regional Electricity Markets.

**President Thiollière** stated: *"This MoU represents a meaningful step for our work, as it strengthens the relations between the two main energy associations of the Mediterranean region and the European Commission. The MoU refers to the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean Platform on Regional Electricity Markets in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean process. The three parties share the vision that the creation of an integrated electricity market is to be achieved through a reliable institutional setting. To attain this objective, it is indeed necessary to establish cooperation mechanisms at national and regional level, in particular with TSOs, to set up common rules and effectively allocate costs of regulated cross-border infrastructures."*

Mr. **Nouredine Boutarfa**, President of Med-TSO and CEO of the Algerian Electricity company Sonelgaz, affirmed: *"The support of the European Commission and the signature of the Memorandum is a strong incitement to multiply the efforts for improving the security and efficiency of the Euro Mediterranean electricity grids, knowing that the grids integration is the most efficient, fastest and most profitable means to construct a true energy bridge between the two shores of the Mediterranean and to encourage the sustainable development in the countries of the Mediterranean area. The signing of this Memorandum testifies our common will to plan and cooperate together in order to overcome the*

*difficulties of current mutualisation and move towards an integrated system whereby the risks, costs and advantages will be shared”.*

**Luigi Carbone, MEDREG Permanent Vice-President** and Commissioner of the Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas and Water (AEEGSI, Italy) declared: *“This MoU specifically refers to the role of capacity-building for creating durable exchanges of best practices among Euro-Mediterranean energy regulators. Grid development and technical improvements at cross-border level can only be achieved if Mediterranean regulators share a common vision with concrete and operational targets. AEEGSI is glad to witness this signature under the Italian Presidency of the EU, confirming the strong commitment to the Mediterranean of both our National Regulatory Authority and the Italian government.”*

### **About MEDREG**

MEDREG is an Association that brings together 24 members of 21 countries around the Mediterranean in order to promote a clear, stable and harmonized legal and regulatory framework through continuous cooperation among the Northern, Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean basin. MEDREG's Secretariat is located in Milan, hosted by AEEGSI, the Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas and Water.

The European Commission financially supports the Association and explicitly mentioned MEDREG as one of the key institutions for regional cooperation in the energy sector in the Mediterranean. **Visit** [www.medreg-regulators.org](http://www.medreg-regulators.org).

### **About Med-TSO**

Med-TSO is the Association of Transmission System Operators of 17 Mediterranean countries. Its Members represent themselves almost 30 000 TWh of electricity transmission each year. They cover the electrical supply of more than 500 million people. Currently presided by Mr. Noureddine Boutarfa (Algeria); Mr. Kemal Yildir (Turkey) and Mr. Pierre Bornard (France) as Vice-presidents, and Mr. Michelangelo Celozzi (Italy) as Secretary General, Med-TSO is officially recognised by the European Commission since 2012. **Visit** [www.med-tso.com](http://www.med-tso.com)

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