



Regulators from across Europe and the Mediterranean region kick-start initiative on sustainable empowerment, security of energy supply and interoperability of the systems

16 December 2022 (Vienna) – A well-attended trilateral workshop on sustainable empowerment, security of energy supply and interoperability of the systems in Vienna attracted participants from three regulatory organisations. The event kicked off a larger initiative within the framework of a long-term cooperation between the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER), the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB) and the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG).

Mr Dirk Buschle, Deputy Director of the Energy Community Secretariat, hosting the event, underlined that cross-Mediterranean cooperation in the energy transition can speed up the replacement of fossil fuels by renewables but can also help better managing the many challenges of the transition, including its social dimension.

In his opening statement, **Mr Martin Selmayr, Head of Mission of the European Commission Representation in Austria**, pointed out the strength of rule-based cooperation across borders. “We work together across borders more than we have ever before,” he said. “It is time to build new partnerships.” Building on this basic consensus, he was convinced that the European Union and its partners together could overcome any crisis.

Mr Wolfgang Urbantschitsch, CEER Vice-President, anchored the motivations of the initiative in larger megatrends, emphasizing that the results that would be developed as part of the workshop and the following process would be stable and long-lasting as well. He spoke about the challenge of making technical regulatory work accessible to consumers, because it is consumers that have to be at the heart of the energy transition.

Following up on the issue of tackling the energy crisis, **Mr Marko Bislimoski, ECRB President**, pointed out that it is paramount now that the renewed impetus of investments in the energy sector be directed towards energy efficiency and renewable energy. For instance, fossil gas must be replaced by renewable sources, and while renewable expansion is progressing, further advances are needed.

Mr Konstantinos Tsimaras, Vice President of MEDREG, pointed that there is a fear that in the name of security of supply we see many countries resort to less clean sources of energy. This is in contrast to our climate goals. A future energy strategy, to be sustainable, must build on three pillars: the reconstruction of the energy markets; investments in energy; and the protection of consumers.

The full-day workshop addressed this wide range of topics across a number of sessions with keynote addresses on the efforts needed for reaching the 2030 and 2050 targets, a panel discussion on joining regulatory forces for reaching these targets and a tour de table on availabilities and needs. Discussions among the participants hinted at the complexity of the issues at hand, working towards concrete measures for reaching the 2030 deadline for sustainable development while at the same time aiming at delivering the 2050 target of carbon neutral, prospering economies, safeguarding security of supply to citizens, and addressing energy poverty.

This first workshop aimed at kicking off a framework for future cooperation of the three regulatory institutions and to calibrate main future efforts.

Ends



Notes to editors

The workshop is part of the **Trilateral Arrangement**, an institutional cooperation arrangement between the three organisations signed in December 2018. On the basis of this arrangement, the signatories cooperate on issues of joint interest and converge their work, resulting in valuable sharing of knowledge and exceptionally broad coverage. Together, CEER, the ECRB and MEDREG cover the entire European continent and its Mediterranean neighbours.

The **Council of European Energy Regulatory (CEER)** is the voice of Europe's national energy regulators. Its Members and Observers are the independent statutory bodies responsible for energy regulation in 39 European countries. CEER, based in Brussels, deals with a broad range of energy issues including retail markets and consumers; distribution networks; smart grids; flexibility; sustainability; and international cooperation. Further information on the CEER website www.ceer.eu

The **Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB)** is the independent regional body of energy regulators in the Energy Community and beyond. It is the coordination platform for exchange of knowledge and development of best practices for regulated electricity and gas markets in the Energy Community. Its activities are built on three pillars: providing coordinated regulatory positions to energy policy debates, harmonizing regulatory rules across borders and sharing regulatory knowledge and experience. For more information, visit www.energy-community.org/aboutus/institutions/ECRB.html

MEDREG is the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators, which brings together 27 regulators from 22 countries, spanning the European Union (EU), the Balkans and North Africa. Mediterranean regulators work together to promote greater compatibility of the regional energy markets and legislation, seeking progressive market integration in the EuroMediterranean basin. Through constant cooperation and information exchange among members, MEDREG aims at fostering consumer rights, energy efficiency, infrastructure investment and development, based on secure, safe, costeffective and environmentally sustainable energy systems. MEDREG acts as a platform providing assistance to its members as well as capacity development activities through training sessions and workshops as well as personalised hands-on initiatives. The MEDREG Secretariat is located in Milan, Italy. MEDREG is co-funded by the European Union. For more information, visit www.medreg-regulators.org