FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDREG institutional advancements towards a successful model of governance for the energy sector in the Mediterranean region

St. Julian's, 19 May 2016

The **Maltese Regulator for Energy and Water Services (REWS)** kindly hosted the **21st General Assembly (GA) meeting of the Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG)** in St. Julian's, Malta. The 21st MEDREG GA has welcomed several achievements that go in the direction of **new partnerships for integrating Mediterranean energy policies and lay the foundation for further energy regulatory cooperation activities.**

- **MEDREG contribution to the Egyptian Gas market reform**

The 21st MEDREG GA has approved the membership request presented by the **new Egyptian Gas Regulator** to become the **25th Member of MEDREG.** Since its beginning, MEDREG played a significant role in supporting this new institution, through its Gas Working Group and the expertise provided to the workshop held on 4 April 2016 in Cairo. In line with its Strategy 2020-2030, MEDREG is committed to support the development of competitive and transparent gas markets in member countries. Therefore **MEDREG confirmed its commitment to assist the new Egyptian gas regulator through trainings, capacity building activities and support in the initial drafting of Egyptian secondary legislation for the gas sector**.

- **Positive start for the MEDREG Financial Advisory Panel on Energy Regulation**

MEDREG launched a dialogue with selected representatives of the international financial institutions including the World Bank (WB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the Investment Fund for Infrastructures in the Mediterranean Region (INFRAMED). The aim of this ambitious project is to discuss the impact of regulatory changes on financing decisions in order to increase the market awareness on investment opportunities, provide financial expertise with regard to the funding of infrastructure projects and promote a more efficient market for infrastructures.

- **Exchanges of information and expertise among regulatory associations**

MEDREG and CEER*held their **2nd joint round-table** on regulatory challenges in European and Mediterranean energy markets on 19 May in Malta, bringing their different perspectives and ideas on several hot issues. Through this joint activity, MEDREG and CEER aim at exchanging information and expertise in order to improve the regional integration of energy markets. **MEDREG presented the outcomes of four relevant topics that it has recently studied within its Working Groups, such as the role regulators play in balancing the markets, generation with a focus on RES-generated electricity, quality of supply in the distribution segment of**

electricity markets and the security of supply for the gas markets. CEER continues to represent a positive institutional model of governance for MEDREG since the European energy regulators in the past faced challenges that are similar to those currently taking place in the Mediterranean region. For this reason, this exchange between CEER and MEDREG has been highly beneficial for the work performed by both organizations, paving the way to further collaboration.

- **Strengthening the dialogue with external partners**

The General Assembly raised the importance of the dialogue with external partners. **An open session moderated by MEDREG President Hatem Waheed, welcomed representatives of international organizations and industrial associations**, i.e., the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (Med-TSO). The meeting has been the occasion also to **announce the signature of the Cooperation Protocol between MEDREG and ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA)**** foreseen for fall 2016. The agreement will enhance the bilateral collaboration between the two organizations in order to develop common activities and deepen institutional relations and technical exchanges to reinforce their position, mission and expertise.

This session confirmed the concrete interest of the main energy actors of the Mediterranean basin in working together with MEDREG to favor cooperation among governments, parliaments, transmission system operators, market actors and energy regulators.

XXXX

* The Council of European Energy Regulatory (CEER) is a not-for-profit association based in Belgium. Its members and observers are the independent statutory bodies responsible for energy regulation at national level. CEER is at the forefront of efforts to foster competitive energy markets and empower consumers through sound and independent regulation. Working collectively through CEER, NRAs develop forwardthinking proposals at EU level, spreading best practice and delivering solutions back within NRAs. Visit www.ceer.eu.

** ERERA was established in 2008 as a specialized institution that is part of the Economic Community of West African States and whose primary purpose is the regulation of cross-border power trading among ECOWAS Member States and setting up of a conducive regulatory environment for the development of the regional power market. Visit http://www.erera.arrec.org

MEDREG brings together energy regulators from 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. The MEDREG Secretariat is located in Milan, Italy, hosted by the Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas and Water (AEEGSI). Visit www.medreg-regulators.org

For further information, interviews and related material please contact:

MEDREG Press Office: Tiziana Tronci ttronci@medreg-regulators.org