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Key Mediterranean energy stakeholders come together to boost renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures across the region

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Mediterranean Energy Regulators (**MEDREG**) together with the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (**MEDENER**), the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie (**OME**) and the Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean (**RES4MED**) brainstormed today in Madrid, on how technical stakeholders, particularly regulators, could contribute to the advancement of renewable energy sources (RES) integration in the grids and on energy efficiency (EE) measures adopted in the Mediterranean basin. The four actors, which are involved in the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Euro-Mediterranean Platform on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE) are committed to implement the objectives of the Platform and discussed the **different modalities that could be carried out to financially sustain the RES market**.

The workshop *“Deploying renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures in the Mediterranean: State of play and way forward”*, kindly hosted by the Spanish National Commission of Markets and Competition (CNMC), aimed at bringing together leading perspectives and expertise on RES potential in the Mediterranean region and identify the most promising pathways to develop energy efficiency measures.

Mr. Luís Jesús Sanchez de Tembleque, MEDREG RES WG co-Chair, opened the workshop recalling that since the creation of MEDREG, **the Spanish regulator has been an active member of MEDREG**, as one of the Chairs of the Renewables working group. The RES WG reported on mechanisms to promote renewable and energy efficiency in the Mediterranean Southern shore countries, regulations about distributed generation, net-metering, isolated systems, and drafts a yearly benchmarking on RES-generated electricity and energy efficiency measures. In 2010 the group received the ICER Scholar Award 2010 for a paper on the “Effects of the Introduction of Successful Mechanisms to Promote RES-CHP / Energy Efficiency in non-EU Countries”.

Mr. Manuel Sainz Andrés, from the Institute for the Diversification and Saving of Energy, Spain and member of MEDENER highlighted the role of MEDENER as an important actor for the energy transition in the Mediterranean region. MEDENER in cooperation with OME has elaborated an **energy transition scenario by 2040** structured around three ambitious objectives: 30% reduction in energy demand compared to a standard conservative scenario, an energy mix of 27% renewable energy and a reducing emissions by 38% over the region Mediterranean. In order to contribute to these objectives MEDENER runs activities to strengthen an Euro-Mediterranean cooperation such as developing an EE observatory, organizing regional dialogue with international conferences (next 25th of May in Algeria) and contributing as animator of the UfM Energy Platform on EE and RE in partnerships with RCREEE, RES4MED and others energy platforms (Gas and Electricity market).

Ms. Emanuela Menichetti, Director of the OME Renewable Energy Division, presented data that show **encouraging signs** of a brighter future for renewable energy technologies (RETs), which has surpassed natural gas as the first electricity generation source in terms of capacity. All South and East Mediterranean countries have set ambitious renewable energy targets; OME estimates that about **71 GW of non-hydro RETs are required by 2025** to meet these targets. Strong growth of renewables should also be accompanied by enhanced energy efficiency measures and other low-carbon technologies to face the challenges of climate change and energy security and address the energy needs in a sustainable manner.

Ms. Giovanna Gentile from RES4MED presented **a survey on the main barriers affecting investments in RE capacity in the Mediterranean** focusing on Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The analysis is based on a wide stakeholders' consultation carried out through a structured survey involving projects developers, Independent Power Producers (IPPs), market operators, financial players and consultancy firms asking to rate some specific issues related to the entire lifecycle of an investment and gather valuable mitigation suggestions to be submitted to policy makers. Survey results will be presented during the RES4MED Annual conference, to be held in Rome on 19th of May 2016.

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MEDREG

MEDREG is the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators, born in 2007 under the Italian law. It currently gathers 24 energy regulators from the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. MEDREG promotes a transparent, stable and harmonized regulatory framework in the Mediterranean Region fostering market integration and infrastructure investments, as well as aiming to consumer protection and enhanced energy cooperation. The MEDREG Secretariat is located in Milan, Italy, hosted by the Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas and Water (AEEGSI). www.medreg-regulators.org

MEDENER

Since 1997, MEDENER, the Mediterranean Association of National Agencies for energy efficiency and renewable energy, is the unique Association gathering Agencies from the North and the South of the Mediterranean in the field of EE and RE, which aims at enhancing exchanges of experiences and good practices, but also the implementation of joint projects and true capacity building partnerships, beyond the sole classical technical assistance. Currently, composed of 12 agency members from South and North countries namely, Algeria, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Spain, Syria, and Tunisia. MEDENER's members are in charge of the implementation of EE and RE policies (NEEAP and NREAP) in a large spectrum of sectors such as building and tertiary, industry and transport, as well as cross-sector activities such as training, vocational training, economic studies and awareness raising in the fields of energy savings and sustainable development. www.medener.org

OME

Observatoire Méditerranéen de l’Energie, is the association of the Mediterranean Energy Industry. For over 25 years, OME has been committed to promote energy dialogue in the Mediterranean Region, to strengthen regional cooperation. OME analyses energy with an integrated and cross-cutting approach. OME participates in several European Commission and other international projects, promotes knowledge exchange and capacity building. OME has signed MoUs to promote cooperation with other regional organizations. OME is involved as stakeholder in the UfM REM and REEE platforms and acts as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform. OME notably publishes a Mediterranean energy outlook, the “Mediterranean Energy Perspectives”. www.ome.org

RES4MED

Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean - RES4MED - is a non-profit Association established in 2012 as a network of utilities, industries, agencies, technical service providers, research institutes and academia engaged in promoting clean energy solutions in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries. RES4MED’s mission is to support the deployment of renewable energy – both large scale and distributed energy - and energy efficiency solutions and their integration in the local and regional markets to satisfy local energy needs. At the end of 2015, RES4MED members decided to broaden the geographic scope of the Association towards sub-Saharan Africa in light of the huge potentials and growth opportunities for Africa’s renewable energy sector, in order to “export” the successful Euro-Mediterranean cooperation towards the needs of the whole continent. www.res4med.org

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