



## Press release

### Green hydrogen took center stage during the GA of Mediterranean Energy Regulators chaired by ANRE

Rhodes, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – The Moroccan presidency of the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG) experienced one of its highlight moments on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June in Greece by carrying out the annual high-level events gathering regional energy regulators. These two days discussions about the future energy challenges in the Mediterranean region were both intense and diverse during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Presidents Workshop and the 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of MEDREG. The theme chosen for this highly insightful and strategic meeting was "The Role of Coherent Regulation in Promoting Energy Transition in the Mediterranean Region".

This event united energy regulators, high-level decision makers, and experts, serving as a platform for discussions on the most recent advancements and challenges concerning the establishment of a fully operational and interconnected energy market in the Mediterranean region. In this perspective, two crucial aspects emerged namely the escalating potential of green hydrogen and the paramount significance of reinforcing the independence of regulators to effectively fulfill their strategic mandates.

*"The Mediterranean energy market has the potential to attract greater investment from around the world, given its extent and interconnection disposition. Moreover, our region holds enormous potential in terms of renewable energy and new energy vectors, particularly green hydrogen. In this perspective, only a fully independent energy regulator can ensure the transparency and the neutrality needed to exploit this valuable opportunity",* declared Mr. Abdellatif BARDACH President of MEDREG, and President of the National Electricity Regulatory Authority (ANRE).

It is crucial to highlight the immense potential of green hydrogen in contributing to the energy transition, especially as the technology is advancing towards scalability and maturity. Aligned with the visionary approach set forth by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, May God Assist Him, who has prioritized the operationalization of the green hydrogen sector, ANRE confirms its leadership role by spearheading the dedicated "Task Force" within MEDREG. In this capacity, the Authority has thoroughly examined the challenges and prospects associated with this promising energy vector. This intervention sparked significant interest and reactions among participants, underscoring the shared importance of establishing appropriate regulations, stimulating demand, and promoting green hydrogen production.

Furthermore, in addition to emphasizing the importance of MEDREG's independence, similarly to member regulators, Mrs. Milou BEEREPOOT, representative of the European Commission (EC), declared that: *"The European Commission continues to place energy at the core of its partnership with Southern Neighbour countries and therefore increasingly seeks opportunities of mutual interest, with concrete positive impact for the populations. (...) the business environment must be empowered through more comprehensive regulatory frameworks that shall then better attract new financial sources. This is in particular where we continue relying on MEDREG's role and expertise for our Mediterranean region"*.

Lastly, this esteemed gathering concluded with the inclusion of the North Macedonian regulator, resulting in a total membership of twenty-eight within this multilateral association chaired by the Moroccan regulator.