



Trilateral regulatory initiative of CEER, ECRB and MEDREG on Sustainable Empowerment, Security of Energy Supply and Interoperability of the Systems

1st joint workshop

16 December 2022, Energy Community Secretariat premises – AT, 1010 Vienna, Am Hof 4 level 6

Background

This workshop kicks-off a trilateral regulatory initiative to boost the efficient use of energy resources for sustainable empowerment, security of energy supply and interoperability of the systems within the member countries of the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER), the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG) and the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB). It emphasises on identifying concrete measures for reaching the 2030 deadline for sustainable development while at the same time aiming at delivering the 2050 target of carbon neutral economies, safeguarding security of supply to citizens, and addressing energy poverty.

The question of sustainable prosperity for all citizens within the member countries of this trilateral regulatory platform initiative is key for the further development of the CEER, ECRB and MEDREG regulatory regions. The commitment of the Paris agreement signatories induces major changes of economic practices. Decarbonization of relevant economies while at the same time ensuring sustainable energy security of the citizens can be best achieved in an efficient and coordinated manner if stakeholders of a broad geographical area are bundled together with a view to optimising the overall regulatory framework, ensuring security of supply and addressing energy poverty. The energy transition should ideally be managed with indigenous supply resources to limit dependence on energy sources outside the relevant area, while strengthening mutual economic cooperation throughout the energy value chain at the same time.

The right regulatory incentives are a necessity for attracting and ensuring sustainable investments on topics such as energy efficiency, the exploitation of the potential of renewable and other pertinent energy resources and the optimising of each energy vector's supply pattern including the resilient and timely availability of the respective transmission and distribution grids. This is why the trilateral approach has been created. Given the enormous potential to restructure and optimise energy supply, demand and allocation patterns within the regulatory areas of the trilateral organisations, the latter take the initiative to proactively contribute to the pertinent changes.

The first workshop aims at setting a framework for future cooperation of the three regulatory institutions to calibrate main future efforts.



Agenda

Co-chaired by CEER | ECRB | MEDREG

Moderator: Mr Stephan Ressler

09:30 Welcome address [5' each]

- Mr Dirk Buschle | Energy Community Secretariat, host
- Mr Martin Selmayr | Head of Mission, European Commission Representation in Austria
- Mrs Annegret Groebel | CEER President
- Mr Marko Bislimoski | ECRB President
- Mr Konstantinos Tsimaras | Vice President of MEDREG

10:00 Keynote addresses – “Efforts needed for reaching the 2030 and 2050 targets” [10' each]

- Developments on EU level – Mr Nicolas Kuehn | DG ENER
- Pathway for the Energy Community – Mr Adam Cwetsch | Energy Community Secretariat
- Pathway of MEDREG – Mr Benoit Esnault | MEDREG

Questions & Answers

11:00 Panel discussion “Joining regulatory forces for reaching the 2030 and 2050 targets”

Moderator: Mr Stephan Ressler

- Which regulatory measures are needed to make energy systems fit for reaching the 2030 and 2050 targets?
- What is the role of regulation and regulators in promoting alternative regional energy resources to reduce fuel imports?
- How would harmonised and coherent energy regulation impact the regions?
- What are the regulatory barriers or necessities in order to achieve further operational integration and efficient use of energy?
- How to make gas and electricity markets fit for decarbonisation?

Panelists

- Mr Wolfgang Urbantschitsch | CEER
- Mrs Milica Knezevic | ECRB
- Mr Hasan Ozkoc | MEDREG Secretariat
- Mrs Jasmina Trhulj | Energy Community Secretariat

Questions & Answers

12:00 *coffee break*



12:30 Tour de table “Availabilities and needs”

Moderator: Mr Stephan Ressler

- Which energy resources (geothermal, solar, wind, biomass/biogas, fossil gas, hydrogen, tidal etc.) and what energy efficiency potential are available in the MEDREG/ECRB/CEER region?
- Which (infrastructure) projects are needed, and which could realistically be realised by 2030, to cover (a part of) the energy demand from resources inside the region and to facilitate the energy transition towards 2050? What is already available and what needs to be newly built? What is the potential within MEDREG/ECRB/CEER with regard to local use of local resources?
- How will energy consumption develop until 2050? Can we cover energy demand with the energy resources available in the MEDREG/ECRB/CEER region by 2050?
- What are the comparative advantages for the three regions and the individual countries?
- For how long can MEDREG/ECRB/CEER cover the energy demand through its own energy resources? Is there a potential to exploit local resources and is this economically feasible?

Impulse statements [10' each]

- The role of MEDREG region in EU's security of Supply – Mr. Karem Mahmoud: Vice President of MEDREG
- Decarbonisation of gas sector in the Energy Community: focus on hydrogen and biomethane – Mrs Karolina Cegir | Energy Community Secretariat
- The energy transition as a benefit for customers and a boost for the economy – Mr Pál Ságvári | CEER

Tour de table – views and interventions by participants on the session questions

14:00 Wrap up and way forward

Mr Dietmar Preinstorfer | Mr Bardhi Hoxha | Mrs Nina Grall

14:30 Farewell lunch