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Joint MEDREG - ECRB workshop: Challenges and opportunities in deploying renewables into electricity networks and balancing systems

On 15 April 2021, the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB) and the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG) held a joint virtual workshop in order to exchange expertise and implementation practices in MEDREG and ECRB member countries on the challenges and opportunities in deploying renewable energy sources into electricity networks.

In addressing the workshop, MEDREG's President Petrit Ahmeti recalled that *“The joint collaboration between MEDREG and ECRB is essential to further strengthen the ongoing efforts in promoting a shared and common regulatory culture in both regions. In addition, it was further expressed that an integrated and interoperated regional energy market based on sustainable energy sources will provide ample and sufficient economic and social benefits as well as strongly contribute to the sustainable development of societies in the regions”*, while Marko Bislimoski in the capacity of ECRB President indicated that *“integration of renewables can put pressure on system operation but the positive outcomes for reaching our decarbonisation goals that we can gain are worth the regulatory effort”*.

At a time when making the energy systems more secure and sustainable is at the forefront, the joint workshop focused on the integration of renewables into the system and related market balancing mechanisms. The workshop underlined the importance of finding the right balance between regulation of markets and the technological and system developments. Furthermore, it also highlighted the crucial role energy regulators must play in ensuring the well-functioning of the markets and the cost-effective deployment of renewables.

Joined by transmission system operators from the ECRB and MEDREG regions, the regulators exchanged best practices in dealing with the challenges that electricity generation from decentralised renewable sources bring to the system and its operation. Power system flexibility, the ability to effectively respond to fluctuations in supply and/or demand, and the need for regulators to address investment challenges were underlined as key elements in this respect. The discussion also elaborated upon the responsibilities of producers from renewable energy sources in the context of balancing mechanisms and markets related to that internally and cross border. Finally, the integration of renewables was discussed from a market participant perspective too.

Joint workshops and deliverables are part of well-established cooperation between ECRB and MEDREG since 2014. These efforts prove the need to expand discussions on harmonising regulatory rules across the Mediterranean, East European and Black Sea regions. Additionally, since 2018, the two regional regulatory platforms share a [cooperation agreement](#) with the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER).

For more information, visit:

www.energy-community.org

www.medreg-regulators.org



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