



Launch of Euro-Mediterranean Energy Platforms

The President of Med-TSO : “We need to reverse the paradigm of poverty and political instability, and restore peace and economic growth in our region”

The **President** of the Association of the Mediterranean Transmission System Operators **Med-TSO, Mr Nouredine Boutarfa**, and the **President** of the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators **Medreg, Dr. Hafez El-Salmawy** participated to the meeting for the Launch of Euro-Mediterranean Energy Platforms, on the invitation of the Kingdom of Morocco Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment. The meeting took place in Rabat, on May, 5th 2015 in the presence of the European Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy **Miguel Arias Cañete** and of the European Director General Energy **Dominique Ristori**.

In this occasion, Med-TSO President marked the willingness of all of **moving towards a common sharing of the two shores** of the Mediterranean.

President Boutarfa had firstly pointed the attention on the **almost daily tragedies** happening between Europe and Africa, in the middle of the Mediterranean, that showed to the world **the huge risks illegal migrants take** to join Europe, but he regretted “have not prompted yet a debate on the **truly causes** of the phenomenon”. He also mentioned the need to “**reverse the paradigm of poverty** and political instability, and restore peace and economic growth in our region” **choosing common solutions**, based, on his opinion, on “**multilateral cooperation**, large-scale **energy infrastructure** development”.

In this perspective, Mr. Boutarfa insisted on the need to consider, without distinctions, electricity and gas as creator paradigms of richness and elements to share: “The existing **segmentation between gas and electricity should be eliminated**” he stated.

This global and “ambitious” vision requires “a truly multilateral approach”, which “will allow us to sustain **large scale industrial projects**” and to achieve in the end “**financial opportunities** on both shores of the Mediterranean, and drive **social and economic development** for the region as a whole”.

In this sense, he called for such support Euro-Mediterranean and Arab **intergovernmental institutions**, in order to provide the required **institutional cover** to cooperation projects in the energy sector, with the aim to “**overcome unavoidable differences** between participating countries and fostering consensus for launching **common interest projects** for the short, medium and long term”

About Med-TSO

Med-TSO is the association of the Mediterranean Transmission System Operators. Born in 2012, nowadays it counts 20 members representing 18 countries. In 2014, the Association launched its Mediterranean Project, which is, starting from February 2015, currently in progress supported by the EC. This project aims, through technical solutions, **to strengthen security and peace in the region, by favoring risks and rules sharing**. The Association actively cooperates with Medreg among Euro Mediterranean projects and it is recognized as reliable institutional long term partner. For more information, visit: www.med-tso.com