

## Press release

Paris, 16 November 2012

### **The French Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) takes over presidency of the Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG)**

Mr Michel Thiollière, a commissioner on the French Regulatory Commission for Energy (CRE), was elected president of MEDREG for a term of two years at the General Meeting held in Lisbon yesterday. He takes over from Mr Nadjib Otmane, chairman of Algeria's Regulatory Commission for Electricity and Gas (CREG). MEDREG's presidency alternates every two years between a northern Mediterranean and a southern Mediterranean country.

MEDREG is an institution uniting energy regulators from 20 countries bordering the Mediterranean: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. Created in 2007, MEDREG facilitates exchange of best practice between these countries, as well as establishment of harmonised, stable and coherent regulatory frameworks in the region, for the benefit of electricity and gas consumers. The organisation plays an active role in consumer protection and integration of power markets in Maghreb countries. MEDREG is supported by the European Union and the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER).

Born in 1955, Michel Thiollière holds a BA and an MA in American Studies. A certified English teacher, he was elected deputy mayor of Saint-Etienne in 1983 and mayor from 1994 to 2008. He presided over the agglomeration community of the Saint-Etienne metropole from 1996 to 2008. General councillor of the Loire from 1985 to 1998 and regional councillor of the Rhône-Alpes from 1998 to 2001, he was elected senator of the Loire in 2001. Vice-president of the Committee on Culture, Education and Communication of the Senate in 2004, author of the law on decentralised cooperation (2007), rapporteur of copyright laws (DADVSI) in 2006, Creation and Internet law (known as HADOPI I and HADOPI II) in 2008-2009 and the public broadcasting reform (2009), he was appointed member of the board of HADOPI (law promoting the distribution and protection of creative works on the internet) and administrator of France Television. In March 2010 he was appointed by the President of the Senate of the Board of CRE. Since February 2011 he is Vice President of the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER).

*Founded on 24 March 2000, the French Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) is an independent administrative body. CRE works to guarantee smooth and efficient operation of the electricity and natural gas markets for the benefit of the end-user. It also works to guarantee the absence of discriminatory practices, cross-subsidies or restrictions on competition.*

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