

## **Powering Cross-Border Energy Interconnections in the Mediterranean Region *OMEC and WEC Italy held the second Mediterranean Energy Talks (MEETs), focusing on regional integration and green corridors***

The second webinar of the Mediterranean Energy Talks (MEETs) series – a platform for strategic dialogue on the role of energy in the Mediterranean, jointly promoted by the Organisation Méditerranéenne de l'Énergie et du Climat (OMEC) and WEC Italy – was held online today.

Titled "Cross-Border Energy Interconnections in the Mediterranean Region", the session was moderated by **Kamel Ben Naceur, CEO of Nomadia Energy Consulting**. Opening remarks were delivered by **Houda Ben Jannet, Director General of the Organisation Méditerranéenne de l'Énergie et du Climat (OMEC)**, while concluding reflections were shared by **Marco Margheri, Chair of WEC Italy**. Key contributions came from **Hasan Ozkoc, Director of MEDREG (Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators)**, and **Angelo Ferrante, Secretary General of Med-TSO (Mediterranean Transmission System Operators)**. The event engaged a diverse audience of policymakers, regulators, infrastructure operators, and energy experts from across the Mediterranean region.

In her opening remarks, **Houda Ben Jannet (Director General, OMEC)** underlined the reason why the theme of cross-border energy interconnections was selected for this second MEETs webinar. Interconnections can bolster energy security and diversification, support large-scale renewable integration, and foster regional stability through economic cooperation. A resilient, decarbonized Mediterranean energy system cannot be built on national strategies alone, but requires shared infrastructure and planning. Despite persistent regulatory and financial challenges, the region has all the necessary ingredients for success – strong institutions, significant renewable potential, and platforms like MEETs can help shift from diagnostics to delivery. **Moderated by Kamel Ben Naceur (CEO, Nomadia Energy Consulting)**, the session featured keynote interventions by **Hasan Ozkoc (Director, MEDREG)** and **Angelo Ferrante (Secretary General, Med-TSO)**, who offered complementary perspectives on the current status of interconnections in the Mediterranean and the conditions needed to unlock their potential—ranging from regulatory harmonization and grid planning to investment strategies and institutional capacity-building.

The discussion addressed critical top priorities, including:

- Cross-border interconnections are no longer a luxury but an urgent need  
Interoperable and well-planned infrastructure is essential to strengthen regional resilience, enhance renewable integration, and ensure collective energy security in the Mediterranean.
- South-South and South-North energy linkages are equally strategic  
Developing both types of connections is key to fostering regional development, mutual trust, and energy market integration.
- Infrastructure without regulation is not enough  
Harmonised, transparent, and predictable regulatory frameworks are a precondition to attract investment and enable real energy exchange across borders.
- Integration over isolation  
National strategies alone are insufficient: coordinated regional planning supports the decarbonisation goals and optimises resource use and system flexibility.

- The Mediterranean holds vast renewable and gas potential – and untapped human capital. Investment in skills, grid innovation and institutional capacity-building is needed to fully unleash the region's contribution to the global energy transition.

- New sub-regional trading models and pilot zones are emerging. Examples such as the East Mediterranean "Pathfinder" (Jordan–Egypt–Saudi Arabia) show how gradual market integration can be built from trilateral cooperation.

- From soft infrastructure to hard impact. Platforms like MEETs are enabling shared understanding and frameworks that can accelerate the shift from diagnostics to delivery.

**Marco Margheri, Chair of WEC Italy**, closed the webinar emphasizing that the Mediterranean is now a recognized priority on both the European and global energy agendas. He highlighted the critical role of pragmatic cooperation, regulatory convergence, and multilateral platforms -such as MEETs - in building the region's "soft infrastructure" of trust, standards, and dialogue. Margheri pointed to three strategic levers for the future: the role of energy as a driver of geopolitical stability; the growing wave of innovation and investment, including from the Gulf region; and the importance of Mediterranean human capital as a key asset to attract clean technologies and sustain long-term industrial development.

The MEETs initiative continues to serve as a catalyst for dialogue and convergence among key actors committed to building an integrated, decarbonized, and equitable energy space in the region.

More information about the initiative and the webinar recording will also be shared via the official OMEC and WEC Italy channels.