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Mr. Moncef Harrabi is the new Med-TSO President. Interconnection and cooperation the focal point of the new President of the Association

Med-TSO 13th General assembly: in agenda the election of the new President and the Mediterranean project development. On Med-TSO YouTube channel the interviews

Rome 27th April - After an election by acclamation **Mr. Moncef Harrabi** has become the new President of Med-TSO, the association of the Mediterranean transmission system operators. It happened during the General Assembly of the Mediterranean TSOs, which took place on 20th April in Tunis. Mr. Harrabi, Chairman and Director General of Steg (Société Tunisienne de Electricité et du Gaz), started his career in 1987 and then he is grown with success inside the company. He has taken the role of Mr. Ameer Bchir, from the same company, who retired in December.

“It is an honour to become the President of Med-TSO”, Mr Harrabi stated after his election. “We have to work to improve the cooperation between the States of the Association. We need to accelerate the process to design common regulations and rules, as well as integrate the grids between our countries”, underlined the new President. “We need to start to implement some projects to connect the north and the south of the Mediterranean region” concluded Mr. Harrabi. After the President election, the General Assembly thanked Mr. Victor Baptista who took the role of acting President during the last months.

The 13th General Assembly of the Mediterranean TSO association obtained a lot of attention by the institutional stakeholder; as proved by the message from the **Tunisian Minister of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energies, Ms. Hela Cheikhrouhou**. The Minister drew her attention to the climate change and the necessity to find new business model to preserve the Earth for the new generations. She focused her message on the Med-TSO rule in the Mediterranean area to develop economic, technological and environmental targets. In order to achieve these objectives, the Minister focused on the necessity to define market’s export as well as shared regulations and rules.

In the agenda also the last year’s balance sheets approval and the closing of the second year annual progress report of the Mediterranean Project *. The General Assembly had also anticipated some topics about the final part of the project. In this occasion, the **Secretary General Mr. Angelo Ferrante** pointed out: “We have talks ongoing with the European Commission to define how Med-TSO could develop further its activities and continue the cooperation with the European Commission for supporting their initiatives in the Mediterranean region”. The European Commission attended the General Assembly and confirmed its interest in supporting Med-TSO, as **Mr. Cyril Dewaleyne, DG NEAR Programme Manager**, underlined, because it is in line with the objectives of EU's Neighbourhood policy on Energy and Climate Change.

It is possible to find the integrated declarations of **President Moncef Harrabi, Secretary General Angelo Ferrante** and **Mr. Cyril Dewaleyne, EC – DG NEAR Program Manager** and the message from the **Tunisian Minister of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energies, Ms. Hela Cheikhrouhou** read by Mr. Harrabi on the new **Med-TSO YouTube Channel** (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwCg06cpg5ppRvBvgRWW9qQ>).

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About Med-TSO

Med-TSO is the Association of the Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (TSOs) for electricity, operating the High Voltage Transmission Networks of 18 Mediterranean Countries.

It was established on 19 April 2012 in Rome as a technical platform that, using multilateral cooperation as a strategy of regional development, could facilitate the integration of the Mediterranean Power Systems and foster Security and Socio – economic Development in the Region.

* Mediterranean Project

In 2015, Med-TSO received a grant from the European Commission (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, DG NEAR) to implement the “Mediterranean Project”. The project promotes the creation of a regional electricity system, through the coordination of national development plans and the harmonization of rules to access the grids.

This long-term objective will be pursued by the progressive strengthening of the electricity markets in the Mediterranean and the increase of cross-border electricity exchanges.

The Project aims at the progressive harmonization and strengthening of the electricity markets in the Mediterranean region, following a bottom-up approach and direct involvement of Med-TSO Members, through the following activity lines:

Rules. Developing and sharing a common set of basic rules, in cooperation with the association of the Mediterranean Regulators for energy, MEDREG, for the interoperability of the Mediterranean power systems, facilitating electricity exchanges, development of infrastructures and institutional cooperation.

Infrastructure. Preparing and sharing guidelines for Network Planning and implementing a Euro-Mediterranean Electricity Reference Grid for studies and coordinated development of interconnections.

International Electricity Exchanges. Promoting the development of a Mediterranean Electricity System, focusing on methodologies, procedures and mechanisms for sharing resources through cross border exchanges, based on countries complementarities and the optimized use of generation and transmission infrastructures.

Knowledge Sharing. Establishing a forum among the relevant professionals working in the fields related to the scope of the project (a sort of “Med-TSO Academy”), supporting also Med-TSO members and other relevant organizations through the organization of specific and oriented knowledge activities.

Med-TSO Database. Creation of a Mediterranean database for managing all the information shared in the frame of the project, dealing with network characteristics, energy scenarios and market data.

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