

## STATEMENT

### **Water: The Italian Authority has been confirmed to lead WAREG, the European Water Regulators network**

Milan, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 - The Regulatory Authority for Electricity Gas and Water (AEEGSI) has been confirmed to lead WAREG<sup>1</sup>, the European Water Regulators network.

During the 13<sup>th</sup> WAREG General Assembly held on 10<sup>th</sup> October in Riga (Latvia), the Italian regulator was in fact re-elected **as President**.

The Assembly also expanded the network boundaries with a strengthened Governance: the water regulators of three new countries (Macedonia, Poland and Turkey) also joined, bringing the total number of Members to 25 and the number of WAREG Observers to 4. In addition, a new Statute and new internal rules of operation were adopted, which will strengthen WAREG from an institutional perspective as a non-profit association under Italian law, based in Milan at the Regulatory Authority for Electricity Gas and Water (AEEGSI).

The other top positions were then renewed for the next two years: the number of Vice-Presidency roles has been increased to four, with the confirmation of the Water Industry Commission for **Scotland** and the **Hungarian** Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority, and the new appointments of **Bulgaria's** Energy and Water Regulatory Commission and **Malta's** Regulator for Energy and Water Services.

The 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was also the opportunity for WAREG to highlight the need for all member countries to improve existing water infrastructures, with significant investments in order to increase the quality of drinking water for consumers and the safety of the water system, to handle unexpected events such as floods or droughts linked to climate change.

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<sup>1</sup> **WAREG** is the network of regulators, promoted by the AEEGSI (Regulatory Authority for Electricity Gas and Water) since 2014, to facilitate information sharing and good practices between public institutions responsible for the financial regulation of drinking water and sewerage services on a national or regional level. Amongst the current members there are not only independent regulators such as AEEGSI (Regulatory Authority for Electricity Gas and Water), but also government agencies or ministries that are analysing the opportunity for centralised and autonomous regulation of policy cycles. To date, co-operation between the WAREG associated regulators has allowed the collection of information and publishing of reports on aspects such as: individual competences of the various regulators, different legislative and institutional frameworks, universal access levels for the water service (affordability), and efficiency indicators. In the last two years, WAREG has also worked with important international institutions and organisations, such as OCSE (Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development) and IWA (International Water Association). For more information: [www.wareg.org](http://www.wareg.org)