

STEG AND TERNA: AGREEMENT TO REINFORCE COOPERATION ON ITALY-TUNISIA ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION

The two companies will further reinforce their technical and industrial collaboration with shared know-how, training and management of the Elmed undersea project, which will connect Europe and North Africa

Tunis, 22 October 2019 – Moncef Harrabi, CEO of Steg, and Luigi Ferraris, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Terna, signed a Memorandum of Understanding today, with the intention to intensify their industrial collaboration in the area of electrical infrastructure and in particular the Elmed project, which will involve an undersea connection at 600 MW of DC between Italy and Tunisia. The project, which will feature 200 km long ‘invisible’ cables, has been included on the European Commission’s list of Projects of Common Interest (PCI) because of its strategic importance for the two countries’ energy security and sustainability and the creation of a Mediterranean electricity grid which connects North African countries with Europe, with a view to full market integration.

The bilateral partnership agreement - signed following the intergovernmental agreement signed 30 April 2019 - between the two companies which, respectively, manage the Tunisian and Italian electricity transmission grids, specifically provides for the sharing of mutual technical and professional experience and the exchanging of know-how to train highly specialised personnel for the planning, implementation, testing and maintenance of high voltage undersea power lines and cables, as well as the development of smart grid and renewable energy integration solutions. Interconnection between Italy and Tunisia will allow them to share electricity and therefore diversify supply, as well as reinforce the reliability and resilience of the electricity grid of the two areas of the Mediterranean. In the long term, the project will also allow Tunisia to export electricity from renewable sources to other countries in North Africa.

“This agreement further reinforces our consolidated relationship of industrial cooperation. The collaboration between Steg and Terna, which commenced in 2009, is fundamental in order to exchange and integrate the Italian and Tunisian - and therefore European - electricity grids in a sustainable, secure and reliable manner, also with a view to the expected development of renewable sources. The interconnection project is a solid prospect for Italy to become the European hub for the transmission and dispatching of electricity in the Mediterranean area” said **Luigi Ferraris**, CEO and General Manager of Terna.