Welcome speech 23rd MEDELEC ANNUAL MEETING (Brussels 05 May 2015)

Dear members,

It is my first participation as acting General Secretary of MEDELEC, to an Annual Meeting. I would like to express our pleasure and honor to be welcomed in Brussels for this event, hosted by EURELECTRIC and Hans Ten Berg, the General Secretary.

May I also welcome our Chairman Mr. Abdel Hakim Layas, Executive Director of Gecol, who despite the sad and complicated situation in his country, is present here with us. Thank you Mr. Layas.

I would also like to thank all the participants for their presence here today. This shows their interest in MEDELEC. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that our aims and objectives are to provide a forum of dialogues and coordination where topics and problems can be discussed in order to take and/or propose common positions in the interest of our members.

We are here in Brussels, the heart of Europe where the idea of a Mediterranean Energy Community was launched. If we remember, at our last meeting held in Tunis in 2014, it was agreed that MEDELEC would work to promote the following ideas:

1. Developing cross-border transmission infrastructures, in particular, electricity interconnections

2. Increasing the diversification of energy sources as well as the Energy Efficiency.

MEDELEC is bringing together Electricity companies of both shores of the Mediterranean basin. Indeed, our members are representing and coming from the North Mediterranean Countries, the South and East Mediterranean countries. These groups of countries must take into account environmental issues but they must also consider their differences in terms of electricity demand growth, system functioning, infrastructure development, industrial potential, market design and regulatory framework etc.

North Med Countries have a stagnant electricity demand and no short term needs to replace generation and grid infrastructure, despite the South and East
Med countries are facing important challenges due to high growth rates in electricity demand and to requirements for significant investment. As you know, we will have a workshop tomorrow on the challenges of Investments in the MENA region. This workshop is organized jointly with Arab Union of Electricity and EURELECTRIC. We will have this interesting opportunity to exchange on very concrete issues such as: what is the necessary framework to improve investments and where to find money to build up grids and new generation means, and more.

**MEDELEC’s organization:**

If we look back to our last Annual Meeting held in Tunis in April 2014, Guillaume de Forceville was the General Secretary of MEDELEC. Guillaume has been appointed to another position within EDF. I, Myself was appointed Vice President of the International Development Division of EDF in charge of MENA region. I have therefore replaced Mr de Forceville in his position of General Secretary but I will of course request the validation and agreement of our members during this meeting.

Also with reference to our last meeting, it has been agreed to consider the evolution of MEDELEC, which, 23 years after its creation has no Statute/Articles of Associations and no internal organization. The aim was to take into account the evolution of the regional actors and also the changes & development of the electrical systems on both sides of the Mediterranean. For this reason, the MEDELEC members authorized the General Secretary, through Alain Régnier, to draft an internal organization chart in order to clearly define in writing the following:

- The activity of the association, the appointments of the General Secretary, the President and Vice-President, the terms of the mandates, the replacements, their duty, the general rules for the organization of: the Annual Meetings, special meetings etc..
- Alain Régnier exchanged and met several members in order to receive their comments, ideas, objections and were accordingly taken into account.
- Today we have a project which will be discussed in order to be approved or amended. Of course nothing will be done if you do not agree and no decision will be taken without your unanimous approval.
- Also part of our achievement, is the modernization, and updating (clean up of obsolete information) of our Website hosted by EURELECTRIC. We have now a
new design and a new logo and I really have to thank EURELECTRIC for their help and commitments in this project.

These 2 points will be developed this morning as MEDELEC achievements and forthcoming priorities in 2015/2016

As a conclusion:

Together with EURELECTRIC, we have tried to build up a programme in view with MEDELEC philosophy i.e, getting news from the Unions and their visions on topics of common interests. We shall have interesting presentations from the north (CESI), the east (TEIAS), the Mediterranean Community (Res4Med) and the Arab World through the United Nation and its Economic and Social commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Also for the first time, we welcome an NGO (Eléctriciens sans frontières) which works to improve the living conditions of the world’s poorest, population, thanks to access to electricity.

I look forward hearing from them.

May I remind that we will also proceed to the election of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman of MEDELEC and to approve the mandate of the General Secretary.

I am sure that our exchanges and discussions of this morning will be fruitful and interesting.

Again I would like to thank EURELECTRIC for hosting our MEDELEC 23rd Annual Meeting.

Thank you for your attention

I will now hand over to ________