39th General Assembly

The 39th General Assembly took place in a hybrid format, online and in presence, on 29 and 30 September 2026, hosted by ARERA – Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment, in Rome (Italy), within the One Water Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum.

The 39th General Assembly was attended, in presence and online, by representatives of 22 Members and 4 Observers, together with an invited representative of INBO and the WAREG Secretariat. At the time of the quorum verification, the President confirmed that 22 of the Association's 25 Members were represented and that the quorum was met.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Organisation	Status	Name
ERRU – Water Regulatory Authority (Albania)	Member	Fjola Beqiri
PSRC – Public Services Regulatory Commission (Armenia)	Member	Kamo Sargsyan; Zaruhi Stepanyan
BRUGEL – Brussels Energy Regulatory Commission (Belgium – Brussels)	Member	Kevin De Bondt
VNR – Flemish Utility Regulator (Belgium – Flanders)	Observer	Marieke Spanhove
EWRC – Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (Bulgaria)	Member	Dimitar Georgiev Kochkov; Desislava Zlatkova
VVU – Council for Water Services (Croatia)	Member	Tanja Šikić; Vladimir Simic;
MZE – Ministry of Agriculture (Czech Republic)	Member	Radek Hospodka; Tomas Gremlica
ECA – Estonian Competition Authority (Estonia)	Member	Liina Kalm; Vivika Kruusmägi
GNERC – Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (Georgia)	Member	Revaz Geradze; Mariam Ioseliani
RAAEY – Regulatory Authority for Energy, Waste and Water (Greece)	Member	Konstantinos Tsimaras; Dimitrios Psychoyios; Chrysa Kokkosi; Anastasios Markos; George Loizos
GSW – General Secretariat for Natural Environment and Water, Ministry of Environment and Energy (Greece)	Observer	Georgia Panagiotopoulou; George Theofilopoulos
MEKH – Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority (Hungary)	Member	Pál Ságvári; Tamás Vörös
CRU – Commission for Regulation of Utilities (Ireland)	Member	Karen Kavanagh
ARERA – Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment (Italy)	Member	Alessandro Bratti; Andrea Commisso; Massimo Ricci; Giovanni Taglialatela; Maria Teresa Galante; Erika Peroni; Claudia Momicchioli

WSRA – Water Services Regulatory Authority (Kosovo)	Member	Abedin Azizi; Behxhet Bala
PUC – Public Utilities Commission (Latvia)	Member	Dace Codare-Plaude
VERT – National Energy Regulatory Council (Lithuania)	Member	Medeina Augustinaviciene
REWS – Regulator for Energy and Water Services (Malta)	Member	Kyle Zammit; Mark Camilleri
ANRE – National Agency for Energy Regulation (Moldova)	Member	Alina Plești; Daniel Mititelu
REGAGEN – Energy and Water Regulatory Agency (Montenegro)	Member	Miloš Petrović; Marko Sakovic
ERC – Energy Regulatory Commission (North Macedonia)	Member	Shamil Rexhepi; Faton Ambari
ERSAR – Water and Waste Services Regulation Authority (Portugal)	Member	Vera Eiró; David Alves; Teresa Galhardo
ÚRSO – Regulatory Office for Network Industries (Slovakia)	Member	Martin Horvath; Martin Sládkovič
MITECO – Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (Spain)	Observer	Javier Ruza
General Directorate of Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Türkiye)	Observer	Özlem Can
NEURC – National Energy and Utilities Regulatory Commission (Ukraine)	Member	Maryna Kostenko
INBO – International Network of Basin Organizations	Invited guest	Edouard Boinet
WAREG Secretariat	Secretariat	Marco Delpero; Vittorio Graziano; Mariana Portela

Members absent: NIAUR (Northern Ireland), VMM (Belgium – Flanders) and ERSARA (Portugal – Azores Islands).

Draft Minutes

The General Assembly was opened and chaired by Prof. Vera Eiró, President of WAREG.

The following discussions and decisions were recorded, following the agenda points.

1. Welcome and introduction

The President opened the 39th General Assembly, welcomed Members and Observers participating in Rome and online, and thanked ARERA for hosting the meeting.

2. Approval of the 38th GA draft minutes and of the 39th GA agenda

The agenda of the 39th General Assembly was presented for approval at the opening of the meeting.

Following the ARERA institutional presentation, the President confirmed that the quorum was met and presented the draft minutes of the 38th General Assembly, held in Budapest on 17–18 June 2026. The documents had been circulated to Members before the meeting. No objections or requests for amendments were raised.

DECISION GA-39/01: The minutes of the 38th General Assembly and the agenda of the 39th General Assembly were approved.

3. ARERA institutional update

VP Bratti (ARERA) welcomed Members and Observers to Rome and introduced the institutional presentation delivered by Mr Massimo Ricci, Head of ARERA's Environmental Department.

ARERA presented its organisational structure and responsibilities across electricity, gas, water and waste. The presentation explained the organisation of environmental regulation around tariffs, technical quality, contractual quality and sector governance.

The Assembly took note of the presentation.

4. WAREG–INBO Memorandum of Understanding signature and INBO presentation

The President introduced the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between WAREG and the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), previously approved by the 38th General Assembly.

A video message from INBO's Secretary General welcomed the partnership and highlighted the connection between resilient water resources, efficient water services, investment and effective governance.

VP Bratti (ARERA) recalled the objectives of the cooperation, including exchanges on water availability, demand management, water reuse, nature-based solutions, basin information, regulatory indicators, investment planning, financing and affordability.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Prof. Vera Eiró on behalf of WAREG and Mr Edouard Boinet on behalf of INBO.

Mr Boinet then presented INBO's mission and activities in support of integrated water resources management at river basin level. The presentation covered basin governance, water information systems, management planning, sustainable financing, stakeholder participation and international exchanges.

The Assembly took note of the presentation and welcomed the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (already approved in its full formulation by the 38th General Assembly (DECISION GA-38/06).

5. Climate change and water scarcity in Europe: the role of economic regulators in crisis situations

The President introduced an exchange of recent national experiences from Italy, Portugal, Hungary and Greece. The discussion focused on the contribution of economic regulators to crisis preparedness, service continuity, investment and cooperation with other competent authorities.

The Assembly took note of the presentations and discussion. The exchange highlighted regulators' active engagement in crisis management and the contribution they can make to addressing water scarcity and droughts through data, coordination, investment scrutiny and long-term regulatory measures.

6. Tariff Framework Report presentation and next steps

Representatives of WSRA (Kosovo) and ERC (North Macedonia) presented the main findings of the draft Tariff Framework Report. The President thanked the Working Group and the Secretariat for their work in collecting, analysing and updating Members' information.

The presentation covered institutional arrangements and tariff approval powers; regulatory periods and business planning; tariff models and structures; operating costs and efficiency; depreciation and capital expenditure; the regulatory asset base; the cost of capital; demand forecasts and non-revenue water; tariff updates; tariff levels; and affordability.

The findings demonstrated substantial differences in national regulatory approaches, despite shared principles concerning cost recovery, efficiency, investment and consumer protection.

The Working Group highlighted Members' interest in further exchanges on these topics and proposed continuing its activities beyond the publication of the report.

The President clarified that the report was not submitted for approval during the General Assembly. Members would first be given a further opportunity to verify their country-specific information and the underlying data.

The Secretariat outlined the process for incorporating comments, preparing the final report and organising an online approval procedure. The objective was to complete approval by the end of November and publish the report before the December General Assembly.

Members were also invited to provide relevant 2026 tariff information, where available, to allow comparisons with the 2025 data. The President encouraged the development of a regularly updated source of tariff information on the WAREG website.

The Assembly took note of the presentation and the proposed finalisation process.

7. 2025 Balance Sheet

The Secretariat presented the main results of WAREG's 2025 Financial Statements. Total reported income amounted to €344,446, against production costs of approximately €215,500, resulting in a net surplus of €128,692, reported to be carried forward. This represented an improvement compared with the deficit of approximately €73,700 recorded in 2024.

The Assembly took note of the financial information presented. The item was presented for information and did not require approval by the General Assembly.

8. Waste integration in WAREG and Municipal Waste Working Group

The President proposed the formalisation of the WAREG Municipal Waste Working Group. The proposal was submitted to the Assembly and approved.

DECISION GA-39/02: The Assembly approved the formalisation of the Municipal Waste Working Group.

The President then proposed confirming Mr Giovanni Taglialatela (ARERA) as Chair of the Working Group. RAAEY (Greece) put forward its availability to serve as Co-Chair. The Assembly approved both proposals.

DECISION GA-39/03: The Assembly confirmed Mr Giovanni Taglialatela (ARERA) as Chair and RAAEY (Greece) as Co-Chair of the Municipal Waste Working Group.

Mr Taglialatela presented an update on completed and ongoing activities. He recalled the joint workshops organised with the European Commission on economic regulation in the circular economy, municipal waste governance, costs and tariffs, and Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.

The presentation also covered the group's contributions to the Commission's work on the forthcoming Circular Economy Act. Particular attention was given to the role of economic regulation in improving efficiency, reducing costs for citizens, supporting investment and strengthening the transparency and governance of waste management services.

Mr Taglialatela highlighted the opportunities arising from the group's integration into WAREG, including stronger institutional dialogue, exchanges of regulatory practices across sectors and broader Member participation. All interested Members were invited to join the Working Group.

The Assembly took note of the presentation.

9. Update on EU activities and WAREG Working Groups

EU Working Group on Water Scarcity and Droughts

The Secretariat introduced the update on WAREG's participation in the European Commission's Working Group on Water Scarcity and Droughts and thanked the Greek colleagues coordinating the work.

RAAEY presented WAREG's contributions concerning water availability and water efficiency. The presentation emphasised that water availability should be assessed by reference to the users concerned, the relevant period and the required level of reliability. WAREG's contributions addressed environmental requirements, allocation priorities, geographical and seasonal scales, and the distinction between water withdrawals, use and consumption.

Members were invited to join the work, share national regulatory practices and contribute to future consultations. The Secretariat undertook to circulate further information through Communication Officers and support interested Members' participation.

The Assembly took note of the update.

KPIs Working Group

GNERC (Georgia) presented the progress made with BRUGEL (Brussels), PUC (Latvia) and the Secretariat in reviewing previous work and updating the questionnaire.

A meeting with Members was planned for 12 October to present the revised questionnaire. Members would subsequently be invited to provide updated 2026 information.

The proposed timetable envisaged presentation of the first results at the December General Assembly and preparation of the final report during 2027. Members were asked to support the work by completing the questionnaire.

The proposal was put to the Assembly and accepted.

DECISION GA-39/02: The Assembly agreed to the proposed timetable for the KPIs Working Group, including presentation of the updated questionnaire in October, first results at the December 2026 General Assembly and completion of the final report in 2027.

Continuation and planning of Working Group activities

The President proposed maintaining the Tariffs Working Group after completion of its report, to support regular updates and explore a tariff-information dashboard on the WAREG website.

It was proposed that the next General Assembly discuss the future chairing arrangements and broader Member participation in the group.

ERC (North Macedonia) suggested that Working Groups prepare written work plans setting out concrete topics, activities and next steps, to be circulated before the next General Assembly. The President supported this approach and referred to the planned preparation of the Municipal Waste Working Group's work plan.

10. December 2026 Board elections and next General Assembly

The Secretariat presented the arrangements for the renewal of the WAREG Board at the 40th General Assembly, to be held in Brussels on 3–4 December 2026.

The presentation covered the election of the President and Vice-Presidents for a two-year mandate, eligibility requirements, the specific provisions concerning ARERA, and the objective of seeking consensus in accordance with the Internal Rules of Procedure.

The President informed the Assembly that, as her mandate at ERSAR would end during 2027, she would not submit a candidature for a further term as WAREG President. She indicated her intention to stand for a Vice-President position to continue supporting the Association's activities.

The Assembly took note of the presentation and of the President's announcement.

11. Closing

VP Bratti (ARERA) thanked Members for their participation in Rome.

The President thanked ARERA for hosting the General Assembly and the Secretariat for its work in preparing and supporting the meeting. Members were encouraged to participate in the remaining sessions of the One Water Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum and to attend the next General Assembly in Brussels in presence.

The President closed the 39th General Assembly.