



WFER IX



IX World Forum on Energy Regulation (WFER IX)

When Balance is Achieved

Hosted by GNERC

In Tbilisi, Georgia | 21–24 September, 2026

HOSTED BY GNERC

Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC) – an independent national regulatory authority committed to ensuring impartial, fair, and transparent regulation of the energy and water sectors, fostering competitive, reliable, and secure markets while protecting consumer rights.

ORGANIZED UNDER ICER

International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER) – a global platform of energy regulators promoting cooperation, knowledge exchange, and best regulatory practices worldwide

Why to attend?

- Engage with global energy leaders
- Explore cutting-edge regulatory practices
- Network with international stakeholders

DAY 1

Training Day, September 21, 2026

Module 1 09:45 - 11:30

Module 1A The tools for effective regulation

- Dr. ANNEGRET GROEBEL (CEER - BNetzA DE) - moderator
- Dr. IGNACIO PÉREZ ARRIAGA /ALBERTO POTOTSCHNIG (FSR) - instructor
- KATIE SIEBEN (NARUC) - discussant

Module 1B Regulating fuels value chain: from market transparency to energy transition

- ABDULKADIR SHETTIMA (ASR) - moderator
- VITO MATEO (ANPG - AO) - instructor
- ANA LÚCIA COSTA (ERSE - PT) – instructor
- MUSTAFA YILMAZ (TK NRA) – discussant - TBC
- ROCÍO PRIETO (CNMC) – discussant - TBC

Module 1C Electromobility and the regulation of smart charging

- CLARA POLETTI (FSR) - moderator
- LUCA LO SCHIAVO (ERRA) - instructor

Module 2 11:45 - 13:30

Module 2A Just transition: empowering youth and women to transform the energy sector

- Dr. DIANA HERNÁNDEZ (Columbia University) – moderator - TBC
- ILARIA CONTI (FSR) - discussant
- CAROL OFAFA (ASR) - discussant
- NADIA HORSTMANN (CEER/EU4Energy Phase III) -discussant
- ERIN HAMMEL (NARUC) - discussant

Module 2
11:45 - 13:30

Module 2B **Regional energy market integration**

- **Dr. IGNACIO PÉREZ ARRIAGA** (FSR) - instructor
- **NIKOLOZ SUMBADZE** (EU4Energy Phase III) - discussant

Module 2C **Regulatory framework for infrastructure investment and system flexibility**

- **NEVA ESPINOZA** (EPRI) – moderator
- **CLARA POLETTI** (FSR) – instructor
- **RICARDO LOUREIRO** (RELOP) – discussant
- **ABDULKADIR SHETTIMA** (ASR) – discussant

Module 3
14:30 - 16:15

Module 3A **Consumer protection**

- **JHMAL HUDSON** (NARUC) - moderator
- **NATALIE MCCOY** (CEER - ERSE PT)- instructor
- **Dr. ALBERTO POTOTSCHNIG** (FSR) -discussant

Module 3B **Decarbonising non-electrifiable energy demand**

- **ILARIA CONTI** (FSR) - moderator
- **ANN RENDAHL** (NARUC) - instructor
- **Dr. ANNEGRET GROEBEL** (CEER - BNetzA DE) discussant

Module 3C **Regulatory frameworks for system resilience**

- **LUCA LO SCHIAVO** (ERRA) - moderator
- **CLARA POLETTI** (FSR) - instructor
- **TED KURY** (PURC) - instructor
- **TAMMY CORDOVA** (NARUC) - discussant

DAY 2

Tuesday, September 22

08:00-18:00

REGISTRATION

10:00 - 11:00

WELCOME COFFEE

11:00 - 12:00

OPENING CEREMONY

- The President of Georgia, **Mr. MIKHEIL KAVELASHVILI**;
- The Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, **Mr. SHALVA PAPUASHVILI**;
- Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia - **Ms. MARIAM KVRIVISHVILI**;
- Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission, Chairman - **Mr. DAVIT NARMANIA**;
- ICER Chair - **Mr. DAVID MORTON**.

12:00-13:30

PLENARY 1

Global perspectives from regulators, multilateral organizations, and utilities

Moderator: **Dr. ANNEGRET GROEBEL**, CEER, President

Speakers:

- **Dr. MARSHA ATHERLEY-IKECHI**, OOCUR, Executive Director;
- **ANN RENDAHL**, NARUC, President;
- **Dr. KONSTANTINOS TSIMARAS**, Regulatory Authority for Energy, Waste and Water (RAAEY), President;
- **PAULO DA GRAÇA**, RELOP, President.

13:30-14:30

LUNCH BREAK

14:30-16:00

CONCURRENT SESSION 1A:

Just Transition: Ensuring Equity and Inclusion in Energy Reform

Moderator: **Dr. IGNACIO PÉREZ ARRIAGA**, Florence School of Regulation, Professor and Director of Training

Speakers:

- **ANNA COLLYER**, AEMC, Chair;
- **DANIEL KIPTOO BARGORIA**, RAERESA, Chair;
- **PETRIT AHMETI**, ERE, Chair;
- **SANDOVAL FEITOSA**, ARIAE, Director General

14:30-16:00

CONCURRENT SESSION 1B:

Independent regulators as key decision makers of the energy transition

Moderator: **NADIA HORSTMANN**, BNETZA, Head of Section

Speakers:

- **KATHARINA LEDERMANN-TAPPEINER**, Austrian Energy Regulator (E-Control), Senior Policy Officer;
- **KATIE SIEBEN**, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Chair;
- **HIROMICHI TANOUE**, Electricity and Gas Market Surveillance Commission (EGC), Japan, Director of Policy Planning and Coordination Division;
- ARIAE Representative

14:30-16:00

CONCURRENT SESSION 1C:

Best Practices in Consumer Protection

Moderator: **Dr. DAIYA ISOGAWA**, Graduate School of Economics Osaka Metropolitan University, Japan, Professor

Speakers:

- **GIORGI PANGANI**, GNERC, Commissioner;
- **ISABEL APOLINÁRIO**, ERSE, Member of the Board;
- **ANDRÉS ASTACIO**, ARIAE, President;
- **DONN FOGGO**, Regulatory Authority of Bermuda, Director of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement.

16:00-16:30

COFFEE BREAK

16:30-18:00

CONCURRENT SESSION 2A

Regional Energy Integration – Vision and Barriers (Regional cooperation among regulatory authorities)

Moderator: **ALEXANDRE OKOUNI D'OMENILTH**, RegualE, Vice-Chair

Speakers:

- **JUDY CHANG**, FERC, Commissioner;

- **PAULO CARMONA**, Directorate for Energy and Geology of Portugal;
- **DAN SCRIPPS**, Michigan Public Service Commission, Chair;
- **CSILLA BARTOK**, ACER, head of Department.

16:30-18:00

CONCURRENT SESSION 2B

Network reliability in a world of increasing climate change

Moderator: **DAVID MORTON**, ICER chair

Speakers:

- **EVANGELIA GAZI**, RAAEY, Senior Scientist;
- **MOHAMMAD AL MAYAAH**, EMRC Commissioner, MEDREG Vice- President;
- **PIERRE-OLIVIER PINEAU**, HEC Montreal, Chair in Energy Sector Management ;
- **JIM ROBB**, NERC, President.

16:30-18:00

CONCURRENT SESSION 2C

The impact of AI on energy systems

Moderator: **CAROLYN CALWELL**, OEB, CEO

Speakers:

- **JONATHAN THURLWELL**, OFGEM, Head of Emerging Technologies;
- **HIROMICHI TANOUE**, EGC, Director of Policy Planning and Coordination Division;
- **VICTORIA MOLLARD**, AEMC, Executive General Manager;
- **LINDSAY SEE**, FERC, Commissioner.

DAY 3

Wednesday, September 23

08:00- 18:00

REGISTRATION

09:00-10:30

PLENARY 2

Creating competitive energy markets by incentive regulation

Moderator: **COLETTE D. HONORABLE**, Exelon Corporation, Executive Vice President

Speakers:

- **Dr. DAVIT NARMANIA**, GNERC Chairman, WFER Chair;
- **ANNA COLLYER**, AEMC, Chair;
- **AKIHIKO YOKOYAMA**, Electricity and Gas Market Surveillance Commission (EGC), Japan, Chair;
- **LINDSAY SEE**, FERC .

10:30-11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:30-13:00

CONCURRENT SESSION 3A:

Energy transition, grid investments and network tariffs

Moderator: **DIETMAR PREINSTORFER**, Austrian Energy Regulator (E-Control), Director of International Relations

Speakers:

- **GIVI SANIKIDZE**, GNERC, Commissioner;
- **LUCA LO SCHIAVO**, ERA, Senior Regulatory Specialist;
- **Dr. DAIYA ISOGAWA**, Graduate School of Economics Osaka Metropolitan University, Japan, Professor;
- **CHERYL LEWIS**, Office of Utilities Regulation, Deputy Director-General.

11:30-13:00

CONCURRENT SESSION 3B:

Designing energy systems for the future

Moderator: **Dr. MARSHA ATHERLEY-IKECHI**, OOCUR, Executive director

Speakers:

- **MIKHEIL ODISHARIA**, ERA, Regulatory Expert ;
- **MIRIAM VERA CRUZ**, Luxembourg Development Agency, Chief Technical Advisor for Energy Transition ;
- **Professor ÍÑIGO DEL GUAYO**, International Bar Association;
- **Mr. NIGEL BURGESS**, Regulatory Authority of Bermuda, Director of Energy.

11:30-13:00

CONCURRENT SESSION 3C:

Regulatory incentives to attract energy transition investments

13:00-14:00

LUNCH

14:00-15:30

CONCURRENT SESSION 4A:

Consumer Empowerment & Energy Poverty Mitigation

Moderator: **SORAYA AZIZ**, RegulaE, 2nd Vice Chair

Speakers:

- **NATALIE MCCOY**, CEER, Co-Chair of Customers and Retail Markets Working Group, ACER, Retail Markets Working Group, ERSE, Head of International Relations Office
- **Dr. DIANA HERNANDEZ**, Columbia University;
- **ELENA MARKOVA VELINOVA**, ERC, Commissioner;
- **ROCIO PRIETO**, ARIAE, Secretary.

14:00-15:30

CONCURRENT SESSION 4B:

Delivering effective regulation

Moderator: **CLAIRE HELLICH-PRAQUIN**, CRE, Director of European and International Affairs

Speakers:

- **PEDRO VERDELHO**, ERSE, President;
- **LUIS FERNEY MORENO CASTILLO**, ASIDE, Founding President ;
- **DANIEL KIPTOO BARGORIA**, RAERESA, Chair;
- **Dr. ANNEGRET GROEBEL**, CEER, President.

14:00-15:30

CONCURRENT SESSION 4C:

Regulators financial revenues to ensure their independence of all market stakeholders

Moderator: **HASAN OZKOC**, MEDREG, Director

Speakers:

- **DAVID TVALABEISHVILI**, GNERC, Commissioner ;
- **Dr. GEORGE LOIZOS**, Regulatory Authority for Energy, Waste and Water (RAAEY), Greece, Board Member;
- **CARLOS RAMOS**, ARME, Board member.

15:45 –17:45

ICER MEETING

19:00-23:00

CULTURAL EVENT + GALA DINNER

- Pickup at 18:00 from the Venue

DAY 4

Thursday, September 24

08:00-18:00

REGISTRATION

10:00-11:30

PLENARY 3

Technology as a Driver of Energy Transformation

Moderator: **ALDA OZOLA**, PUC, Chair;

Speakers:

- **ANDRIJANA NELKOVA-CHUCHUK**, ERRA, Chair;
- **EMMANUELLE WARGON**, ACER, Chair of Board of Regulators;
- **MÁRCIO ALCANTARA**, ANEEL, Coordinator ;
- **FRANÇOIS ÉMOND**, Regie de l'énergie, Commissioner.

11:30-12:00

COFFEE BREAK

12:00-13:00

ICER AWARD

13:00-14:00

LUNCH BREAK

14:00-15:30

CONCURRENT SESSION 5A:

Energy Storage & Grid Flexibility- The role of green hydrogen in the energy transition.

Moderator: **FRANCISCO SALAZAR**, ICER, Coordinator

Speakers:

- **ARDIAN BERISHA**, Optima Energy Consulting, Regulatory Reform Specialist;
- **ANDREJ JURIS**, Energy Community, Head of ECRB Unit.

14:00-15:30

CONCURRENT SESSION 5B:

The role of decentralized generation in promoting energy security, access to energy, and consumers empowerment

Moderator: **AILINE CONCEIÇÃO**, ARME, Director of the Electric, Water and Sanitation Department

Speakers:

- **SORINA MORTADA**, Lebanese Electricity Regulator, Board Member;
- **MARKUS KRUG**, Austrian Energy Regulator (E-Control), Deputy Director Gas and Hydrogen;
- **RICARDO LOUREIRO**, ERSE, Board member;
- **LAURA NHANCALE**, ARENE, Advisor.

14:00-15:30

CONCURRENT SESSION 5C:

Cybersecurity and Resilience in Energy Infrastructure

Moderator: **DAVID MORTON**, ICER Chair

Speakers:

- **ANNA COLLYER**, AEMC, Chair;
- **JIM ROBB**, NERC, President;
- **NUNO MEDEIROS**, E-REDES, Senior Director;
- **Dr. BARBARA OHUABUNWA**, TIBA Research, Co-founder.

14:00-15:30

CONCURRENT SESSION 5D:

Next generation of consumer growth

Speakers:

- **VICTORIA MOLLARD**, AEMC, Executive General Manager;
- **LUCA LO SCHIAVO**, ERRA, Senior Regulatory Specialist;
- **SITI SAFINAH SALLEH**, Malaysian Regulator, Chief Executive Officer;
- **JUDY CHANG**, FERC, Commissioner.

15:30-16:30

COFFEE BREAK

16:30-17:00

CLOSING CEREMONY

17:00-18:00

FAREWELL

WFER IX Speakers and Moderators



ANN RENDAHL

National Association of Regulatory
Utility Commissioners (NARUC),
President



Dr. ANNEGRET GROEBEL

Council of European Energy
regulators (CEER), President



Dr. KONSTANTINOS TSIMARAS
Regulatory Authority for Energy,
Waste and Water (RAAEY), Greece,
President



Dr. MARSHA ATHERLEY-IKECHI
Organisation of Caribbean Utility
Regulators (OOCUR),
Executive Director



DAVID MORTON

International Confederation of
Energy Regulators (ICER), Chair



Dr. DAVIT NARMANIA

Georgian National Energy and Water
Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC),
Chairman



ANNA COLLYER

Australian Energy Market
Commission (AEMC), Chair



AKIHIKO YOKOYAMA

Electricity and Gas Market Surveillance
Commission (EGC), Japan, Chairman

WFER IX Speakers and Moderators



LINDSAY S. SEE

Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission, Commissioner



ALDA OZOLA

Public Utilities Commission of Latvia,
Chair



ANDRIJANA NELKOVA-CHUCHUK

Energy Regulators Regional
Association (ERRA), Chair



EMMANUELLE WARGON

Agency for Cooperation of
Energy Regulators, Chair of the
Board of Regulators



FRANÇOIS ÉMOND

Energy Regulatory Authority
of Quebec (Regie de l'ener-
gie), Commissioner



Dr. MÁRCIO VENÍCIO PILAR ALCÂNTARA

Brazilian Electricity Regulatory Agency
(ANEEL), Coordinator



COLETTE D. HONORABLE

Exelon Corporation, Executive Vice
President



PETRIT AHMETI

Energy Regulatory Authority
(ERE), Chairman of the Board of
Commissioners

WFER IX Speakers and Moderators



HIROMICHI TANOUE

Policy Planning and Coordination
Division, Electricity and Gas Market
Surveillance Commission (EGC), Japan,
Director



KATHARINA LEDERMANN-TAPPEINER

Austrian Energy Regulator (E-Control),
Senior Policy Officer



KATIE SIEBEN

Minnesota Public Utilities
Commission, Chair



NADIA HORSTMANN

German Regulatory Authority for
Electricity, Gas, Telecommunica-
tions, Post and Railway (BNETZA),
Head of Section



ANDRÉS ASTACIO

Ibero-American Association
of Energy Regulatory Entities
(ARIAE), President



DAIYA ISOGAWA

Graduate School of Economics Osaka
Metropolitan University, Japan, Professor



DONN FOGGO

The Regulatory Authority of Ber-
muda, Director of Communica-
tions & Stakeholder Engagement



GIORGI PANGANI

Georgian National Energy and Water
Supply Regulatory Commission (GN-
ERC), Commissioner

WFER IX Speakers and Moderators



ISABEL APOLINÁRIO

Portugal's Energy Services
Regulatory Authority (ERSE),
Member of the Board



JUDY CHANG

Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission (FERC), Commissioner



CSILLA BARTÓK

Agency for Cooperation of Energy
Regulators (ACER), Gas Markets &
Energy Retail Team Leader



DAN SCRIPPS

MI Public Service
Commission, Chair



PAULO CARMONA

Directorate General for Energy and Geology of Portugal,
General Director



DANIEL KIPTOO BARGORIA

Kenya's Energy and Petroleum
Regulatory Authority (EPRA),
Director General



EVANGELIA GAZI

Regulatory Authority for Energy, Waste
and Water (RAAEY), Greece,
Senior Scientist



JAMES B. ROBB

North American Electric Reliability
Corporation (NERC), President and
Chief Executive Officer

WFER IX Speakers and Moderators



MOHAMMAD MAAYAH

Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission of Jordan (EMRC), Energy Affairs Commissioner



PIERRE-OLIVER PINEAU

HEC Montreal, Professor, Chair in Energy Sector Management



JONATHAN THURLWELL

Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), Head of Emerging Technologies



CAROLYN CALWELL

Ontario Energy Board (OEB), Chief Executive Officer



VICTORIA MOLLARD

Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC), Executive General Manager



Dr. IGNACIO J. PÉREZ-ARRIAGA

Florence School of Regulation, Professor and Director of Training



GIVI SANIKIDZE

Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC), Commissioner



LUCA LO SCHIAVO

Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA), Senior Regulatory Specialist

WFER IX Speakers and Moderators



IÑIGO DEL GUAYO

University of Almería,
Professor



MIKHEIL ODISHARIA

Energy Regulators Regional
Association (ERRA), Regulatory Expert



MIRIAM VERA-CRUZ

Luxembourg Development Agency,
Chief Technical Advisor for Energy
Transition



NIGEL BURGESS

Regulatory Authority of Bermuda,
Director of Energy



WILLIAM VILLALOBOS

Core Alliance,
Chief Executive Officer



DIANA HERNÁNDEZ

Harvard University, Climate Justice
Fellow. Columbia University,
Associate Professor



ELENA MARKOVA-VELINOVA

Energy, Water Services and Municipal
Waste Services Management Regulator
Commission of the Republic of North
Macedonia (ERC North Macedonia),
Commissioner



NATALIE MCCOY

CEER Customers and Retail Markets
Working Group and ACER Retail Markets
Working Group, Co-Chair
Entidade Reguladora dos Serviços
Energéticos, Portugal (ERSE), Head of
International Relations Office

WFER IX Speakers and Moderators



LUIS FERNEY MORENO

Ibero-American Association of Energy Law (ASIDE), Founding President



PEDRO VERDELHO

ERSE – Portugal’s Energy Services Regulatory Authority, President of the Board



DAVID TVALABEISHVILI

Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC), Commissioner



HASAN OZKOC

Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG), Director



ARDIAN BERISHA

Optima Energy Consulting, Regulatory Reform Specialist



AILINE CONCEIÇÃO

Multisectoral Regulatory Agency of the Economy (ARME) (Cape Verde), Director of the Electricity, Water and Sanitation Department



Dr. GEORGE LOIZOS

Regulatory Authority for Energy, Waste and Water (RAAEY), Greece, Member of the Board



LAURA NHANCALE

Board of Directors of ARENE, Advisor to the Chairman

WFER IX Speakers and Moderators



MARKUS KRUG

Austrian regulatory authority (E-Control), Deputy Director Gas and Hydrogen



RICARDO LOUREIRO

Portugal's Energy Services Regulatory Authority (ERSE), Board Member



SORINA MORTADA

Ph.D, Electricity Regulatory Authority of Lebanon, Board member



Dr. BARBARA OHUABUNWA

TIBA Research, Co-founder



NUNO MEDEIROS

Mission Critical of E-REDES, Senior Director



SANDOVAL FEITOSA

ANEEL (Agência Nacional de Energia Elétrica, Brazilian Electricity Regulatory Agency), Director General



PAOLO DE GRACA

RELOP, President



DIETMAR PREINSTORFER

Austrian Energy Regulator (E-Control), Director of International Relations

WFER IX Speakers and Moderators



SITI SAFINAH BINTI SALLEH

Energy Commission,
Chief Executive Officer



FRANCISCO SALAZAR

ICER, Coordinator



CHERYL LEWIS

Legal & Consumer and Public Affairs
Office of Utilities Regulation Deputy
Director-General,



CLAIRE HELLICH-PRAQUIN

CEER, Council of European
Energy Regulators



Alexandre OKOUNI D'OMENILTH

RegulaE, Vice-Chair



SORAYA AZIZ

RegulaE, Chair



ANDREJ JURIS

Energy Community,
Head of ECRB Unit

WFER IX Registration

Please, register at: <https://www.wfertbilisi2026.com/en/login>

WFER IX registration deadlines and fees:

Participation Fee	Early Bird 21.09.2025-21.04.2026	Regular 22.04.2026-22.08.2026	Late 23.08.2026-on site
Commissioners, Commission Staff/ Government Officials/ Regional association representatives	800 €	1000 €	1300 €
Subcategory: additional delegate (up to 2 persons)	250 €	300 €	350 €
Industry	1000 €	1200 €	1500 €
NGO/ academia	1000 €	1200 €	1500 €
Subcategory: additional delegate (up to 2 persons)	250 €	300 €	350 €

TRAVELLING TO GEORGIA

Georgia:

Georgia is located on the eastern shores of the Black Sea, along the southern slopes of the Greater Caucasus Mountains. It has historically served as a crossroads between Europe and Asia, shaped by the ancient Silk Road and diverse cultural influences.

Visa Requirements:

Depending on the purpose of your travel to Georgia, different categories of visas apply to the occasion. Citizens of most countries do not require a visa—only an updated passport with at least six months of validity upon entering the country.

Please check whether you need a visa to visit Georgia using the following link:

<https://geoconsul.gov.ge/en/entering-georgia>

Venue, Accommodation:

The event will take place at Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace, located in the city center of Tbilisi.

Accommodation options, including special rates for participants, are available at the venue hotel.

