

**PRESS
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ECOWAS ENERGY EXPERTS TO MEET IN DAKAR ON ELECTRICITY REGULATORY ISSUES

Energy experts from ECOWAS Member States will, from 24th to 26th July 2013, meet in Dakar to agree modalities on the methods for calculation and payment of regulatory fee, as well as its related regulatory text.

Specifically, the Dakar meeting is being organized in compliance with a 24th May 2013 directive by regional Ministers of Energy that the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulation Authority (ERERA), with support from the ECOWAS Commission, to find a consensus and finalize a draft regulation which lays down the rules for the determination and annual payment of royalties for regional cross-border electricity exchanges.

The draft resolution was first considered at a meeting of ERERA's Consultative Committees on Regulators and Operators in May 2013 in Lome, Togo. The committee comprises representatives of regulatory authorities in Member States, as well as electricity companies in the region.

These meetings are part of ECOWAS efforts to fine-tune its regulatory mechanisms, including issues relating to harmonization of policies and practices, in order to create an attractive environment for investors and boost the development of cross-border electricity exchanges in West Africa.

The regulatory system is also expected to serve as a guarantee for the implementation, monitoring and control of cross-border exchanges, in realization of some of the main objectives for which ERERA was set up in 2008.

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