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ERERA, KfW HOLD TALKS ON 330KV GHANA-COTE D'IVOIRE INTERCONNECTION LINE

The ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA) and the German Development Bank (KfW) on Wednesday, 10th September 2014 at the ERERA headquarters in Accra, Ghana held talks on the regulatory implications for the 330kv interconnection line between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

The KfW delegation was on an appraisal mission in Ghana in connection with the project, which is under the auspices of the Secretariat of the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) and the Ghana Grid Company (GRIDCo).

Expected to cost some 135 million Euros, the project is to reinforce the electricity programme in West Africa. According to the KfW delegation, the agreement for the project could be signed by the end of 2014.

The delegation's visit was to discuss regional regulatory issues as they relate to interconnection projects and the electricity sector in general in the region. Of key interest was how the regional regulatory framework would impact on the Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire project, especially with regards to pricing and contractual arrangements.

Members of the delegation were Messrs Andre Collin, KfW's Senior Project Manager in charge of Sub-Saharan Africa, Frank Hoffmann, the bank's Senior Technical Expert on Energy as well as Michael Oppong-Adjei who is the Local Coordinator of the KfW.

While welcoming the delegation, ERERA's Regulatory Council Members, Mrs. Ifey Ikeonu and Mr. Alagi Basiru Gaye, in charge of legal and economic affairs, respectively, briefly presented ERERA's mandate.

They stressed ERERA's function as a regulatory authority to approve technical rules for the functioning of, and access to West Africa's power transmission network, as well as cross-border power pooling. They also explained ERERA's role in overseeing the application and respect of technical rules for the management and planning of the development of the regional market through determining the transmission service tariff methodology.

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The Council Members outlined the activities so far undertaken by ERETA towards establishing the regional electricity market and the subsequent Directives on the Regional Electricity Market. More specifically, they highlighted the role played by ERETA in facilitating the Ghana-Burkina Faso interconnection project by assisting in the development of a contractual and commercial framework for the interconnection.

In addition, they elaborated on the proposed tariff methodology arising out of the regulatory study carried out by ERETA and the steps being taken by ERETA to conclude and implement the methodology.