

Greece electricity regulations

ICLG - Renewable Energy Laws and Regulations - Greece Chapter covers common issues in renewable energy laws and regulations - including the renewable energy market, sale of renewable energy and financial incentives, consents and permits, and storage.

The Hellenic Republic has adopted a National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP or ESEK, as per its Greek acronym), which constitutes a Strategic Plan for the Greek Government on climate and energy issues and presents a detailed roadmap for the achievement of specific energy and climate goals by 2030.

The NECP was adopted in the context of the Hellenic Republic's compliance with the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 2018/1999, aiming to ensure the achievement of the objectives and targets of the European Union for 2030 and the long-term (net-zero greenhouse gas emissions within the European Union by 2050) in accordance with the 2015 Paris Agreement.

In relation to the increase of the use of renewable energy sources (RES) in energy consumption, the NECP has set ambitious targets concerning the use of RES in gross final energy consumption (30%), in gross final electricity consumption (55%), in heating and cooling needs (30%) and in the transport sector (14%).

Following the REPowerEU Plan and the ongoing Energy Market disruption, the NECP is under revision and consultation between the Hellenic State and the European Commission, aiming to achieve and further accelerate the complete dependence on fossil fuels.

In relation to the above, the Hellenic Republic has recently adopted the first "National Climate Law" (Law 4936/2022), which establishes measures and policies to adapt the country to climate change and ensure the path of decarbonisation by the year 2050 and, among others, prohibits the production of electricity from solid fossil fuels from 31 December 2028.

On a de lege lata basis, Law 3468/2006 contains a definition of "renewable energy", which refers to energy from renewable non-fossil sources, namely wind, solar, geothermal, and environmental energy, tide, wave and other miscellaneous ocean energy forms, biomass, hydropower, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas and biogases.

Greece has integrated all energy market liberalisation packages, in accordance with EU rules.

Particularly, RAE is an independent administrative authority and member of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), empowered, among others, to monitor the licensing procedure of RES projects, operate all sectors of the Energy Market, provide advice to the competent state bodies, and adopt regulatory measures towards the full liberalisation of the electricity and Natural Gas Markets.

The following entities also play an important role in the licensing process for RES projects, although they are not formally market regulators:

There is no renewables company in which the Greek State participates directly or that is owned directly by the Greek State.

The electricity production from renewable sources in Greece is a fully liberalised market and there are no legal and real entrance barriers to the relevant market. Due to the extensive intensity of RES projects either under development or construction, the RES market is highly fragmented.

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