

## Skopje energy independence

Even before the new government was officially voted in on June 23rd, it was clear that energy would be one of its key focuses. Newly elected PM Mickoski comes from the energy sector. From 2016 to 2017, he was the director of Power Plants of Macedonia, the state-owned electricity-producing company. From 2015 to 2017, he served as the energy advisor to prime ministers Nikola Gruevski and Emil Dimitriev. Previously, he was also involved in several businesses in the energy sector. Given his background, it was unsurprising that his first step was to propose a new government structure, including the creation of a new Ministry for Energy, Mining, and Mineral Resources.[1]

Mickoski announces a wind farm worth 450 million euros

Amendments to the Energy Law

Criticisms of the New Government's Energy Policies

The new government's energy policies have sparked significant debate, with stakeholders voicing concerns over the direction of these policies. Prime Minister Mickoski's background in the energy sector and the rapid creation of a new Ministry for Energy, Mining, and Mineral Resources have raised suspicions about the influence of private and party interests in strategic planning. Criticisms also focus on the potential risks of non-transparent governance and the reintroduction of controversial mining projects previously rejected by citizens. The emphasis on private investment and foreign partnerships, as seen with the proposed wind farm and gas projects, contrasts with experts' calls for substantial state investment in renewable energy and domestic production facilities.

The energy sector in Macedonia has been neglected for decades, with no significant energy capacities built. In over 30 years of independence, the state has developed only 140-150 megawatts, with all other developments coming from private investments. The country remains import-dependent, spending millions of euros on electricity imports. The energy sector, crucial for economic growth, houses some of the largest and most profitable companies. Experts stress the urgent need to invest in domestic electricity production and halt the sector's degradation, as increased production and efficiency will boost the nation's economic development.

[1] Why did Mickoski not mention his stakes in private companies in his biography? [Zoshto Mickoski vo biografijata ne gi navel udelite vo privatni kompanii?], published on 04.07.2024, available at

<https://fokus.mk/zoshto-mitskoski-vo-biografijata-ne-gi-navel-udelite-vo-privatni-kompanii/> accessed on 05.07.2024

[2] Mickoski: Maybe we are small, but we are very important in this part of the world not only in terms of electricity and cross-border transactions,

[Miczkoski: Mozhebi sme mali, no sme mnogu vazhni vo ovoj del od svetot ne samo od aspekt na strujata i prekugranichnite transakczii], published on 11.06.2024, available at

<https://biznisvesti.mk/mitskoski-mozhebi-sme-mali-no-sme-mnogu-vazhni-vo-ovoj-del-od-svetot-ne-samo-od-aspekt-na-strujata-i-prekugranichnite-transaktsii/>, accessed on 05.07.2024

[3] Energy efficiency will be a priority for the future government, Mickoski emphasized. [Energetskata efikasnost k`e bide prioritet na idnata Vlada, istakna Miczkoski], published on 11.06.2024, available at

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