

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Transposition of the RED into National Legislation Update 2011

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Bio-Fuels

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Report Highlights:

Greece has not yet implemented the EU's Renewable Energy Directive (RED) 2009/28/EC. The Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change established a Working Group to draft implementing regulations.

Introduction

Renewable energy is crucial to any move towards a low carbon economy. It is also a key component of the EU-27 energy strategy, developing a diverse range of mostly indigenous energy resources.

EU renewable energy policy is relatively young, having started with the adoption of the 1997 White Paper. It has been driven by the need to de-carbonise the energy sector and address growing dependency on fossil fuel imports from politically unstable regions outside the EU. Over that period, the focus has shifted from the promotion of renewable energy through indicative targets for the electricity and transport sectors to the definition of legally binding targets supported by a comprehensive legislative framework, and most recently, by a reorientation of European energy infrastructure policy that facilitates renewable energy growth.

The new “Renewable Energy Directive”

The RED Directive (2009/28/EC of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC) provides a strong and stable regulatory framework for the development of the renewable energy in Europe.

The RED Directive promotes the use of renewable sources for electricity generation and sets a target for energy from renewables of 20 percent of total energy consumption across the EU by 2020, including a further target of 10 percent for energy from renewable sources for each Member State’s transport energy consumption.

Under Article 4 of the RED Directive, each Member State has been required to submit a National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) setting national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be used to meet demands for transport, electricity, heating and cooling in 2020.

Greek transposition of the new “Renewable Energy Directive”

Greek Law 3851/2010 (OG A/85/4th June 2010) “Accelerating the Development of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) to deal with climate change and other regulations in topics under the authority of the Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change”, sets the Greek Renewable Energy Action Plan in the scope of Directive 2009/28/EC.

Specifically, Law 3851/2010 sets specific targets for RES electricity share (40 percent), RES heating and cooling share (20 percent), and RES transport share (10 percent) in order to achieve the national target of 20 percent contribution of the energy produced from RES to the gross final energy consumption.

According to the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (3851/2010), the penetration of biofuels

to meet the 20-20-20 target in the transport sector will be achieved through a combination of regulatory actions targeted to promote both the use of more energy-efficient vehicles and the consumption of biofuels in substitution of fossil transport fuels. Emphasis will be put on the domestic production of the required amounts of biodiesel, on the exploitation of the local biomass potential with the cultivation of energy crops for biofuels and on the development of the necessary supply chains in order to assure a significant contribution of the domestic agricultural production.

This target will be achieved through a combination of measures for energy efficiency and for the large penetration of RES technologies in electricity production, heat supply and transport sector.

Thus far, Greece has not yet implemented the RED Directive. The Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change established a Working Group to draft implementing regulations.