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Newsflash

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Law No. 5299/2026 (Government Gazette A'67/5.5.2026) – New legal framework for Renewable Energy Sources (RES), the energy market, and other urban planning, environmental, and organisational legal provisions

The new law is based on the following key pillars:

- a)** transposition of Directive (EU) 2023/2413 on the promotion of energy from RES
- b)** provisions to enhance the utilization of renewable energy sources, strengthen the framework for self-consumption and promote energy efficiency
- c)** urban planning legal provisions
- d)** forest and environmental legal provisions, and
- e)** legal provisions on organisational and administrative matters falling within the remit of the Ministry of Environment and Energy, its supervised entities and the Regulatory Authority for Waste, Energy and Water (RAAEY).

In particular, the most important legal provisions of the new law are summarized as follows:

Transposition of Directive (EU) 2023/2413 and national RES targets

With the new law, Directive (EU) 2023/2413 is transposed into national law, introducing legal provisions to increase the share of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) by 2030, accelerating their licensing and reducing dependence on fossil fuels and emissions in key energy-consuming sectors.

In this context, the national RES targets are revised, and the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) is updated, in line with the increase of the EU's collective target for the share of energy from RES in the gross final energy consumption of the European Union from 32% to 42.5% by 2030.

Acceleration Areas and licensing of RES projects

Acceleration Areas for Renewable Energy Sources are established by ministerial decision of the Minister of Environment and Energy (YPEN), as a subset of the areas required for the development of photovoltaic and onshore wind power stations, outside protected areas, following the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment.

RES projects located within the above areas are exempted from the procedures of environmental permitting and specific ecological assessment, following a review and a duly reasoned - and substantiated by evidence - decision of the competent environmental authority.

Additionally, for the above projects, accelerated licensing procedures are introduced, mainly through shorter deadlines for: **i.** the issuance of a Producer's License or a Producer's Certificate / Special Certificate, **ii.** the granting of a Final Connection Offer, **iii.** the conclusion of a Connection Agreement, **iv.** the issuance of an Installation License, **v.** the conclusion of an Operational Support Agreement or the issuance of a Certificate of Direct Market Participation by DAPEEP, as well as for the maximum possible durations of the licensing procedures.

Technical specifications and pilot RES projects, including offshore wind farms

A unified legal framework is introduced for: **i.** the technical specifications for the equipment of RES projects, and **ii.** the pilot operation of innovative RES pilot projects using RES technologies.

Energy market, Guarantees of Origin and PPAs

With the new law, the participation of small or mobile systems, such as household batteries and electric vehicles, in the electricity market and the balancing market (in the context of developing flexibility services) is strengthened. The legal framework for Guarantees of

Origin is reformed with the inclusion of renewable gaseous fuels of non-biological origin, and a legal framework is introduced for the assessment, by the Ministry of Environment and Energy, of the regulatory and administrative barriers to PPAs, taking into consideration studies by European and international organizations, as well as studies, reports and data available to the Ministry, with a view to further promoting PPAs.

Self-consumption and Energy Efficiency

The law introduces legal provisions on self-consumption, the most important of which are the participation of *Land Reclamation Organizations* in Energy Communities and the establishment of an Electronic Register of Energy Self-Consumers.

It also provides for the possibility of making available renewable fuels and low-carbon fuels within the Greek territory, as well as for the transport of petroleum products.

Promotion of Offshore Wind Farms (OWFs)

The law also includes a special chapter dedicated to the promotion of Offshore Wind Farms (OWFs). Through this chapter, provisions of Law 4964/2022 are amended with the aim of accelerating and ensuring the implementation of the strategy of Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company (HEREMA) for the centralised collection of data through the establishment of a special purpose company, which is necessary for the maturation of OWFs areas and the safeguarding of investment interest.

The establishment of this company, together with the issuance of three related ministerial decisions (i.e. **i.** on the company and access to secondary data, **ii.** on the reservation of grid capacity for these projects and **iii.** on the legal framework for the first competitive procedure), constitutes a milestone under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) that must be fulfilled without delay.

Urban planning legal provisions

Targeted urban planning provisions are introduced, including **i.** the extension of the exceptions from the suspension of construction works on Mount Hymettus, **ii.** the extension of the deadline for the preparation of urban resilience plans, and **iii.** the extension of the deadline for submitting applications for the re-issuance of building permits falling under the environmental equivalent regime.

Forest legal provisions

Legal provisions are established to facilitate real estate transactions, such as **i.** the attachment of decisions of Objection Examination Committees and decisions approving the revision of forest maps, and **ii.** the

extension of deadlines for the regularization and licensing of existing activities and installations falling under forest legislation.

Environmental legal provisions

Permitted land uses are established in protected Natura 2000 areas.

Specifically, a legal provision is added for the designation of a residential area to be subject to urban planning through a Local or Special Urban Plan within zones of sustainable natural resources management.

Other legal provisions to accelerate the energy transition

Rules are established for the publication and easier exchange of data by the Transmission System Operator (IPTO) and the Distribution System Operator (HEDNO) regarding the share of energy from RES.

The rules on verifying compliance with sustainability criteria and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions are further strengthened, in accordance with the relevant EU Directive.

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