



IENE Conference on “Green Liquid Fuels of the Future”

Address by the Minister of Environment and Energy, HE Mr. Konstantinos Skrekas

Main Message: Green Fuels in the Greek Energy Transition are a Catalyst for achieving the goal of Climate neutrality by 2050.

- Greece was **one of the first EU member states** that supported the European Commission’s ambition to raise the **EU 2030 climate target to 55%** and to set a **climate neutrality objective for 2050**. We have also set the very ambitious target of **phasing out coal** in electricity production by 2028, already much sooner than other European economies. By 2023 all of our older coal-fired Power Plants will be decommissioned.
- Our **NECP** has been evaluated by the European Commission as sufficient and satisfactory, corresponding to the ambition the EU is looking for from the national governments. We have also already presented a **Long-Term Strategy** on how the country can contribute to achieving climate neutrality by 2050. The required scenarios will be further discussed and processed in the future, to select the appropriate policy measures and technologies to meet this goal.
- Our objective is to now flesh out this ambition in a way that leaves **no part of the society behind**, improves the **competitiveness** of the economy and of businesses, creates **new jobs** and strengthens the **role of consumers, while improving the flexibility, resilience and security of our energy system**.
- For this reason, we seek to examine different solutions for different sectors, recognizing that there is **no one-size-fits-all solution**. For instance, in order to achieve a renewable energy share of 19% in the transport sector, the NECP relies **both on electrification** and the production of **second-generation biofuels or other advanced fuel** technologies (covering around 8.2% of the RES-T target).
- The Greek NECP puts forward a number of **policy and fiscal measures** for the promotion of alternative fuels in the transport sector, the increase of sustainable fuels production in the country and the strengthening of R&D in new, sustainable, low-carbon fuels that is built around the principle of **complementarity** and **technology-neutrality**. There are several pathways to achieve these goals and none should be excluded as long as they prove their economic competitiveness and long-term sustainability.

- This principle has guided our strategy while participating in several EU legislative initiatives including the European Council Conclusions of December 2020 on Hydrogen, the EU Taxonomy and the ongoing negotiation on the new PCI regulation that will go into effect in 2024.
- Looking towards 2050, our **Long term strategy recognises the need** for the development of **climate neutral hydrocarbons** in order to serve the needs of hard to abate sectors, like **aviation or maritime transportation and industrially intensive sectors such as aluminum production**, along the promotion of electrification, hydrogen-based solutions and energy efficiency measures.
- The success of this green transition towards building a **fair and social decarbonised economy** will depend on the substantial mobilisation of **private and public investment**. The pandemic has indeed taken a toll on European public finances and the investment plans of the private sector, however, we must not lose sight of our goal to address the effects of climate change and build up a sustainable future.
- Our energy and climate planning will be our roadmap for the recovery of the economy in the post pandemic period. **38% of the Recovery and Resilience Fund** will be allocated to measures that will support and accelerate the energy transition, creating the conditions for the development of the innovative technologies that will be necessary in the future.
- The role of the **private sector** is equally crucial. Our goal is to create the conditions that will allow for the private sector to channel its support to all the technologies that can put the country to a firm path towards decarbonisation, leaving no one behind. This means supporting also **transitional technologies**, that have an impact on reducing GHG emissions significantly, particularly in hard to abate sectors, such as for instance the development of sustainable and alternative fuels.
- Likewise, the **resilience of key industrial sectors** is a prerequisite for the realization of the national energy and climate objectives. In the road towards a successful energy transition, we see the Greek industry as **part of the solution** and not part of the problem, we see them as an ally, due to their important role for the economy and the society, but also their **long technological know-how and experience**.
- By June 2021 we expect to have our own Hydrogen Strategy. In December an Experts Committee was established to propose a framework that will support the development of a comprehensive target-specific hydrogen strategy. We are also working to set out an electricity/energy storage national strategy on the basis of technological neutrality and economic competitiveness.
- We therefore recognise the need to design specific support measures in order to **help industry decarbonise**, reducing energy costs and enhancing the competitiveness of the various economic sectors. This is why, in November 2020, **Greece led the initiative of 10 EU member states** that highlighted the importance of the fuel industry in the Energy Transition.
- Greece along with 9 other member-states including Italy, Germany and Poland, supported the continuation of the Refining Forum by the European Commission, an annual forum that brings together EU and national policy makers, representatives from the fuel industry, NGOs and other stakeholders, as the most suitable place to discuss solutions and the policy framework needed to unlock private investments for

the decarbonisation of the fuels industry and its new role in a climate neutral economy.

- I would like to assure you that we will continue down the same path guided by the same principles in order to make sure that the ambitious goals of our energy transition go hand in hand with the competitiveness of our economy and the security of our energy supply.