



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΥΠΟΔΟΜΩΝ & ΜΕΤΑΦΟΡΩΝ
ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟ ΥΦΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΥ

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Συνέδριο Ινστιτούτου Ενέργειας ΝΑ Ευρώπης (ΙΕΝΕ) με θέμα

“Green Liquid Fuels of the Future”

ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΗ ΥΦΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΥ

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,

First, I would like to thank you for the invitation and congratulate you on the excellent organization.

In spite of the difficult conditions that the pandemic has created for all of us, it is really important to have virtual events like this, as they can contribute very substantially to the public debate.

Free movement of people and goods across its internal borders is a fundamental freedom in the single market of the European Union.

As the second-largest area of expenditure for European households, the transport sector contributes 5% to the European GDP and directly employs around 10 million workers.

In addition, mobility is an enabler of our economic and social life and brings many benefits for its users.

However, the cost of this mobility includes, among others, environmental degradation, greenhouse emissions and climate change.

Given the high proportion of total EU greenhouse gas emissions, the EU has set an ambitious target to reduce at least by 55% the greenhouse gas emissions until 2030 and to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, by introducing more ambitious policies to reduce transport's reliance on fossil fuels and in synergy with zero pollution efforts.

In this framework, the «Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy», which has been recently adopted by the Commission, in the light of the European Green Deal, has set three pillars of actions:

- (1) make all transport modes more suitable,
- (2) make sustainable alternatives widely available in a multimodal transport system and
- (3) put in place the right incentives to drive the transition.

When it comes to alternative fuels and the new technologies of liquid fuels, the Green ones, there is no doubt that they can also contribute gradually to improve the air quality and support the decarbonization of the transport sector, since the achievement of the climate goals needs the synergy of multiple actions and measures.

Sustainable renewable and low-carbon fuels must be deployed on a large scale without delay.

Green fuels can and should be used not only in the road transport, but also in the aviation and maritime sectors.

The challenge is huge, but, especially for the aviation sector, severely hit by the pandemic, it is vital, in order to recover and survive, to develop Sustainable Aviation Fuels.

Where do we stand in Greece in this respect?

The Greek Government has set a very ambitious program and has made the “Green Transition” one of its top priorities.

Following the adoption of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), which has set a Road Map for achieving specific targets by the end of 2030 and underlines the priorities of our country for the energy sector and for the climate change for the next decade, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, adopted the first law for the promotion of the electromobility.

In addition, our Ministry, having the responsibility of the national strategy for the deployment of the market of the alternative fuels infrastructure, is now

working on its upgrade, especially concerning the electric recharging infrastructure for passenger cars and vans.

Our Plan sets ambitious, specific goals. More precisely:

- by 2030, 1 out of 3 new vehicles has to be electric.
- at least 19% of the total energy used in the transport sector should derive from renewable sources. From this 19%, around 8% will derive from advanced biofuels.
- it is also recognizing that low-carbon liquid fuels, as they come on the market, will enable to progressively decarbonize the entire car fleet, existing and new vehicles.

Alternative technologies, such as Battery Electric Vehicles or Hydrogen Fuel Cells, will require instead a progressive replacement of the car fleet.

Therefore, low-carbon liquid fuels will, for the foreseeable future, provide a competitive solution, compared to alternative technologies, and reduce pressure and cost of achieving complete fleet turnover to ensure climate neutrality.

Moreover, Greece works closely with the European Commission and other Member States in several European projects:

The «Fuel Price Comparison» project, where the Greek Ministry is acting as Coordinator, is a promotional campaign to compare the price of fuels to encourage citizens to switch to alternative fuel vehicles.

This project is of utmost importance since the adequate consumers' awareness, in order to end the current lack of transparency on pricing, is among the key issues to tackle.

In addition, the Project «Data collection related to recharging/refuelling points for alternative fuels and the unique identification codes related to e-Mobility actors» is a support action, aiming in a uniform coding of recharging infrastructure, its position and the dynamic data, in all member states of the EU.

Closing out my intervention, I would like to underline three main points, which, to my eyes, are crucial:

-First, nobody can deny that climate change and environmental degradation are an existential threat to Europe and the world. To overcome these

challenges, Europe needs a new growth strategy that will transform the Union into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, where

- there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050
- economic growth is decoupled from resource use
- no person and no place is left behind

The European Green Deal is our plan to make the EU's economy sustainable.

We can do this by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities and making the transition just and inclusive for all.

Greece supports and prioritizes this effort.

-Second, in order to achieve all these ambitious goals, it is absolutely necessary to lay out all required, important measures of legislation, tax, investment incentives and, at the same time, mobilize as much public and private funding as we can.

Our primary goal should be to achieve the transition to climate neutrality in a fair and just way for all.

-Third, public awareness is extremely important in this field of climate change, renewable sources, Green Fuels etc., which, many times, is confusing and incomprehensible for lots of people.

Nothing can be achieved without the peoples' help and contribution, especially in this so important goal not only for transport but for mankind itself.

Thank you for your attention.