



ENTERPRISE GREECE
INVEST & TRADE

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 19

**NEW
ENERGY
STRATEGY**

**GREEK
NATURAL
PRODUCTS**

**QATAR
INVESTMENT
INTEREST**

NEW GREEK ENERGY STRATEGY PROMOTES CLEANER, RENEWABLE ENERGY

Greece has unveiled a new €44 billion national energy strategy to step up development of cleaner and renewable energy sources, which comes as the country further strengthens its position as a regional energy hub.

Building on its previous strategy from earlier this year, the Greek government plans to raise the share of renewable energy to 35% of its total energy mix, up from 31% previously, mainly through increased use of solar and wind power. The new plan also envisions a greater role for natural gas and energy conservation measures to help phase out dirtier fuels like oil and lignite in order to reduce the country's emissions of greenhouse gases.

Over the last ten years, Greece has been steadily liberalizing its energy sector and has established itself as a regional energy hub at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa. Those moves have brought a slew of new investments: from wind farms to pipelines to power transmission projects. In the past few weeks alone, Greece welcomed the inauguration of a new €300 million wind park on Evia, and the completion of the Greek portion of the €4.5 billion cross-border Trans Adriatic Pipeline.

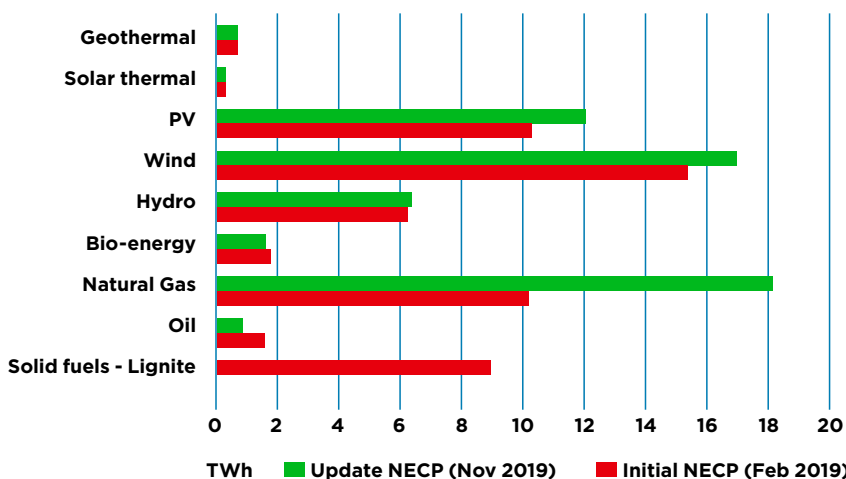
Meanwhile, the government has moved to restructure state-controlled electricity giant Public Power Corporation, launched the privatization of the state gas distribution network, and proceeded with a €1 billion project to connect the island of Crete to the mainland's power grid.

Under the revised National Energy and Climate Plan, Greece will shut down all its lignite-fired power plants by 2028 while aiming to boost wind and solar power capacity by 800 megawatts per year between now and 2030, roughly doubling their contribution to the country's energy mix. The plan foresees €9 billion in renewable energy investments over the next 10 years, or about €900 million per year.

Greece raises renewable energy goals

Installed capacity (GW)	2020	2022	2025	2030	Change 2020/2030	vs previous NECP for 2030
Lignite	3,9	2,9	0,7	0,0	-3,9	-2,7
Oil	1,9	1,7	1,0	0,3	-1,6	-0,2
Natural Gas	5,2	6,0	6,9	7,0	1,8	1,6
Bio-energy	0,1	0,12	0,14	0,31	0,2	0,01
Hydro	3,4	3,7	3,7	3,7	0,3	0,2
Wind	3,6	4,2	5,2	7,0	3,4	0,4
PV	3,0	3,9	5,3	7,7	4,7	0,9
Solar Thermal	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,0
Geothermal	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,0
Total	21,1	22,5	23,0	26,2	5,1	-0,2
New storage	0,0	0,0	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,0

Fuels share at the net electricity generation, 2030



news in **brief**

Greek Economy

Greece's economy expanded at a better-than-expected 2.3% year-on-year rate in the third quarter, according to the latest data by the Hellenic Statistical Authority, supported by strong tourism inflows, growing consumer spending and investment. The data shows the economy is on track to achieve growth of 2.0% for the full year, in-line with government forecasts.

Rising Exports

Greek exports of goods and services jumped 9.5% in the third quarter compared with a year earlier, further confirming the role of exports in the country's economic recovery. According to official data, exports of goods were up 6.2% on year, while exports of services rose 14.5%.

Tourism Record

Revenues from foreign visitors reached €16.08 billion in the first nine months of the year, surpassing the total for 2018 and confirming 2019 as another record year for Greek tourism. The latest data from the Bank of Greece show that tourism revenues are up more than 14% in the first nine months to September compared with a year ago.

IMF Loan

Greece concluded the early repayment of €2.7 billion in International Monetary Fund loans, reducing the country's interest expenses and improving its debt profile. The move, which was expected, reflects Greece's improved fiscal position.

Eurozone Payment

The 17 countries of the Eurozone approved the disbursement of up to €767 million of accumulated profits from European central bank operations, providing a boost to the Greek government budget. The disbursement is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2020 following parliamentary approval by several member states.

Tax Law

The Greek parliament has approved a new tax law that cuts tax rates on corporate and personal income, as well as tax rates on dividends. The new law also provides incentives for wealthy individuals who choose to reside in Greece for at least six months per year.

Strategic Investments

Greece's Inter-ministerial Committee for Strategic Investments has approved six new projects with a combined budget of €1.05 billion. The six projects, which range from the redevelopment of an old industrial facility near Athens to a cluster of photovoltaic parks in central Greece, are expected to create 1,500 new jobs.

Property Prices

Prices for Greek residential property rose 9.1% on year in the third quarter -- compared with a 7.7% increase in the second -- showing that the recovery in Greek home prices is gathering pace. According to Bank of Greece data, prices for office space also rose, up 2.2% in the first half of the year when compared with the second half of 2018, while prices for retail space rose 4.2% over the same period.

Greek natural products exporters expand overseas

From Cretan medicinal herbs known since antiquity, to mastic infused skin balms, Greece's natural and organic product makers are penetrating overseas markets amid rising consumer awareness of the need for healthier and more sustainable lifestyles.

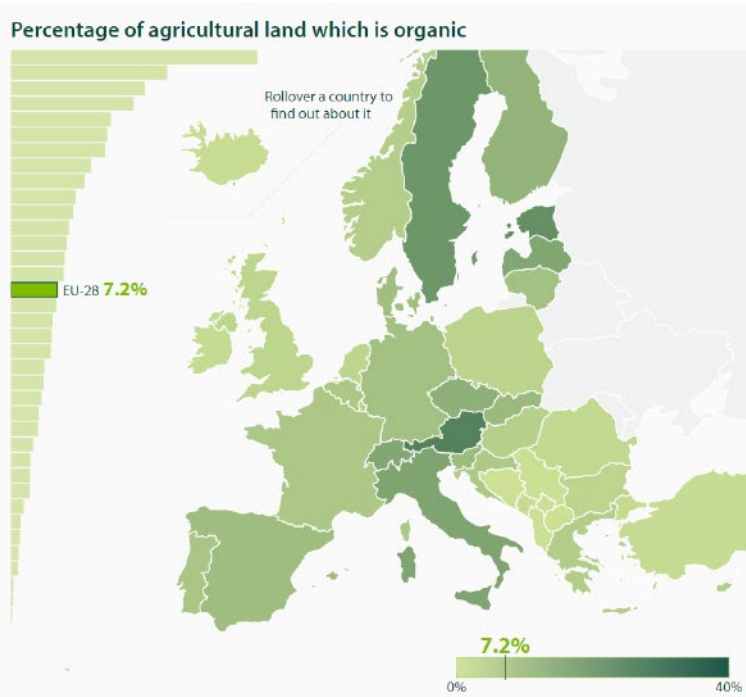
Blessed with a highly varied geography, Greece is home to almost 6,000 plant species, of which 1,000 are endemic to the country. Greece has already spawned two internationally recognized natural cosmetics brands – Korres and Apivita -- and boasts several unique wine vintages found nowhere else in the world.

That natural bounty has put Greece at the forefront of growing European and global demand for natural and organic products. In November, 49 Greek natural products companies – a record number – participated in a leading trade show for Europe's fast growing market.

The Greek exhibitors held more than 1,000 business meetings with visitors at the Eco Life Scandinavia & Nordic Organic Food Fair 2019, which took place 13-14 November in Malmö, Sweden. According to the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, retail sales of organic products in the European Union has more than doubled in the last 10 years to more than €34 billion, accounting for almost 40% of the roughly €90 billion a year world market.

A recent report by IFOAM and the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture shows that the Scandinavian countries of Sweden and Denmark are among the world's market leaders, with consumers spending more than €200 per year on organic products.

Organics in Europe



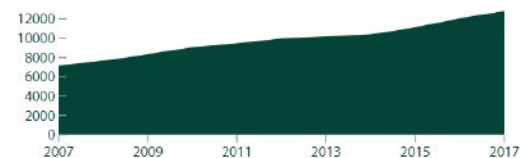
EU-28

12.8
million
hectares of
organic land
in 2017

Organic land use*

- 44.4%** Grassland
5,697,937 hectares
- 43.3%** Arable crops
5,548,273 hectares
- 10.8%** Permanent crops
1,380,821 hectares
- 1.5%** Other
192,787 hectares

Organic land area in 1000 hectares



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%





COMING UP JANUARY

- Greek National Holiday: Epiphany (Jan. 6)
- Who's Next, international fashion trade show, Paris (Jan. 17-20)
- Boot Düsseldorf, watersports trade fair, Düsseldorf (Jan. 18-26)

Greece draws renewed investment interest from Qatar

Qatari investors are eyeing opportunities in Greece – particularly in tourism, shipping, real estate and energy -- as the country moves to accelerate economic growth and leaves behind its recent financial crisis.

A high-powered, Greek trade delegation to Doha this month met with Qatari leaders – including Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani -- and local businessmen to showcase Greece's advances over the past few years. Deputy Foreign Minister Kostas Fragogiannis, who led the delegation, said the Qataris have grasped that “a new wind is blowing through Greece” and “are positively disposed to invest” in the country.

The visit was the latest in a series of contacts between the two countries over the past five years and where the Qataris have repeatedly shown interest in a variety of projects: from the redevelopment of the old Athens airport to mining projects to property investments.

Accompanying the delegation, representatives of Enterprise Greece presented Greece's investment prospects to the Qatar Investment Authority, the country's giant sovereign wealth fund with more than \$300 billion under management. A visit by QIA representatives to Greece is expected to follow.



**Wishes You
Season's Greetings!**



CONTACT US

To learn more about the many investment and trade opportunities Greece offers, visit us today at www.enterprisegreece.gov.gr

109 Vasilissis Sophias Avenue
115 21 Athens
GREECE
T: +30 210 335 5700
Email: info@eg.gov.gr

