

Fair energy transition and distribution of the electrical space in Crete

Saturday 11 January 2025

Heraklion

“Kastellaki” Hall

Heraklion Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Conclusions - Decisions

The following co-organizers of the conference:

1. Region of Crete
2. Regional Association of Municipalities of Crete
3. Minoan Energy Community
4. Energy Communities Coalition
5. Technical Chamber of Greece, Department of Eastern Crete
6. Technical Chamber of Greece, Department of Western Crete
7. Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Heraklion
8. Geotechnical Chamber of Greece, Branch of Crete
9. Orthodox Academy of Crete
10. Economic Chamber of Greece, Department of Eastern Crete

at the end of the conference, unanimously reach the following text of conclusions and decisions:

- The reasonableness and justice of the claim is recognized, so that the energy space in Crete is distributed as a priority to the citizens and its institutions and, specifically, it is proposed that at least 70% of this be distributed to citizens of Crete (domestic consumption), local government bodies, small and very small businesses and broad-based energy communities.
- In order to make the above possible and immediately, it is necessary to reject the applications for production permits for large-scale wind farms, which have remained under evaluation for more than 12 years, occupying geographical space and violating a multitude of relevant provisions in the current legislation regarding the evaluation periods of such applications.
- For the same reason, the revocation of the two large-scale wind farm production licenses in Crete is also required, the duration of which was extended by the unprecedented and unacceptable legislative regulation of article 100 of Law 4821 / 2021, as well as by article 29 of Law 5054/2024, provoking public sentiment and simultaneously circumventing the common interest of the citizens of Crete, the Country, but also the laws of the free market, as well as any concept of meritocracy, equality and justice.
- The same holders of the above-mentioned permits and applications under evaluation are called upon, demonstrating essential respect for the dignity of the Cretan People and the History and contribution of Crete to Greece and Europe, to revoke the said permits on their own, to withdraw the applications under evaluation and to definitively refrain in the future from any similar attempt to completely commit and monopolize the energy resources of the island.
- We express our opposition to the construction of the MEGA photovoltaic parks, and indeed with the unacceptable priority A, given the over-coverage of the targets even up to 2040. These projects take away the electricity space from small businesses, the people of Crete and their representative bodies.

- The need to consolidate the concept of energy communities in Greece is recognized, with appropriate legislative regulations that will prevent the exploitation and degeneration of the institution.
- In this direction, the need to establish the concept of broad-based energy communities is recognized, as those Communities with more than 100 members, which have documented work and planning towards the social and solidarity economy and with a clear development and social orientation. It is proposed to establish a special register of broad-based energy communities, while they should be given absolute licensing priority (priority A) and flexible and strong financial tools should be introduced. Even more so, when A' and B' degree local authorities and their enterprises and public utility companies participate in them.
- It is requested that the possibility of installing photovoltaic stations of virtual net metering be put into effect again, exclusively for vulnerable households, for municipal infrastructure and for broad-based energy communities.
- It is requested that the mandatory reserve requirement of 80% for RES electricity generation projects be lifted, exclusively for broad-based energy communities.
- It is requested that the funding of the "Apollo" program be withdrawn from the Recovery Fund resources, amounting to €100,000,000, which refer to energy communities. These resources should be allocated to the real broad-based energy communities, through the formation of an open evaluation process for the selection of projects proposed by them.
- It is requested that the classification of the electricity network of Crete as "saturated" in relation to the installation of renewable energy plants be lifted. The electricity network of Crete, after the Crete-Peloponnese electrical interconnection from 2021, ceases to exist as an autonomous electrical system. However, it is still subject to the limitations of an autonomous electrical system in terms of the installation of renewable energy sources. Also, examining the HV/MV Substations of Crete according to the digital platform of HEDNO, out of the 19 HV/MV Substations, only 3 are saturated or close to the saturation limit. Therefore, adding up the short-circuit level margin and the thermal limit of each substation, the availability of the electrical network of Crete exceeds 1,000 MVA.
- An increase in the number of permits for the installation of RES stations using the zero feed-in method is requested. The zero feed-in method enhances self-production and self-consumption of electricity, without raising the issue of saturation of the electrical network, due to the lack of energy injection into it.
- The leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Energy is called upon to accept the above positions, protecting Crete and the Greek islands from the creation of energy monopolies, recognizing and accepting the fact that real economic and social development, driven by the energy transition, can only be achieved with the broad participation of citizens and stakeholders of each island or geographical region.
- It is decided to establish a committee to represent the co-organizing stakeholders, with the cross-party participation of our political representatives in Parliament and in the Local Government, which is authorized to use any legal measure for the implementation of the above objectives and also to publish this in the media.