Sustainable and Socially Just Transition to a Post-Lignite Era in Greece: a Multi-Level Perspective

**Financial Crisis (2007-2008) and Economic Recession (2009)**

The global financial crisis in 2007 and 2008 led to the recession of the Greek economy in 2009, lasting for several years. One of its consequences was an important reduction on electricity consumption. The global financial crisis in 2007 and 2008 led to the recession of the Greek economy in 2009, lasting for several years. One of its consequences was an important reduction on electricity consumption. The financial crisis also affected the Greek energy sector since some of the terms and conditions of the 3 MoUs signed by the Greek government included austerity and regulatory measures related to the electricity market.

**Liberalisation of the energy market, national plan for GHG reduction, FITs and FIPs, the division of the PPC in various entities and other legislation**

In 1999 the liberalisation of the energy market led to the penetration of natural gas power plants, mainly constructed by private companies. This law also led to the construction of numerous RES power plants. The national plan for GHG emission reduction set a target of a 20% RES penetration by 2010, according to the Kyoto Agreement. On the second period, the introduction of FITs led to a tremendous increase of PV power plants in 2011, halted by the FIPs in 2015. The division of the PPC in combination with the prior liberalisation of the energy market led to a higher penetration of private entities to the energy market.

**Political Agenda**

In 2017 established by the EU, this initiative aims to assist lignite-dependent countries to shut down their lignite plants without creating turbulence to local economies relying on lignite mining and exploitation. Western Macedonia and Megalopolis are the regions concerned by this initiative in Greece.

**EU Legislation affecting Greece since being a member-state (e.g. Energy planning and EU ETS)**

In accordance with EU’s targets for its emissions, Greece had to submit its National Renewable Energy Action Plan in 2009. Moreover, Greece as a member-state of the EU was affected by the EU ETS and specifically by the 3rd phase that significantly increased emissions prices, mainly affecting lignite plants that produce high amounts of polluting emissions.

**Platform on Coal Regions in Transition**

According to the NECP’s target for complete delignitisation by 2028, many lignite plants have already been shut down with the rest being shut down by 2022, except the new Patikamia V plant that will be converted to a natural gas plant by 2020. According to the NECP’s target for complete delignitisation by 2028, many lignite plants have already been shut down with the rest being shut down by 2022, except the new Patikamia V plant that will be converted to a natural gas plant by 2020. According to the NECP’s target for complete delignitisation by 2028, many lignite plants have already been shut down with the rest being shut down by 2022, except the new Patikamia V plant that will be converted to a natural gas plant by 2020.