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**HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY  
OIL POLICY DIRECTORATE**

**4th NATIONAL REPORT  
ON THE PROMOTION OF THE USE OF  
BIOFUELS AND OTHER RENEWABLE FUELS  
FOR TRANSPORT IN GREECE  
(2005-2010)  
(ARTICLE 4 OF DIRECTIVE 2003/30/EC)**

ATHENS, MAY 2008

## **INTRODUCTION**

Directive 2003/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 May 2003 aims at promoting the use of biofuels or other renewable fuels to replace diesel or petrol for transport purposes in each Member State, with a view to contributing to meeting climate change commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, environmentally friendly security of supply and promoting renewable energy sources. To that end the Member States should ensure that a minimum proportion of biofuels and other renewable fuels is placed on their markets and set national indicative targets.

The Directive lays down a reference value of 2%, calculated on the basis of energy content, of all petrol and diesel for transport purposes placed on their markets by 31 December 2005. This should be increased to 5.75% by 31 December 2010.

Article 4 of the Directive requires the Member States to report to the European Commission each year on the measures taken to promote the use of biofuels to replace fossil fuels for transport purposes; the national resources allocated to the production of biomass for energy uses other than transport; the total sales of transport fuel and the share of biofuels, pure or blended, placed on the market during the preceding year; and any exceptional circumstances that have affected the marketing of biofuels. In their first report the Member States are required to indicate the level of their national indicative targets for the first phase, and in the report covering the year 2006 they should indicate their national indicative targets for the second phase.

With a view to incorporating the Directive into national law and ensuring the smooth introduction of biofuels and other renewable fuels on the domestic market, a round of contacts with all parties involved was started early in 2004, on the initiative of the Ministry of Development, and is still continuing.

The first results of this ongoing consultation were presented in the First National Report, which was submitted to the Commission in July 2004.

The second report and third reports, which were submitted to the Commission in September and December 2006, analysed the updated data available at the time and the planning framework for the actions needed in the fields of fuels and biofuels, and set out the conclusions of studies of biofuels and energy crops carried out by the Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and the legislative and regulatory framework in force at the time.

This fourth report presents updated data based on statistics for 2006.

## **GENERAL**

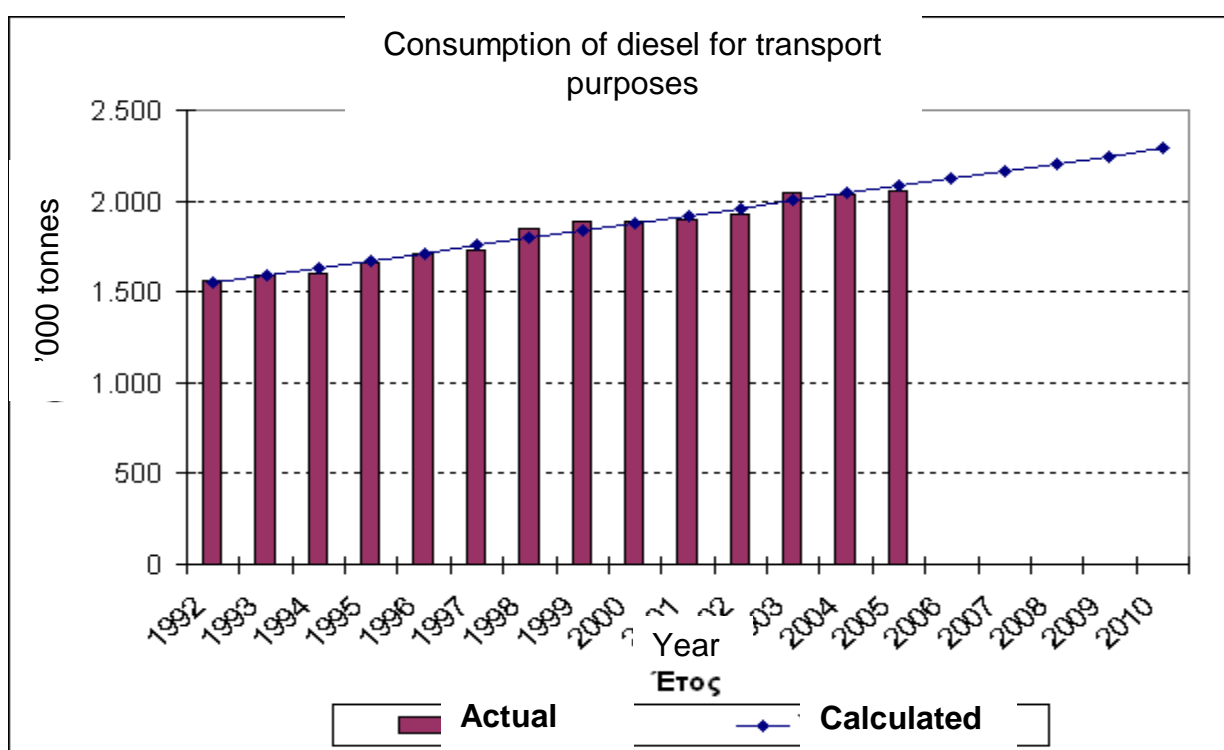
Of the potential biofuels listed in Directive 2003/30/EC, the most promising for Greece are biodiesel and bioethanol, and there is also some interest in pure vegetable oil.

In 2006, fuel consumption for transport purposes in Greece totalled 2 185 000 tonnes of automotive diesel and 4 026 000 tonnes of petrol (unleaded and LRP).

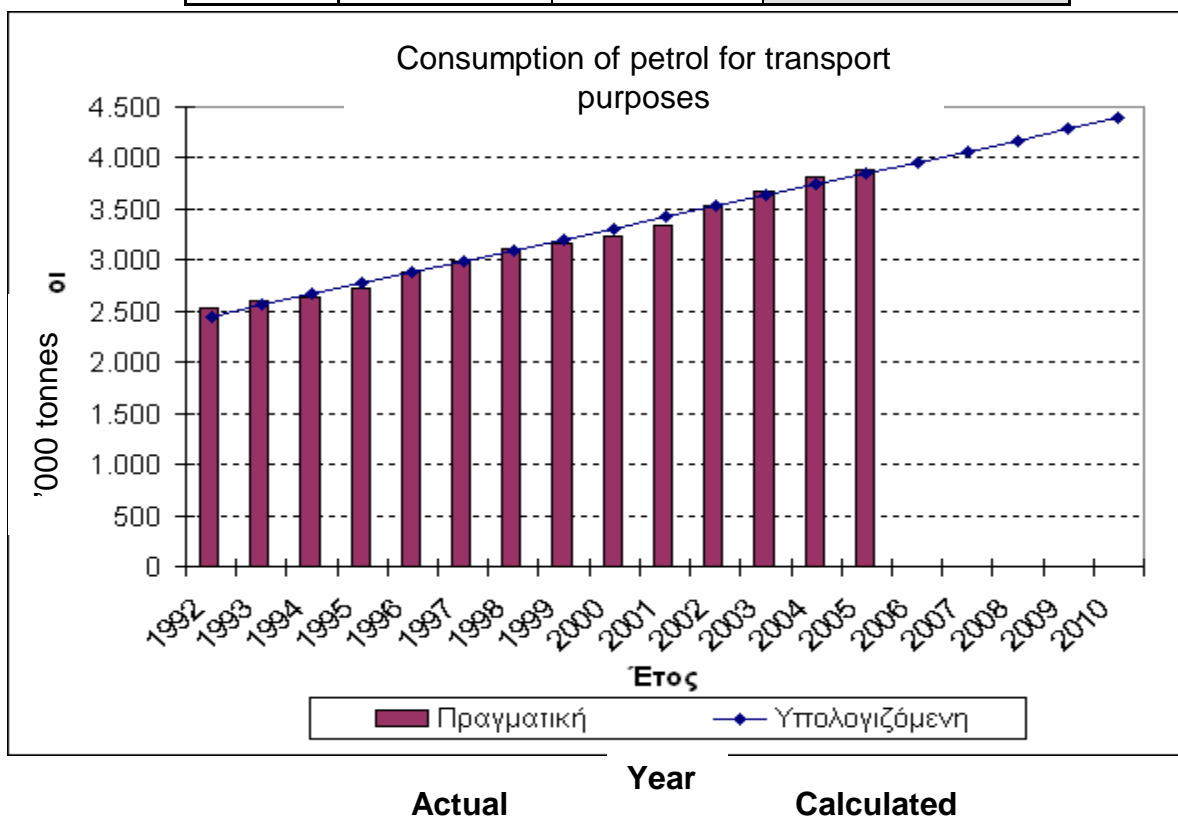
During the same period, 53 600 tonnes of biodiesel were distributed by 6 companies (5 Greek producers and 1 importer) within the country.

Detailed figures for actual and projected automotive diesel and petrol consumption for transport purposes up to 2010 are set out below.

Year	Consumption of diesel for transport purposes ( <sup>'000 tonnes</sup> )		
	Actual	Calculated	Difference
1992	1 557	1 543	14
1993	1 588	1 586	2
1994	1 601	1 628	-27
1995	1 660	1 671	-11
1996	1 711	1 714	-3
1997	1 732	1 756	-24
1998	1 851	1 799	52
1999	1 888	1 841	47
2000	1 890	1 884	6
2001	1 896	1 926	-30
2002	1 925	1 969	-33
2003	2 044	2 012	32
2004	2 036	2 054	-18
2005	2 055	2 097	-42
2006	2 185	2 139	46
2007		2 182	Correlation coefficient = 0.9858
2008		2 224	
2009		2 267	
2010		2 309	



Year	Consumption of petrol for transport purposes ( <sup>'000 tonnes</sup> )		
	Actual	Calculated	Difference
1992	2 532	2 444	88
1993	2 594	2 553	41
1994	2 645	2 663	-18
1995	2 724	2 772	-48
1996	2 890	2 881	9
1997	2 985	2 991	-6
1998	3 106	3 100	6
1999	3 165	3 210	-45
2000	3 230	3 319	-89
2001	3 336	3 428	-92
2002	3 532	3 538	-6
2003	3 677	3 647	30
2004	3 814	3 757	57
2005	3 888	3 866	22
2006	4 026	3 975	51
2007		4 085	
2008		4 194	Correlation coefficient = 0.9944
2009		4 304	
2010		4 413	



## **BIODIESEL**

Biodiesel is produced by means of the esterification of plant oils (and also animal fats) and methanol. Glycerine is produced as a by-product.

The handling of biodiesel presents no technical difficulties, so there is no problem marketing the fuel through the existing market infrastructure for automotive diesel. During the first stage, which started at the end of December 2005, biodiesel is blended with automotive diesel at refineries or petroleum product marketing companies in a proportion which currently fluctuates around 4% by volume, but which can rise to 5% by volume (as specified in the • • 590:2004 standard) — this is expected to happen early in 2008 — and is marketed via the existing automotive diesel distribution network throughout the domestic market. At a later stage — once any technical and institutional issues have been resolved — it is planned to distribute blends of biodiesel and automotive diesel containing more than 5% by volume of biodiesel, and also pure biodiesel.

As regards the domestic production of biodiesel, the following companies are currently operating in the country:

	<b>Company</b>	<b>Location of production plant</b>	<b>Nominal annual capacity (biodiesel in '000 tonnes)</b>	<b>Start of production</b>
<b>1</b>	EL.VI. -- GREEK VIOPETRELAIA SA	Stafrchori Kilkis	<b>90 000</b> <i>(initially 45 000)</i>	<b>Dec 2005</b>
<b>2</b>	PAULOS N. PETTAS SA	Patras Industrial Zone	<b>100 000</b> <i>(initially 50 000)</i>	<b>Jul 2006</b>
<b>3</b>	VERT OIL SA	Athanasius Thessaloniki	<b>35 000</b> <i>(initially 10 000)</i>	<b>Jul 2006</b>
<b>4</b>	AGROINVEST SA	Achladi Fthiotida	<b>250 000</b>	<b>Nov 2006</b>
<b>5</b>	STAFF COLOUR – ENERGY SA	Larissa Industrial Zone	<b>15 000</b> <i>(initially 10 000)</i>	<b>Dec 2006</b>
<b>6</b>	EKKOKKISTIRIA - KLOSTIRIA NORTHERN GREECE SA	Vistonida, Xanthi	<b>10 000</b>	<b>Feb 2007</b>
<b>7</b>	BIODIESEL Ltd.	Assiros, Thessaloniki	<b>20 000</b>	<b>Feb 2007</b>

<b>8</b>	ELIN VIOKAFSIMA SA	Volos Industrial Zone	<b>40 000</b>	<b>May 2007</b>
<b>9</b>	VIOENERGEIA PAPANTONIOU SA	Lakkoma Industrial Park, Halkidiki	<b>10 000</b>	<b>Jul 2007</b>
<b>10</b>	MIL OIL HELLAS SA	Serres Industrial Zone	<b>5 000</b>	<b>Oct 2007</b>
<b>Total capacity</b>			<b>575 000</b>	

The construction of production plants Nos 1, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 was financed by the Operational Programme "Competitiveness" with resources from the Third Community Support Framework, while the construction of plants Nos 2 and 8 was financed under Development Act 3299/2004.

In addition, two biodiesel trading companies are operating in the country – "BIODIESEL SA" (imports from EU countries) and "DP LUBRIFICANTI SRL" (imports from its factory in Italy).

Besides, at least six other companies have announced plans to construct biodiesel production plants of small/medium and large annual capacity in various parts of the country, with production to start in the second half of 2008, according to plan.

The raw materials used by the above biodiesel production plants comprise about 75% imported oils (rapeseed, soya-bean, etc.) from other EU Member States and third countries as well as about 25 % from domestically produced oils (cotton-seed, sunflower, used cooking oil, etc.). Attempts to intensify domestic sunflower and oilseed rape crops are on the increase, with a view to domestically produced raw materials exceeding imports, taking care to ensure that they do not adversely affect the food sector.

Automotive biodiesel distributed in Greece has to comply with the specifications of the ELOT EN 14214 standard.

During the first stage of implementation of the plan, biodiesel is intended only for blending with automotive diesel in a proportion not exceeding 5% by volume. In a second stage, distribution of pure biodiesel on the retail market will follow, as will the blending of a higher proportion of biodiesel in automotive diesel intended for vehicle fleets (e.g. public transport vehicles). The possibility of using biodiesel as heating fuel or for industrial use or even to generate electricity or combined heat and power, as provided for in the recently adopted Act 3468/2006 on the generation of electricity from renewable sources of energy and high-efficiency cogeneration of heat and power (Government Gazette, Series I, No 129), is being examined.

The distribution of biodiesel in Greece started in December 2005 when the first batches were distributed to Greek refineries by Hellenic Biopetroleum Industrial and Commercial S.A. for blending

with automotive diesel. The blend of 2% biodiesel by volume in automotive diesel has been distributed to all final consumers since February 2006 and continues to be distributed normally. This percentage is expected to be increased to 3.5% by volume at about the end of 2006, and to 5% in the near future.

Besides, following a call for applications and a criteria-based assessment and allocation procedure, each year quantities of biodiesel are shared out among the interested producers and traders/importers.

Note that the blend of biodiesel and automotive diesel distributed was exempt from excise duty on the basis of the volumetric proportion of biodiesel contained in the blend until 31 December 2007. As from 1 January 2008 the excise duty for biodiesel has been equalised with that of automotive diesel for the quantities of biodiesel intended for blending with automotive diesel up to 5% by volume.

Finally, an examination is being conducted to determine whether and, if so, to what extent tax exemption can be applied in the future to quantities of pure biodiesel sold on a retail basis for transportation purposes or for other uses.



## **BIOETHANOL**

Bioethanol is produced by the fermentation of plants which are rich in carbohydrates.

In contrast to biodiesel, the blending of bioethanol with petrol does present technical difficulties in Greece, the most significant of which are the separation of water which appears in cold conditions and high vapour pressure (RVP), particularly in summer specification petrols. For that reason it is preferable to convert bioethanol into ETBE (ethyl tertiary butyl ether) and to use the latter as an ingredient for blending with petrols, instead of MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether), which is used at present. Up to 15% by volume of ETBE (or MTBE) can be blended in petrol, compared to no more than 5% by volume of bioethanol, according to the EN 228:2004 standard.

N.B. Bioethanol can be converted into ETBE at the refineries' existing MTBE production plants, following appropriate modifications. This technique is used widely in Spain, Italy, France and other European countries. The Greek refineries have stated that they need at least 18 months to prepare themselves adequately for bioethanol processing.

Of course, to process all quantities of bioethanol required to achieve the national biofuels target it is not enough for it to be transformed into ETBE, for it will also require direct blending with petrol. For this reason consultation with stakeholders has been initiated in order to find ways to overcome the technical difficulties mentioned above.

At present bioethanol is produced or imported only for the preparation of alcoholic beverages, and not for use as automotive fuel.

In late 2006 Hellenic Sugar Industry S.A. announced that its Board had decided to convert two of its five sugar production plants, in Larisa and Xanthi, into units for the production of bioethanol (and high nutritional value feedstuffs and combined heat and power) with an annual production capacity of 150 000 m3 of bioethanol each, using existing sugar beet, maize and cereals crops as raw materials. This project is scheduled to be completed and start production within a period of 18-24 months from commencement of the works, i.e. by late 2009 or early 2010. It will be financed by the withdrawal of the sugar quota in accordance with the new common organisation of the market in sugar, while a subsidy will also be sought under the Development Act. An international competition to find a strategic investor for the project is already under way.

Suitable raw materials for the production of bioethanol include sugar beet, maize and cereals, which are already grown in Greece, but also sweet sorghum, which has a higher yield per hectare than sugar beet, but which would require a significant change in crop planting, particularly in the areas around the proposed plants, where the cost of transporting the raw material would be lower.

Please note that the ELOT EN 15376:2008 standard with the final specifications for bioethanol was issued on 27 March 2008. Subsequently at least six months will be required for its inclusion in national legislation pursuant to a decision of the Supreme Chemical Council.

The introduction of bioethanol on the Greek fuels market is therefore not expected to begin before the start of 2010.

## **POTENTIAL NATIONAL OUTPUT OF RAW MATERIALS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BIOFUELS**

### ***A. Potential national output of raw materials***

Greece is potentially capable of growing substantial quantities of crops which can be made available for the production of biofuels.

Sunflower seed, rape seed and cotton seed are expected to play an important role in the production of biodiesel. Cotton is already grown systematically in many parts of Greece, and we expect sunflowers and oilseed rape to be grown systematically in several parts of the country in 2007. Used cooking oil and animal fats can also be used as alternatives to replace a percentage of the raw materials used to produce biodiesel, thus helping at the same time to reduce environmental damage from such waste products.

Sugar beet, sweet sorghum, maize and cereals are expected to play an important role in the production of bioethanol. Sugar beet, maize and cereals are already grown systematically in many parts of Greece, whereas sweet sorghum is not, even though the results of crop trials show that it has a higher bioethanol yield per hectare than sugar beet and it thrives in all parts of the country.

### ***B. Cost-benefit analysis***

The cost of distributing biofuels on the Greek market lies in the loss of revenue to the State budget because of their tax exemption (they are partly or wholly exempt from excise duty).

The benefits of distributing biofuels on the Greek market are greater:

- substantial foreign exchange benefit on account of the reduction in oil imports;
- benefit from reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which also translates into a financial benefit on account of Greece's commitments under the Kyoto Protocol;
- benefit from new jobs and grants for energy crops.

To these benefits from the use of biofuels must be added the benefits to the Greek rural economy from the restructuring of crops, resulting not only in increased rural incomes but also in retention of the rural population, the strengthening of regional development and an increase in GDP. There will also be substantial benefits to the environment and public health.

## NATIONAL INDICATIVE TARGET FOR BIOFUELS FOR 2008

The national indicative target for biofuels for 2008, in accordance with Directive 2003/30/EC, is currently estimated to be **1.47%** on the basis of the energy content of all petrol and automotive diesel which will be distributed during the same period for use in transport. This percentage is expected to increase in the next period with a further rise in the quantities of biodiesel marketed in Greece, and the expected start-up of bioethanol distribution.

The detailed calculation of the national indicative target for biofuels for 2008 is as follows:

- Estimated consumption of biodiesel in 2008 = 108 240 tonnes (or 123 million litres: specific weight of biodiesel = 0.88 kg/l)
- Estimated consumption of bioethanol in 2008 = 0 tonnes
- Estimated consumption of automotive diesel in 2008 = 2 224 000 tonnes
- Estimated consumption of petrol in 2007 = 4 194 000 tonnes
  
- Energy content of biodiesel = 9 050 kcal/kg
- Energy content of bioethanol = 6 429 kcal/kg
- Energy content of automotive diesel = 10 200 kcal/kg
- Energy content of petrol = 10 444 kcal/kg

Consequently

$$\begin{aligned} & (108\,240\,000\text{ kg} \times 9\,050\text{ kcal/kg})_{\text{biodiesel}} + (0\text{ kg} \times 6\,429\text{ kcal/kg})_{\text{bioethanol}} \\ & \text{-----} = \\ & (2\,224\,000\,000\text{ kg} \times 10\,200\text{ kcal/kg})_{\text{automotive diesel}} + (4\,194\,000\,000\text{ kg} \times 10\,444\text{ kcal/kg})_{\text{petrols}} \\ & \\ & = \frac{(979\,572\,000\,000\text{ kcal})_{\text{biodiesel}}}{\text{-----}} = \\ & \frac{(979\,572\,000\,000\text{ kcal})_{\text{biodiesel}}}{(22\,684\,800\,000\,000\text{ kcal})_{\text{automotive diesel}} + (43\,802\,136\,000\,000\text{ kcal})_{\text{petrols}}} = \\ & = \frac{(979\,572\,000\,000\text{ kcal})_{\text{biodiesel}}}{(66\,486\,936\,000\,000\text{ kcal})_{\text{automotive diesel \& petrols}}} = \mathbf{1.47\%} \end{aligned}$$

## **NATIONAL INDICATIVE BIOFUEL TARGET FOR 2010**

The National Indicative Biofuel Target until 31 December 2010, in accordance with Article 8(1) of Act 3423/2005 on the introduction into the Greek market of biofuels and other renewable fuels (GG, Series I, No 304), is **5.75%**. This figure calculated on the basis of the energy content of all petrol and automotive diesel distributed for use in transport.

## **OUTCOME OF THE NATIONAL TARGET FOR BIOFUELS FOR 2006**

The outcome of the 2006 national target for biofuels, calculated on the above basis, was **0.75%** based on energy content of all petrol and automotive diesel distributed in 2006 for use in transport, compared with the initial indicative target of 1.15%, as communicated to the European Commission in July 2006 with the second national biofuels report.

The difference is due to the fact that in 2006, of the 80,000 tonnes (91000 kl) of biodiesel which had been allocated to 14 companies, ultimately only 53,600 tonnes (60 909 kl) were distributed. This was mainly due to the following reasons:

- a) 2006 was essentially the first year of implementation of biodiesel in the Greek market, so many formal, technical and practical obstacles had to be overcome, with frequent interruptions in the supply of biodiesel for several days, depending on the severity of the problem.
- b) Of the 14 companies authorised to distribute biodiesel in 2006, finally only 6 managed to distribute the product to the refineries. The remaining 8 beneficiary companies failed to complete their production plants in 2006 according to their initial schedules, because of serious technical and formal obstacles.
- c) Of the above 6 companies which distributed biodiesel in 2006, by July 2006 only 1 company was operating regularly and selling the product on the domestic market. The remaining 5 companies distributed most of their allocated quantities during September to November 2006, a time when there was a substantial cut in the quantity of biodiesel processed in the refineries due to reduced consumption of automotive diesel during this period and the 5% volumetric limit on biodiesel used in automotive diesel under the existing technical specification (ELOT EN 590 : 2004).

**NATIONAL RESOURCES ALLOCATED TO THE PRODUCTION OF BIOMASS FOR ENERGY USES OTHER THAN TRANSPORT**

Renewable energy sources (RES) accounted for 17.8 % of total primary energy production in 2006, compared with 16.4% in 2005 (see table below for details).

<b>Total Primary Energy Production from RES</b> <b>('000 toe)</b>		
<b>Energy product</b>	<b>Year</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Solar	102	109
Wind	109	146
biomass	990	970
Geothermal energy	1	11
Hydroelectricity	431	520
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>1 633</i></b>	<b><i>1756</i></b>

A number of plants for the generation of electricity and/or heat from biogas from landfill sites, urban waste treatment plants or other sources are currently under construction or at the advanced design stage and are expected to start operating shortly.

## **STATUTORY FRAMEWORK**

### ***A. Harmonisation of legislation***

Act 3423/2005 on the introduction of biofuels and other renewable fuels on the Greek market (Government Gazette, Series I, No 304), which entered into force on 13 December 2005, aligned Greek law with Directive 2003/30/EC. Among other things, this Act:

- (a) supplements and amends Act 3054/2002 on the organisation of the market in petroleum products and other provisions (Government Gazette, Series I, No 230), extending it to include biofuels, alongside other petroleum products, in the operation and control of the Greek fuel market;
- (b) approves the programme for the allocation of quantities of biofuels until 31 December 2010, which lays down the procedures and methodology for the allocation of tax-free quantities of pure biofuels on an annual basis;
- (c) obliges refineries to use the tax-free quantities of pure biofuels which are distributed each year and are intended for blending with the corresponding conventional fossil fuels;
- (d) establishes the Biofuels Distribution Licence;
- (e) sets the national target of 5.75% by 31 December 2010, calculated on the basis of the energy content of all petrol and automotive diesel distributed for use in transport.

### ***B. Technical Regulations***

The specifications of the ELOT EN 14214 standard for automotive biodiesel were adopted by Decision 334/2004 of the Supreme Chemical Council on automotive fuels — biodiesel for diesel engines — requirements and test methods (Government Gazette, Series II, No 713/2005, as supplemented by Government Gazette, Series II, No 1149/2005).

Please note that the ELOT EN 15376:2008 standard with the final specifications for bioethanol was issued on 27 March 2008. Subsequently at least six months will be required for its inclusion in national legislation pursuant to a decision of the Supreme Chemical Council.

Decision 513/2004 of the Supreme Chemical Council on adjustment to technical progress of Decision 291/2003 of the Supreme Chemical Council aligning Greek legislation on Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13.10.1998 as regards the quality of petrol and diesel fuels, as amended and currently in force (Government Gazette, Series II, No 1149/2005) incorporated into Greek law the ELOT EN 590:2004 standard on automotive diesel and the ELOT EN 228:2004 standard on petrol. Decision 514/2004 of the Supreme Chemical Council on automotive fuels — diesel — requirements and test methods (Government Gazette, Series II, No 1490/2006) was adopted recently. These standards allow up to 5% by volume of biodiesel to be blended with automotive diesel and up to 5% by volume of bioethanol to be blended with petrol.

### ***C. Tax incentives***

In order to promote the use of biofuels it will initially be necessary to give them tax exemption (i.e. make them partly or wholly exempt from excise duty) to make them competitive with fossil fuels, as their (pre-tax) ex-factory price is higher. Consequently, various scenarios for the total or partial tax exemption of biofuels on the basis of the guidelines set out in Directive 2003/96/EC are being examined in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, taking into account the end price to the consumer.

With a view to the favourable tax treatment of biofuels, such a provision has already been incorporated in Article 34 of Act 3340/2005 on the protection of the capital market against insider trading and market manipulation (Government Gazette, Series I, No 112), which provides for an initial exemption from excise duties of specified annual quantities of biodiesel in 2005 (51 000 kilolitres or 45 000 tonnes), 2006 (91 000 kilolitres) and 2007 (114 000 kilolitres).

This provision was implemented by Joint Ministerial Decision F.1643/820 of 23.12.2005 on conditions and formalities governing the production, distribution, blending and release for home use of pure biodiesel pursuant to Article 78(6) of Act 2960/2001, as in force at the time (Government Gazette, Series II, No 4/2006), which was replaced with effect from 1 January 2007 by the recently adopted Joint Ministerial Decision F.1731/978 of 1.12.2006 on conditions and formalities governing the production, distribution, blending and release for home use of pure biodiesel pursuant to Article 78(6) of Act 2960/2001, as in force at the time (Government Gazette, Series II, No 1757/2007).

Article 10 of Act 3483/2006 amending and supplementing the provisions on financial leasing and adopting provisions on public revenue and other provisions (Government Gazette, Series I, No 169) amended the rates of excise duty on fuels, including automotive diesel, petrol and biodiesel — without affecting the provisions on the exemption from tax of quantities of biodiesel in the period 2005-2007 — as follows:



<b>Rate of excise duty (euros/kilolitre)</b>	<b>01/07/2006- 31/12/2006</b>	<b>01/01/2007- 31/12/2007</b>	<b>01/01/2008- 31/12/2008</b>	<b>01/01/2009- 31/12/2009</b>
Unleaded petrol up to 96.5 RON	313	331	350	359
Unleaded petrol exceeding 96.5 RON	327	338	349	359
Lead replacement petrol (LRP)	342	347	352	359
Automotive diesel	260	276	293	302
Biodiesel (not covered by the exemption)	260	276	293	302

Note that the blend of biodiesel and automotive diesel distributed was exempt from excise duty on the basis of the volumetric proportion of biodiesel contained in the blend until 31 December 2007. As from 1 January 2008 the excise duty for biodiesel has been equalised with that of automotive diesel for the quantities of biodiesel intended for blending with automotive diesel up to 5% by volume.

Finally, an examination is being conducted to determine whether and, if so, to what extent tax exemption can be applied in the future to quantities of pure biodiesel sold on a retail basis for transportation purposes or for other uses.

#### ***D. Allocation of tax-free pure biodiesel***

With a view to implementing Act 3423/2005, a call for expressions of interest in the distribution of 51 000 kilolitres of tax-free pure biodiesel in 2005 (document D1/B, D6/F.18/oik.2331 of 6.12.2005) was initially issued; on the basis of that document, Joint Ministerial Decision D6/F.18/oik.24709 of 22.12.2005 approving the allocation, for 2005, of quantities of pure biodiesel subject to the special tax arrangement laid down in Article 78(6) of Act 3054/2002 was adopted; this Decision allocated 2 500 kilolitres of tax-free pure biodiesel to Hellenic Biopetroleum S.A. at Kilkis in respect of 2005.

This was followed by a call for expressions of interest in the distribution of 91 000 kilolitres of tax-free pure biodiesel in 2006 (document D6/F.18/oik.892 of 17.1.2006). Sixteen companies submitted applications, some concerning domestic production, others concerning importation from EU countries; following assessment of the applications, fourteen companies were selected and the quantities were allocated to them; in April 2006 Joint Ministerial Decision D1/B/oik.8392 of 20.4.2006 approving the allocation, for 2006, of 91 000 kilolitres of pure biodiesel subject to the special tax arrangement laid down in Article 78(6) of Act 2960/2001, in accordance with Article 15a(5) of Act 3054/2002, as in force at the time (Government Gazette, Series II, No 512) was

adopted; pursuant to this Decision, the quantities were allocated to fourteen companies: twelve biodiesel producers and two biodiesel traders.

#### ***E. Promotion of energy crops***

JMD 36781/23.03.2007 on implementation of the special scheme for energy crops in the framework of the new CAP (GG, Series II, No 444) has been issued with a view to promoting energy crops and implementing Commission Regulation 1973/2004, as currently in force.

#### ***F. Review of the institutional framework for biofuels***

In April 2008 a Working Party was created to study and review the existing institutional framework for biofuels in Greece. The new framework is expected to apply as from 2009, taking into account also the proposed changes in the new RES and biofuels directive.