

Newsletter



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New Special Spatial Planning Framework for Renewable Energy Sources Public consultation until 24 June 2026

The new **Special Spatial Planning Framework** for the development of Renewable Energy Sources has been put out for public consultation by the Ministry of Environment and Energy until **24 June 2026**. The Framework provides, *inter alia*, as follows:



- **With regard to Photovoltaic Stations**, their installation is horizontally prohibited, among others, in all protected areas of the NATURA 2000 network, in forests and forest areas, in Ramsar wetlands and small island wetlands, in national parks, designated natural monuments and aesthetic forests, in areas designated as Landscapes of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in designated preserved monuments of world cultural heritage and other monuments of major importance, as well as in delimited Archaeological Protection Zones A, and on bathing beaches.

New siting criteria and rules are also introduced, in particular:

- The maximum permitted percentage of land coverage by new photovoltaic stations - i.e. those which have not obtained environmental licensing - may not exceed 1.5% per Regional Unit.
- Minimum distances are prescribed for the siting of photovoltaic stations, for example from residential activities, as well as specific percentages concerning the coverage of an observer's visual horizon.



- A special visual impact study is required where photovoltaic stations are installed within a zone of 1.500 m. from monuments inscribed on the World Heritage List and other monuments of major importance, archaeological sites and historic places, as well as within a zone of 1.000 m. from an absolute protection zone - Zone A - of other archaeological sites, designated cultural monuments, historic places and traditional settlements.

- **With regard to Wind Farms**, their installation is horizontally prohibited, among others, in Attica and the Metropolitan Area of Thessaloniki, in areas with an altitude exceeding 1.200 m., in Ramsar wetlands and small island wetlands, in areas designated as Landscapes of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as well as in the core zones of national parks, within absolute nature protection zones and nature protection zones under Law 1650/1986, on islands with an area of less than 300 sq. km., unless they concern the coverage of public-interest needs of the respective island, such as desalination facilities, in areas of high tourism development as defined in the new Special Spatial Planning Framework for Tourism, in off-plan areas where tourism and recreation uses are provided for, and on bathing beaches.

Furthermore, specific siting criteria are provided for the installation of wind and photovoltaic stations both onshore and offshore. The framework also sets out guidelines, exclusion zones, and siting criteria and rules for other technologies, including small hydroelectric stations, biomass/biogas/bioliquid stations, geothermal energy, and storage systems/ batteries.

The new Framework does not apply to projects already in operation, projects that have completed their environmental licensing, projects that have obtained approval of formal completeness of their file by the date on which the new Special Spatial Planning Framework was put out for public consultation, exempted RES stations, pumped-storage stations and large hydroelectric stations above 15 MW and photovoltaic stations installed on building rooftops.

Seventeen indicative questions and answers have been posted on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

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Dimitris Spyridakis
Lawyer | Chief of Stakeholders Engagement
dspyridakis@saranti-partners.com
T: +302120216569

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