

Energy Talks

You are kindly invited to the first seminar of the **Energy Talk series** organised by Dr Charikleia Vlachou, Lecturer at the Department of Law, University of Cyprus

“Mobilising EU law for the energy transition of islands” by Dr. Romain Mauger

Chair: Dr. Charikleia Vlachou

When: Wednesday, 13 October 2021 at 18:00-20:00

Where: Online via Zoom, please register [here](#).

Summary of the Talk

The EU counts approximately 2400 islands, totalling a population of nearly 15 million. Islands are particularly vulnerable to climate change but enjoy a naturally high potential of renewable energy sources to harness. As a consequence, the EU considers them as energy transition laboratories and wishes to decarbonise 1000 of them by 2030. If this outcome might be technically possible, it requires fit-for-purpose EU and national legal frameworks.

This presentation describes how to harness the existing EU legal framework for accelerating the decarbonisation of islands, including Cyprus. Some EU law provisions are specific to islands, others are not. Some provisions are only accessible to non-interconnected islands (such as Cyprus), others can be used by all islands. Among the mechanisms to be discussed are the isolated systems' exemption regimes, the newly incorporated energy communities and technologies such as energy storage.

At the end of this presentation, attendees should have learned more about the toolbox that EU energy law represents for the fast decarbonisation of islands, including Cyprus. Hopefully, they will also consider the law as a potential accelerator of the transition rather than a barrier, if well designed and used in a creative way.

Speaker Bio

Dr Romain Mauger is a post-doctoral fellow at the Groningen Centre of Energy Law and Sustainability (GCELS) - University of Groningen. He holds a Bachelor of Law (2009), a Master's degree in Environmental Law (2011) and a PhD in law that focused on the Energy transition Act in France (2017). He is part of the H2020 project SMILE, in which he conducts research on EU as well as national law for the development of smart grids on 3 EU islands: Madeira (Portugal), the Orkneys (UK) and Samso (Denmark). His research interests encompass the energy transition, renewable energy sources, energy justice and just transitions, among other related topics. As part of the GCELS, he teaches (EU) renewable energy law. Mauger also delivered various guest lectures in the Netherlands and abroad on topics such as the legal framework for the forced shut down of nuclear power plants, energy storage and flexibility services or the principle of Just Transition and the South African context.