

# PROCEEDINGS

We are discussing about the energy market & the energy crisis, in simple words. How can consumers be protected?

> DATE

14 April 2022

> ONLINE EVENT





# AGENDA

**16.00-16.10** WELCOME

**16.10-17.00** ENERGY MARKET: CLARIFYING KEY CONCEPTS

DIMITRIS KARDOMATEAS, ENERGY CONSULTANT . FORMER GENERAL DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATOR , GREECE

**17.00-17.50** CITIZEN-CENTERED PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS:  
CLEAN BILLS, SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND ENERGY COMMUNITIES

PANAYIOTA KALAPOTHARAKOU, PRESIDENT, CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION  
THE QUALITY OF LIFE, EKPIZO

VICKY TZEGA, LEGAL ADVISOR, CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION THE QUALITY OF LIFE,  
EKPIZO

KYRIAKI METAXA, PROGRAMME MANAGER, HEINRICH BOELL STIFTUNG, GREECE

DIMITRIS KITSIKOPOULOS, ELECTRA ENERGY

ALICE COROVESSI, MANAGING DIRECTOR, INZEB

IGNACIO NAVARRO, GREENPEACE GREECE

**17.50-18.00** CLOSING





The online event **We are discussing about the energy market & the energy crisis, in simple words. How can consumers be protected?**, organised by [INZEB](#) and [Electra Energy](#) in collaboration with [Heinrich Boell Stiftung Foundation Thessaloniki, Greece](#) and the [Consumers Association – Quality of Life \(EKPIZO\)](#), in the framework of the [Energy Democracy Dialogues](#) initiative. was held online on **Thursday, April 14, 2022**.

## Welcome

Mr. Yiannis-Orestis Papadimitriou, Manifold Journalist, opened the event by welcoming the participants and introducing the aim and the scope of the event. Then he gave the floor to the organisers and co-organisers of the event for a short statement.

## Session I: Energy market: Clarifying key concepts

Dimitris Kardomateas, Energy Consultant, former General Director of Strategy & Development of Natural Gas Transmission System Operator, Greece

Mr. Kardomateas took the floor aiming to introduce to the public the complex international energy market system, in simple words. The purpose of his presentation was to try to explain the price increases in the energy sector and to attribute the cause-effect relationship.

He disagreed with the term crisis when referring to the energy crisis, which implies the meaning of the temporary, as in the case of the energy sector, a new reality emerges. As he continued, this is a regime of variable prices regarding electricity, as the price of natural gas has always been variable.

He also stressed that the so-called "crisis" is not a consequence of the energy transition -as it is wrongly believed- but it happened to develop at the same time. The energy crisis is a result of the change in the market model, while on the contrary the energy transition somewhat corrects the crisis. He then explained that the change in the market model began in 1996 with the first EU directive on the liberalisation of electricity markets and was completed last year when the electricity stock market operated in Greece. He also presented the structure of the energy market before and after the liberalisation, as well as the role of the Energy Regulatory Authority.

The power generation methods and the changes that have taken place in the past 20 years were also presented. Then, Mr. Kardomatesas explained how the stock market price is determined and the role of natural gas which was presented as dominant in the electricity generation mix in Greece, as it covers on average 40% of the production which as a share is twice the EU average. This is also one of the reasons why electricity prices in Greece are more expensive on the Greek stock market than on the stock markets of other member states.



Another reason for the high prices in Greece is that the neighboring countries with which we are connected are also dependent on natural gas. He pointed out that the supply of energy does not need to be done only by the stock market but can also be done through bilateral contracts, long-term agreements, something that happens in most Member States, unlike Greece, where the percentage of daily consumption in stock market is at 100%.

Finally, he concluded his presentation by proposing measures to avoid energy crises, most of which are in the medium to long term time horizon and with systematic effort can contribute to achieving balance.

## **Session II: Citizen-centered protection and solutions: clean bills, self-sufficiency, and energy communities**

**Ignacio Navarro**, Greenpeace Greece

Mr. Navarro presented the goal and the identity of the Greenpeace research that took place in February 2022, to 1,241 electricity consumers, concerning the energy sector in Greece.

The three chapters of the research concerned the energy crisis and energy costs, the perception of the energy transition and RES and the participation of citizens in energy communities and the energy transition.

Some of the worth-mentioning results presented were regarding the EU's climate change targets, where 43% of the surveyed participants occurred to believe that these targets will not be met, while another 80% see the future adverse effects of the energy crisis on the quality of life.

Also, only 51% of respondents know how to reduce energy consumption.

Regarding the perception of the energy transition, only 12% are aware of government initiatives for sustainable energy production.

Two other findings he mentioned in his presentation show that 90% of energy consumers believe that it is necessary to increase the percentage of RES while another 66% would do energy saving projects and 53% would focus on self-consumption.

Regarding the energy communities, 51% support an energy transition with co-operation of local bodies and groups of citizens with each other, only 5% are well acquainted with energy communities, while 54% would become a member of an energy community.

**Vicky Tzega**, Legal Advisor, Consumers' Association "The Quality of Life", EKPIZO

**Panayota Kalapotharakou**, President, Consumers' Association "The Quality of Life", EKPIZO

Ms. Tzega took the floor and referred to a campaign for clean electricity bills that EKPIZO has been running for the past two years.

She then presented the goals of EKPIZO regarding energy, stressing that energy should be a service of public benefit, a social good, a universal service, accessible and affordable, competitive, qualitative and uninterrupted, clean and green.



Also she referred to clean energy bills that should be simple, understandable, friendly, comprehensive, discreet, transparent, with no irrelevant charges, and there should be standardisation of the invoice for all suppliers while she also reported the organisation's findings on the current situation.

Finally, she presented the proposals of EKPIZO regarding the clean energy bills.

Then Ms. Kalapotharakou took the floor and referred to the requests of EKPIZO regarding electricity tariffs to include only energy consumption related costs.

The adjustment clause should be included in the price of kW/h.

The ordinary consumer who has limited knowledge is not possible to choose a supplier that benefits him/her.

She also spoke in favour of standardisation of information on the part of suppliers, which will contribute to the operation of healthy competition. She also characterised as unconventional, abusive and illegal the action of the suppliers concerning the unilateral modification of the fixed contracts and EKPIZO has called RAE and the competent ministries for immediate intervention for the cessation of this abusive practice. To prevent this action EKPIZO is going to proceed with collective lawsuits and precautionary measures.

Among the proposals of EKPIZO regarding the clean energy bills are: Ceiling in the adjustment clause, ceiling in the stock market, abolition of indirect taxes, separation of inherent charges.

She concluded by stating that there is a distortion in the energy market at all levels. Energy bills need to be streamlined to help consumers and the repayment of the bills should be related to the monthly income.

**Dimitris Kitsikopoulos**, Electra Energy Coop

Mr. Kitsikopoulos took the floor to share his view on the matter. He suggested self-production and self-consumption as a solution. He also referred to the involvement of consumers in energy communities, that could be used as a tool to help the consumers.

**Alice Corovessi**, Managing Director, INZEB

Ms. Corovessi mentioned the aging building stock of both Greece and EU. She spoke about the EU directive, regarding emphasising the upgrading and renovation of buildings and increasing the pace of renovation..

She concluded that by upgrading the buildings the energy consumption is being reduced which has direct impact on the consumer's wallet.

**Kyriaki Metaxa**, Programme Manager, Heinrich Boell Stiftung, Greece

Ms. Metaxa referred to the request for the institutionalisation of energy as a basic right, such as water. Energy should not be a luxury but should be treated as a basic good.

The discussion was moderated by Manifold journalist, **Yiannis-Orestis Papadimitriou**.

