Albania develops its first gas transmission grid code

The Albanian Energy Regulatory Authority (“ERE”) approved on April 22, 2020 the first gas transmission grid code in the country (“the Grid Code”). This document was developed by Albgaz SHA in its capacity of Albanian gas Transmission System Operator (“TSO”), and provides a standard set of technical rules regulating the operation of the transmission system, and setting the conditions of service offered by the TSO for transmission system users, in accordance with ENTSO-G’s rules.

Considering that key legislative requirements for efficient implementation of the Grid Code have already been adopted in the past few years, the Grid Code was prepared to efficiently address the issues pertaining to the current level of market development and the provisions of the Gas Law. The Grid Code was prepared to mainly reflect the TAP Code provisions while describing the reliance with other domestic and international regulatory acts which contribute to the regulation and functioning of the system. A large number of provisions from similar codes of other Energy Community Member States have also been included therein.

The Grid Code is a thorough document which yet applies simple rules and mechanisms, which could then evolve as the market develops and the number of market participants’ increase. It has also introduced a balancing platform with the purpose to enhance market liquidity. Nevertheless, effectivity of such platform will also depend on how the market evolves in terms of market participants. The balancing actions are foreseen to be implemented by procuring services through public tendering procedures.

The main provisions of the Grid Code are the following: Services offered by the TSO; Capacity booking; Congestion Management Procedures; Interconnection Agreements; Delivery of gas to the transmission system entry points; Withdrawal of gas from the transmission system exit points; Allocation of gas quantities at entry and exit points; Balancing & operational gas; Connections; Metering; Management of emergencies and Emergency Plan; Transmission system development; Transmission system maintenance; Exchange of Information and information system; Dispute settlement mechanisms; Gas quality requirements etc.

For further information please contact us.