

Press Release

November 10th, 2025

Working Lunch “Energy Transition and Green Financing”

HELLENiQ ENERGY Center for Sustainability and Energy @ Alba Graduate Business School, in collaboration with ATHEXGROUP and EnExGroup

The *HELLENiQ ENERGY Center for Sustainability and Energy @Alba Graduate Business School*, in partnership with the *Athens Exchange Group (ATHEXGROUP)* and the *Hellenic Energy Exchange (EnExGroup)*, convened its second high-level working lunch on Monday, November 3rd, 2025, at the Athens Stock Exchange headquarters. The closed-door discussion brought together policymakers, investors, and senior energy-sector executives to assess the evolving relationship between energy markets and green finance in Greece and across Europe.

Speakers noted that the energy transition is reshaping the strategic priorities of utilities, investors, and regulators, with financial markets increasingly central to enabling decarbonization. The conversation underscored that electricity prices in Greece and the wider region remain highly sensitive to natural gas and European carbon allowance dynamics, as well as to hydrological conditions and renewable output variability. Participants emphasized that deeper regional market coupling, expanded storage solutions, and more flexible demand-side participation are essential to reducing wholesale price volatility and narrowing price spreads across EU markets.

Five years after the implementation of the Target Model in Greece, the event highlighted the continued need for wider adoption of hedging tools to manage price risk, especially as energy-intensive sectors face uncertain demand trajectories driven in part by the rise of data centers and artificial-intelligence-related consumption. Looking ahead, carbon market tightening under the EU’s Fit-for-55 agenda and the phase-out of free allowances are expected to raise compliance costs, prompting discussion on how smaller domestic industries can remain competitive while progressing on decarbonization.

Corporate power-purchase agreements (PPAs) were identified as an increasingly important mechanism for price certainty and renewable project financing. While markets have recently experienced a slowdown, participants expressed confidence that PPA activity will accelerate, particularly for wind and hybrid projects combining renewables with storage to ensure stable output. However, the large spread in

contract pricing across Europe reflects varying project risk profiles and regulatory frameworks, signaling the need for continued market maturity and facilitation in Greece.

The discussion also addressed rising renewable curtailments, highlighting the urgency of expanding grid flexibility through storage deployment, stronger interconnections, and broader demand-response engagement across both industry and households. The transition must balance decarbonization with social considerations, stressing that energy affordability remains fundamental to preventing energy poverty and ensuring a fair transition.

From a financing perspective, global and European capital flows continue to favor sustainable energy assets, with Greece strengthening its position in the green-bond and sustainability-linked financing space. ESG-focused investment funds have outperformed conventional benchmarks in Europe in recent years, driven by their emphasis on risk management, long-term resilience, and adaptability to regulatory shifts. However, only around one-quarter of Greek companies currently report ESG metrics, underlining the need for streamlined regulatory frameworks and greater support for small and medium-sized enterprises to participate in the transition.

Speakers observed that while environmental disclosure practices are advancing, the next phase of ESG evolution will demand greater focus on social and governance priorities, including corporate behavior, labor force development, and stakeholder engagement. Though the near-term transition carries costs, participants stressed the long-term strategic value of sustainability, calling the process “*short-term pain for long-term gain.*”

The Working Lunch forms part of the Center’s ongoing effort to advance energy-market literacy, policy dialogue, and investment alignment in Greece’s clean-energy transition. The Center’s initiatives will continue later this month at the **1st Energy & Sustainability Knowledge Forum: Reframing the Energy Transition**, taking place on **November 19, 2025, in Athens**