



LEGAL ISSUES OF WIND POWER GENERATION IN LITHUANIAN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF THE BALTIC SEA

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ABSTRACT

Growing dependence on fossil fuels raise the problems related to dependency on imported energy sources, security of energy supply and pollution. The recent climate and energy policy developments in the European Union aim not only to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, promote competitiveness in the energy market, but also to guarantee energy security in the entire European Union. Lithuania as EU Member State has to act in accordance with the EU law and implementing Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy sources until 2020 to achieve mandatory target of 23% of energy from renewable sources in its gross final consumption of energy. This ambitious targets Lithuania plans to achieve *inter alia* promoting offshore wind power generation in the Baltic Sea. Lithuanian Law on Renewable Energy obliges the Government of the Republic of Lithuania or its authorized institution to adopt necessary legislation for wind power generation in Lithuanian territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone. The necessary national legislation is still missing, however the erection and exploitation of offshore wind turbines in the exclusive economic zone is also subject to international law and European Union law that have to be taken into account by Lithuanian legislator. The article analyses the legal issues of wind power generation in Lithuanian exclusive economic zone pointing out the main problems and challenges creating related national legal framework.

Keywords: renewable energy, European Union, Directive 2009/28/EC, offshore wind energy