Regulatory Reform in Greece

Greece launched itself on the road to market liberalisation later than most OECD countries, but the current programme of reforms, if continued and expanded over the next few years, will do much to bring Greek regulatory practices up to OECD good practices. The reform process, spurred by intensifying European competition and the need to fuel sustainable economic growth, will create jobs, benefit consumers, and accelerate convergence with other European countries. The confluence of positive elements - growing consensus for reform, macroeconomic stability, and healthy economic growth - suggest that the next few years will be decisive years of reform in Greece.

Greece is among several OECD countries to have requested a review by the OECD of its national regulatory practices and domestic regulatory reforms. This review is now complete and will be presented to the media in Athens at 12 noon (11 a.m. Paris time) on Wednesday 30 May, by OECD Deputy Secretary General Sally Shelton-Colby, in the presence of Greece’s Minister of the Interior Vasso Papandreou. The briefing will take place at the Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralisation, Central Building, 15 Vasilisis Sofias Avenue, Athens.

Regulatory Reform in Greece shows that, despite recent gains and positive plans in areas such as domestic ferry transport, the reform agenda is lengthy. Greece still suffers from the high costs of poor regulation in many areas and too little pro-market regulation in others, such as the liberalizing utility sectors. Competition policy is still weak. Long traditions of political intervention and protection of economic actors will be difficult to reverse.

This review presents an integrated assessment of regulatory reform in framework areas such as the quality of the public sector, competition policy and enforcement, and market openness. It also contains chapters on sectors such as electricity, domestic ferry transport and trucking, and an assessment of the macroeconomic context for reform. The policy recommendations present a balanced plan of action for both short and longer term based on best international regulatory practices.

The report will be published on the OECD’s Online Bookshop and available to accredited journalists through the OECD’s password protected website at 11 a.m. Paris time on Wednesday 30 May. Journalists in Asia/Pacific time zones will be allowed advance access, on request, to an electronic version of this report by e-mail under embargo 12 hours ahead of release time. Journalists in other time zones will be allowed advance access to an e-mail version of the report 4 hours ahead of release time. E-mail versions of the report will be sent on request only. Requests to receive the report by e-mail under embargo or to obtain a password to access the website should be sent by fax or e-mail to Nicole Le Vourch (nicole.levourch@oecd.org) or Sonia Primot (sonia.primot@oecd.org) in the Media Relations Division (fax 33 1 45 24 80 03).

For further information, please contact Meggan Dissly in the OECD’s Media Relations Division (tel. 33 1 45 24 80 94 or meggan.dissly@oecd.org).

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