



Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece
Leof. Mesogion 119
115 26 Athens
by Email: aftokatanalosi@prv.ypeka.gr

Freiburg/Athens, den 18.7.2026

Subject: New Greek Law for Plug-in PV systems up to 800 W

Dear Mr. Papastavrou,

We are writing to you as Minister for the Environment and Energy of Greece and responding to your public inquiry about the use of plug-in-solar, sometimes called balcony solar or mini-pv. With this message, we would like to express our satisfaction regarding the establishment of a planned new regulation for the installation of small Plug-In Photovoltaic Systems up to 800W on buildings and their connection to the internal power grid of the owner.

BalkonSolar e.V. is full of balcony solar enthusiasts from German-speaking countries with its roots in Freiburg. We are a registered non-profit with the purpose to enhance and promote the safe use of Plug-In-PV. We have been active in the promotion but also in the regulatory action around plug in pv in Germany since 2018 and also worked to achieve the legal right to Plug-In-PV for tenants and Co-Owners in 2024. We are also active within the standards and norming discussion in Germany and set the first world record in mass second life upcycling of solar panels.

We are however concerned about the details of this proposed Greek regulation, because it would create significant hurdles for the potential owners and is thus contrary to the intention of the *Recommendation 1007/2026 of the European Commission, Item 9*, which states that Member States should:

“remove permit-granting procedures for small-scale solar PV and storage installations (...) and simplify related grid connections (...) and removing administrative requirements and regulatory obstacles for plug-in batteries and balcony solar PV installations up to 800 W.”¹

¹ <https://balkon.solar/news/2026/05/12/directive-eu-2018-2001/>

Unfortunately, **the draft of the new Greek regulations for plug-in-pv systems has a number of unnecessary administrative and technical provisions²**, which increase the cost of installation and operation of such systems, which have been very successfully deployed in many European countries.

The European Commission summarizes the benefits very well:

*"Plug-in mini-solar systems could, together with other systems and technologies, contribute to the increased uptake of renewable energy and citizen engagement in the energy transition. Member States should be able to promote the introduction of those systems to reduce the administrative and technical burden. Regulatory authorities should be able to set the network tariffs for the injection of electricity coming from plug-in mini-solar systems or to establish the methodology for calculating those tariffs. Depending on the situation in a Member State, it would be possible for the tariffs to be very low or even zero, while being cost-reflective, transparent and non-discriminatory."*³

In Germany there are more than 1,2 Mio. plug-in-pv systems registered and possibly about 5 mio systems operating as being estimated by BalkonSolar e.V.⁴, as can be seen at the official register "Markstammdatenregister".

The proposed greek regulation creates new hurdles for the use of plug-in-solar, which are counter to the intention of the commission recommendation and will hinder the adoption of plug-in-solar in Greece. A country much better suited for solar power, than Germany.

We ask you to review the following proposed regulations:

The **proposed regulation limits total power of the PV panels to only 900Wp (DC)**. This underutilises the inverter, since most of the time the output power will be much lower, resulting in much lower self-consumption. The German regulations allow panel output power up to 2.000Wp (DC) and only limits the feed in to 800 Watts which is compatible even with the oldest electrical house installation.

The **proposal obliges the owner to register the new system two times!** First, when purchasing the components and a second time 5 days before installation takes place. Also, the electrician must be registered, which does not make sense, because such systems are Plug & Play and are designed to be operated and installed by laypersons.

In Germany, only one simplified registration is needed, done by the owners themselves, which should take place after system installation and no electrician is needed for such small systems. Electricians are a scarce resource that is needed for the installation of large solar

²

<https://ypen.gov.gr/gia-proti-fora-dynatotita-gia-fotovoltaika-sto-balkoni-kai-aftonomes-bataries-se-noikokyria-kai-epicheiriseis/>

³ See: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1711/oj>

⁴

<https://balkon.solar/news/2025/06/11/1-mio-steckersolargeräte-im-marktstammdatenregister-angemeldet/>

installations, wallboxes and windpower. German electricians often find the installation of a plug-in-solar system is not a profitable job they want to take and are often not interested in such jobs.

The **planned Greek regulation required surplus energy may not be fed into the grid**. This again adds more components, additional work and higher cost to the system for no reason, since the owner has a strong incentive to consume as much energy produced as possible in order to maximise his return on investment. Especially as we know that about half of the systems sold in Germany already contain a battery that is best used to store electricity and only feed in as much into the house as is needed at any given time.

The **proposal requires an electrician to install the system**. Again this is unnecessary, because the Plug-in PV systems are designed as Plug & Play systems and can be easily installed and operated by the owner, without any need for professional help under all normal circumstances. Also, there is no need for additional inspection every two years. This is again costly without any justification, since the power level of such systems is limited to 800 W.

The **proposal demands a device for telemetry to be installed**. Such a device is not necessary. However if deemed necessary, such a function can be easily implemented with existing electronic meters, which should not be a concern or a cost for the consumer, but should be the sole responsibility of the grid operator.

Safety studies done during the investigation for the German plug-in-pv standard, **did not find any significant safety issues, even in aged electrical installations**, as long as the upper limit of 800 Watts feed in limitation is observed.⁵

The German association of fire chiefs specifically states that **there is no added fire risk for the operation of plug-in-solar**.⁶ They simply recommend that you leave enough space for a ladder if you install at the balcony, which is already part of the legal regulations for any installation.

The BalkonSolar Verein can confidently state that despite the fact we have had plug-in-solar in Germany as a mass market thing, **there has been no case of a panel falling off the balcony or injuring any one**.⁷

Let us quote our submission to the European Commission, in which we also address major safety concerns:

⁵ See short report: <https://solar.htw-berlin.de/publikationen/kurzbericht-steckersolar-800-w/> and <https://publica-rest.fraunhofer.de/server/api/core/bitstreams/4afaa599-6918-4c65-8e1c-b45315373680/content>

⁶ Find information about fire protection and escape routes at: <https://balkon.solar/news/2024/01/18/balkonsolar-und-anleitern-fluchtweg-und-feuerwehr/>

⁷ Well we must make one exception: In Mainz the CEO of the local housing company stood on a balcony, let himself be filmed by a drone and threw a solar panel off a balcony. <https://balkon.solar/news/2025/10/20/offener-brief-zum-umgang-der-wohnbau-mainz-mit-steckersolar-geraeten/>

“Currently, all plug-in solar systems

- ***automatically shut down during grid outages to protect utility workers and consumers.***
- ***are plug touch-safe within milliseconds of disconnection, all but eliminating the risk of electric shock***
- ***comply with best practices proven in Germany and Austria, where millions of households have adopted plug-in solar with no major safety incidents reported.***
- ***are small and pose negligible grid impacts. Often consumers start to act grid friendly on their own, eg. using power when the sun shines”⁸***

We want to urge you not to deviate too far from the legal and technical framework in Germany⁹, as any substantially different regulation will drive up prices for consumers and hinder adoption.

In our experience governments and interest groups can try to limit the adoption of plug-in-solar with extensive, cumbersome and difficult technical and legal regulations. Some potential customers will then not adopt plug-in-solar, other customers will simply ignore this and install their solar system as guerilla pv as there are financial gains in using it.

Consumers can reduce their electricity bill by up to 25%.

We urge you to adopt a better way of regulation that gives customers a clear and legal path to using plug-in-solar and invest in customer education and thus enable informed customers to make safe choices when using the system.

We are open to working with you for these goals and helping you, please feel free to contact us at any time

Sincerely,

Sebastian Müller
Chair

Stefan Mittmann
Member, Greek Section of BalkonSolar eV.

⁸ available at:

<https://balkon.solar/news/2025/07/17/call-to-support-our-submission-to-the-european-commission/>
page 7 and following

⁹ for details see our FAQ page: <https://balkon.solar/news/2025/11/14/neue-steckersolar-norm/> and an english summary:
<https://balkon.solar/news/2025/11/22/what-does-the-new-german-plug-in-pv-norm-say/>