Sustainable Aviation Fuels
time for take-off

Despina Tzoulaki

Despina Tzoulaki is a highly accomplished energy policy and regulatory expert with a strong record of delivering complex assignments at the intersection of energy transition strategy, regulatory reform, low-carbon technologies and project implementation. She combines a rare blend of technical depth, policy understanding and strategic advisory capability, underpinned by an academic background in chemical engineering, a PhD in Transport Phenomena, and an MBA, which enables her to bridge technical, regulatory and commercial dimensions in highly demanding assignments. Since 2021, she has served as Director / Energy Policy and Regulations Expert at Grant Thornton, where she has led and implemented projects across Greece, the EU, the CESEC region and Serbia, with a particular focus on renewable energy, green transition, renewable and low-carbon gases, and CCUS. Her profile is particularly strong in energy policy design and regulatory development, having acted as technical team leader for the development of primary and secondary legislation on hydrogen and biomethane in Greece, while also contributing as technical expert to the development of primary legislation for CCUS in Greece in collaboration with the competent ministry. She brings proven expertise in EU energy and climate policy, including the Fit-for-55 package, RED II, RED III, the Hydrogen and Decarbonized Gas Market Package, and the Delegated Acts for renewable and low-carbon hydrogen, allowing her to translate European policy developments into practical national-level recommendations and implementation pathways.

Across her project portfolio, Despina has demonstrated substantial experience in CCUS, hydrogen, biomethane, e-methanol and broader decarbonization pathways, including regulatory assessments, roadmap development, market studies, feasibility support and strategic planning assignments. Her involvement in the Greek Carbon Capture Usage and Storage Regulatory Framework, the Greek Renewable Hydrogen and Biomethane Regulatory Framework, the biomethane market entry study, the CESEC study on renewable and low-carbon gases, and advisory work related to e-methanol and carbon capture projects highlights her ability to address the policy, regulatory, technical and market dimensions of low-carbon value chains in an integrated manner. She also has strong experience in roadmaps and strategic sector planning, as illustrated by her support to the New and Renewable Energy Authority (NREA) and her contribution to the Serbian hydrogen component under the NECP, where she helped shape deployment measures, assess market needs and identify funding opportunities. In parallel, she has consistently demonstrated strong project management and stakeholder engagement capabilities, including coordination of expert teams, interaction with clients and beneficiaries, support to IFI-

funded assignments, organisation of events and consultations, and delivery of high-quality outputs tailored to both technical and non-technical audiences. Her professional career further evidences solid experience in business plans, financial models, feasibility studies and investment-facing analyses, enabling her to connect regulatory and policy recommendations with implementation realities and investor requirements. Overall, Despina offers a well-rounded, implementation-oriented and highly credible profile for assignments requiring expertise in energy policies, CCUS, renewable gases, roadmap development, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and regulatory reform, and is exceptionally well placed to support the design of robust and actionable frameworks for the energy transition.