

The Law of COVID-19 and the energy sector

HOW SPAIN COPEDED WITH THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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COVID-19 at the light of the three guiding principles of energy law

- Security of supply
- Economic efficiency
- Environmental sustainability

Maximization of security of supply

- Pandemic exacerbated the need to guarantee security of supply, at the expense of the other two principles
- Royal Decree number 463/2020, of 14th March, by which the Alarm Status is declared in the entire Spanish territory, for the management of the health crisis provoked by COVID-19, empowered competent authorities to adopt any necessary measures to guarantee electricity supply, oil products and natural gas, in accordance with the 2013 Electricity Act and the 1998 Hydrocarbons Act

COVID-19

- Energy services as essential services (public service)
- Critical infrastructure

Initial measures

Royal Decree-law no 8/2020, of 17th March, of extraordinary urgent measure to face the economic and social impact of COVID-19 (contains measure to protect vulnerable consumers)

- a) prohibition to cut-off the supply to vulnerable consumers
- b) extension of the electricity “social bonus” until the 15th September, 2020
- c) suspension of the formula for the updating of LPG gases and natural gas for small customers

Further measures

- Royal Decree-law no 11/2020, of the 31st March, by which social and economic supplementary measures are adopted to face COVID-19
 - a) The right to the electricity “social bonus” to some autonomous workers
 - b) Prohibition to cut off the consumers (physical persons), while the alarm status is in force
 - c) Flexibility of supply contracts
 - d) Suspension of the payments of bills

COVID-19

- The European Green Deal as an essential part of economic recovery
- Maximization of environmental sustainability (on the 30th June, seven coal power plants were closed, there are only four remaining ones, which are awaiting for the governmental permission to close)