

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** April 30,2020

**Report Number:** RO2020-0012

**Report Name:** Romania Approves New Biofuels Blending Exemptions

**Country:** Romania

**Post:** Bucharest

**Report Category:** Biofuels

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**Report Highlights:**

In mid-April, the Government of Romania (GOR) approved Emergency Ordinance (E.O.) 47/2020 to provide flexibility from biofuel mandates for local petroleum stakeholders. The GOR also subsequently passed implementing regulation Ministerial Order 890/2020 which outlines how Romanian fuel suppliers can seek exemptions from GOR biofuel blending mandates during the ongoing state of emergency. While locally produced biodiesel can cover roughly 70 percent of domestic demand, Romania is fully dependent on imported bioethanol.

**General information:**

Romania's petroleum sector was negatively affected by the sudden plunge in consumer demand for gasoline and diesel fuel following the GOR's enforced social distancing measures in the wake of Romania's COVID-19 outbreak. As a result, on April 14, the GOR approved E.O. 47/2020 which exempts Romania's petroleum industry for the GOR's current biofuel blending mandates during the state of emergency. Romania's bioethanol blending mandate is set at eight percent for gasoline, and its biodiesel blending mandate is set at 6.5 percent for diesel fuel. The regulation does not specify a percentage by which the blending mandate may be reduced and leave each fuel supplier to determine its own capacity for any blending.

Fuel suppliers interested in utilizing the blending exemptions are required to demonstrate to the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Business Climate (MEEBC) that they are unable to fulfil the GOR's current blending requirements. Transportation delays for imported biofuels from other European Union (EU) suppliers due to COVID-19 restrictions and insufficient domestic biofuel stocks will be duly considered. Although domestic production covers roughly 70 percent of Romanian demand for biodiesel, Romania is almost completely dependent on imports of bioethanol.

Ministerial Order 890/2020, published several days after the E.O., provides the implementing procedures through which the Romanian fuel suppliers may apply for the blending exemptions. According to the Order, petroleum stakeholders may reduce biofuel blending only after receiving approval from MEEBC. Interested parties must notify MEEBC and provide a statement attesting that procuring biofuel from other EU suppliers is overly burdensome due to delays following COVID-19 mitigations measures taken within Romania or the EU. They must also provide proof that the domestic producers are unable to provide additional volume of biofuels, as the entire amount has already been contracted out. MEEBC will review the requests and make approvals within three days of submission. Once approved, the fuel suppliers are required to inform consumers about any changes by appropriate labeling at gas stations or other points of sale.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.