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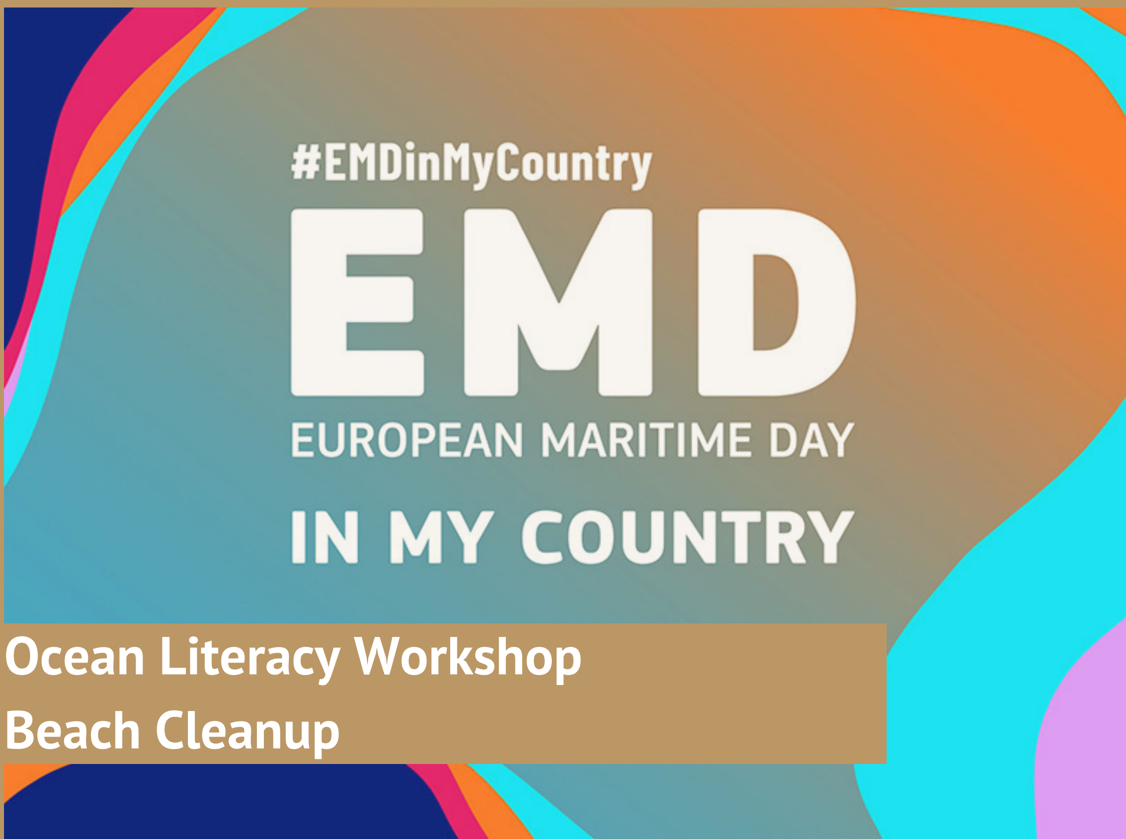
European Maritime Day



Ocean Literacy Workshop

Beach Cleanup

RSVP: bit.ly/EMD2021

Thursday, July 16
9:00-13:00

64th Km, Athens-Sounion Ave.,
Legraina,1 9500 Greece
https://www1.eplo.int/#

TOP NEWS

- EU approves of 12 national recovery plans, including Greece 2.0
- European Commission launches New Sustainable Finance Strategy
- ECB action plan to include climate change considerations in its monetary policy strategy
- Prodea to invest €236 million in green projects by 2024
- Greece and EBRD sign MoU on EU Recovery Fund loans management

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
July 15, 2021, Vol. 03

EDITORIAL

TALK OF THE TOWN

The last couple of weeks have been flooded with news and more news on sustainable finance, green bonds and ESG emerging from the four corners of the earth, making it hard to keep up with all updates. The European Commission set to reach the EU target of net-zero emissions by 2050 announced an ambitious New Sustainable Finance Strategy with proposed regulations on a voluntary European Green Bond Standard (EUGBS), and new specifications for ESGdisclosures for businesses under the umbrella of the EU Taxonomy. The European Central Bank launched a green bond framework to help meet its climate goals and an Australian court ruled that the government must protect young people from climate change. The other side of the pond has yet to follow suit, but the change in administration makes investors optimistic although they still voice their objections to all this flurry of activity. For them, governments and regulators are slow to follow market trends, notably in the ESG and sustainable finance sector where according to the Financial Times $43 Trillion is now committed to 'net zero' - reflecting that climate emissions are balanced by the removal of greenhouse gasses.

Aristotelis Karytinos, Vice Chairman/ CEO, Prodea Real Estate Investment SA

PRODEA TO INVEST €236 MILLION IN GREEN PROJECTS BY 2024

Prodea Investments, a leading real estate investment company in Greece, listed on the Athens Stock Exchange (ATHEX)with total assets exceeding €2,4 bn, will invest €236 million from the issuance of the €300 million common bond loan ingreen projects by 2024, as per its Public Offer Prospectus, open from July 14th till 16th.

UPCOMING INVESTMENTS

One-fifth of these funds will be invested in real estate the company already owns, whereas a quarter will be allocated for deals at the final stage of negotiations. Approximately 30% of the green bond funds are set for investments that have beenapproved by the Investment Committee of the company and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been concluded and/or due diligence is being carried out or the contracts are discussed for the completion of transactions. The remaining amount will be invested in projects that are now being negotiated.

GREEN INVESTMENTS

Most green investments that are under way and will be financed by the bond concern the full acquisition of companies with a real estate portfolio that includes storage and logistics buildings under construction and consortia Prodea participates in such as the Piraeus Tower S.A. consortium for the reconstruction of Piraeus Tower into a modern bioclimatic office and retail building with a total area of 34,518 m2, expected to reach completion in the first half of 2023. The total investment of Piraeus Tower amounts to approximately €50 million and the company is expected to contribute €4.3 million. Other notable investments are the development of a sustainable building, of more than 30 thousand square meters on Syngrou Avenue in Athens, a project which is expected to completed in a year, the development of luxury residences of modern standards, based on the principles of sustainable development, and a new hotel in central Athens.

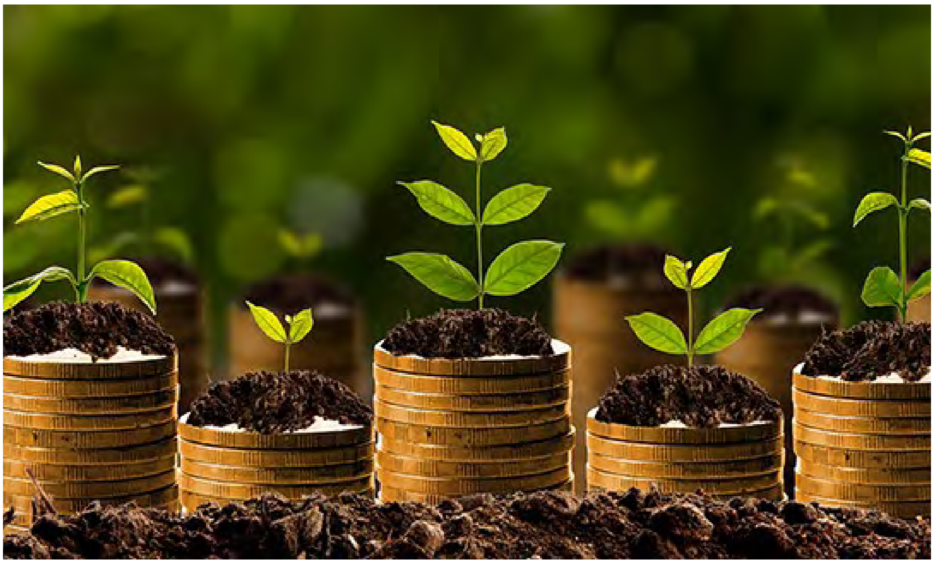
EU GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO FIRST RECOVERY DISBURSEMENTS, INCLUDING GREECE 2.0

EU economic and finance ministers adopted on July 13th at the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) meeting in Brussels the first batch of Council implementing decisions on the approval of national recovery and resilience plans. Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain got the green light for the use of EU recovery and resilience funds to boost their economies and recover from the COVID-19 fallout. The adoption of Council implementing decisions on the approval of the plans permits the member states to sign grant and loan agreements that will allow for up to 13% pre-financing. The European Council received a positive assessment for the 12 member states' plans from the Commission in June, accompanied by the proposals for the Council decisions on their approval. All 12 member states asked for pre-financing from their allocated funds. The decisions the Council adopted are the final step before the member states can conclude grant and loan agreements with the Commission and start receiving funds to implement their national plans.

"Today is an important day for Greece and Europe," Finance Minister Christos Staikouras said on Tuesday after the ECOFIN meeting. "This development is the culmination of many months of hard, systematic work by the government in order to submit a mature and ambitious plan and ensure the conditions for the optimal and speediest possible use of the funds from the recovery facility," the FinMin stated. Staikouras noted that the Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan amounts to 30.5 billion euros in funding from the Next Generation EU fund, with the first €4 billion now expected to be disbursed by the end of July, following its adoption. The total amount to be disbursed by the end of 2021 will be €7.5 billion, he said.

This decision by the ECOFIN Council will allow the government to start implementing the "Greece 2.0" plan, he added, stressing that this was a plan with Greek ownership, which was cohesive and realistic, and with a marked orientation toward reforms, investments and creating strong and sustainable economic growth, jobs and boosting social cohesion.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION LAUNCHES NEW SUSTAINABLE FINANCE STRATEGY



The European Commission announced the adoption of a series of initiatives aimed at promoting a more sustainable financial system and help facilitate the necessary investments to advance the EU's and global climate goals.

The measures include a new Sustainable Finance Strategy, proposed regulations on a voluntary European Green Bond Standard (EUGBS), and specifications regarding sustainability information to be disclosed by companies under the EU Taxonomy. The proposals highlight transition finance as a key goal of the EU sustainable finance agenda, and recognize the importance of international cooperation in meeting sustainability goals.

Mairead McGuinness, Commissioner in charge of Financial Services, Financial Stability, and Capital Markets Union, said:

"[The] Strategy sets out our ambitious roadmap on Sustainable Finance for the years ahead. To achieve our climate targets, we need sustained efforts to ensure more money flows towards a sustainable economy. Significant investment is needed to green the economy and create a more inclusive society, so that everyone can play their part. We must step up global cooperation on climate and environmental issues because the EU cannot fight climate change alone – global coordination and action is essential."

The proposals mark a significant step towards the goals of the European Green Deal, the EU strategy to transform the region into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, through a package of measures ranging from ambitiously cutting greenhouse gas emissions, to investing in cutting-edge research and innovation, to preserving Europe's natural environment. Achieving these goals will require the mobilization of massive amounts of capital, highlighting the need for a more advanced and mature sustainable finance market.

Actions included under the new Sustainable Finance Strategy include extending the existing sustainable finance toolbox to facilitate access to transition finance, providing tools and incentives to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and consumers to access transition finance, and increasing the contribution of the financial sector to sustainability. The strategy also promotes the development of international sustainable finance initiatives and standards.

The proposed European Green Bond Standard aims to help facilitate the financing of sustainable investments through the creation of a 'gold standard' for how companies and public authorities can use green bonds to raise funds on capital markets, while meeting rigorous sustainability requirements and protecting investors from greenwashing. The EUGBS would require funds raised to be fully allocated to EU Taxonomy-aligned projects, full transparency through detailed reporting, and external reviewers ensuring compliance.

The new EU Taxonomy measures specify the content, methodology and presentation of information to be disclosed by large financial and non-financial companies on the share of their business, investments or lending activities that are aligned with the Taxonomy. The proposals include the consideration of options to extend the Taxonomy framework to recognize transition efforts, and include additional sustainable activities in the EU Taxonomy.

Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for an Economy that Works for People, said:

"The Sustainable Finance Strategy is key to generate private finance to reach our climate targets and tackle other environmental challenges. We also want to create sustainable funding opportunities for small and medium-sized companies. We will work with our international partners to deepen cooperation on sustainable finance, as global challenges call for global action. We also propose a Green Bond Standard to fight greenwashing and clearly recognise those bonds that truly represent a sustainable investment."

ECB ACTION PLAN TO INCLUDE CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS IN ITS MONETARY POLICY STRATEGY

The Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB) has decided on a comprehensive action plan, with an ambitious roadmap to further incorporate climate change considerations into its policy framework. With this decision, the Governing Council underlines its commitment to more systematically reflect environmental sustainability considerations in its monetary policy. The decision follows the conclusion of the strategy review of 2020-21, in which the reflections on climate change and environmental sustainability were of central importance.

Addressing climate change is a global challenge and a policy priority for the European Union. While governments and parliaments have the primary responsibility to act on climate change, within its mandate, the ECB recognises the need to further incorporate climate considerations into its policy framework. Climate change and the transition towards a more sustainable economy affect the outlook for price stability through their impact on macroeconomic indicators such as inflation, output, employment, interest rates, investment and productivity; financial stability; and the transmission of monetary policy. Moreover, climate change and the carbon transition affect the value and the risk profile of the assets held on the Eurosystem's balance sheet, potentially leading to an undesirable accumulation of climate-related financial risks.

With this action plan, the ECB will increase its contribution to addressing climate change, in line with its obligations under the EU Treaties. The action plan comprises measures that strengthen and broaden ongoing initiatives by the Eurosystem to better account for climate change considerations with the aim of preparing the ground for changes to the monetary policy implementation framework. The design of these measures will be consistent with the price stability objective and should take into account the implications of climate change for an efficient allocation of resources. The recently established ECB climate change centre will coordinate the relevant activities within the ECB, in close cooperation with the Eurosystem. These activities will focus on the following areas:

Macroeconomic modelling and assessment of implications for monetary policy transmission.

The ECB will accelerate the development of new models and will conduct theoretical and empirical analyses to monitor the implications of climate change and related policies for the economy, the financial system and the transmission of monetary policy through financial markets and the banking system to households and firms.

Statistical data for climate change risk analyses.

The ECB will develop new experimental indicators, covering relevant green financial instruments and the carbon footprint of financial institutions, as well as their exposures to climate-related physical risks. This will be followed by step-by-step enhancements of such indicators, starting in 2022, also in line with progress on the EU policies and initiatives in the field of environmental sustainability disclosure and reporting.

Disclosures as a requirement for eligibility as collateral and asset purchases.

The ECB will introduce disclosure requirements for private sector assets as a new eligibility criterion or as a basis for a differentiated treatment for collateral and asset purchases. Such requirements will take into account EU policies and initiatives in the field of environmental sustainability disclosure and reporting and will promote more consistent disclosure practices in the market, while maintaining proportionality through adjusted requirements for small and medium-sized enterprises. The ECB will announce a detailed plan in 2022.

Enhancement of risk assessment capabilities.

The ECB will start conducting climate stress tests of the Eurosystem balance sheet in 2022 to assess the Eurosystem's risk exposure to climate change, leveraging on the methodology of the ECB's economy-wide climate stress test. Furthermore, the ECB will assess whether the credit rating agencies accepted by the Eurosystem Credit Assessment Framework have disclosed the necessary information to understand how they incorporate climate change risks into their credit ratings. In addition, the ECB will consider developing minimum standards for the incorporation of climate change risks into its internal ratings.

Collateral framework.

The ECB will consider relevant climate change risks when reviewing the valuation and risk control frameworks for assets mobilised as collateral by counterparties for Eurosystem credit operations. This will ensure that they reflect all relevant risks, including those arising from climate change. In addition, the ECB will continue to monitor structural market developments in sustainability products and stands ready to support innovation in the area of sustainable finance within the scope of its mandate, as exemplified by its decision to accept sustainability-linked bonds as collateral (see press release of 22 September 2020).

Corporate sector asset purchases.

The ECB has already started to take relevant climate change risks into account in its due diligence procedures for its corporate sector asset purchases in its monetary policy portfolios. Looking ahead, the ECB will adjust the framework guiding the allocation of corporate bond purchases to incorporate climate change criteria, in line with its mandate. These will include the alignment of issuers with, at a minimum, EU legislation implementing the Paris agreement through climate change-related metrics or commitments of the issuers to such goals. Furthermore, the ECB will start disclosing climate-related information of the corporate sector purchase programme (CSPP) by the first quarter of 2023 (complementing the disclosures on the non-monetary policy portfolios; see press release of 4 February 2021).

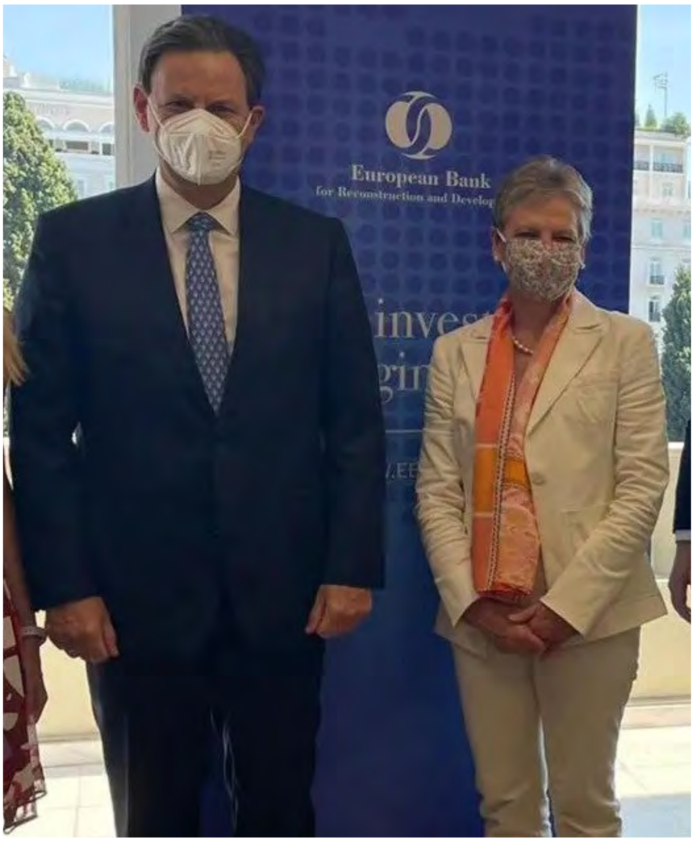
The implementation of the action plan will be in line with progress on the EU policies and initiatives in the field of environmental sustainability disclosure and reporting, including the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, the Taxonomy Regulation and the Regulation on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector.

GREECE AND EBRD SIGN MOU ON EU RECOVERY FUND LOANS MANAGEMENT

Greece and EBRD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on July 12th on the management by the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development of loans worth 1 billion euros to finance private investments in Greece as part of the Recovery Fund.

The MoU signed by Greek Alternate Finance Minister Theodore Skylakakis and Charlotte Ruhe, EBRD Managing Director for Central and Southeastern Europe forms the second agreement signed by the Finance Ministry, as recentlyanother one was signed with European Investment Bank (EIB) for the management of loans worth 5 billion euros. The EBRD-MoU signals the commencement of a loan program to create significant private investments in Greece, the Finance ministry said in an announcement.

Skylakakis said these new investments will facilitate the country's transition towards a green and digital economy and will help to achieve higher growth rates, creating new job positions in the coming years.



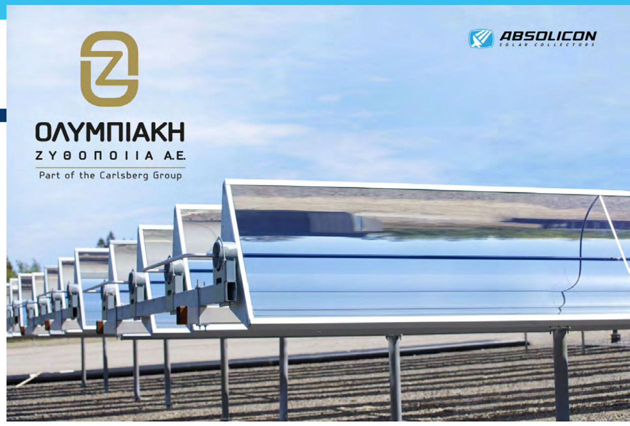
Theodore Skylakakis, Greek Alternate Finance Minister and Charlotte Ruhe, EBRD Managing Director for Central and Southeastern Europe

HENKEL HELLAS, DIXAN BEACH CLEAN-UP

DIXAN 's environmental program entitled "Clean in Depth" commenced for a second year with even more enthusiasm. The first actions for 2021 took place in the coasts of Rhodes, Alepochori, Igoumenitsa, Vonitsa, Legraina, Sounio and Thessaloniki. During the clean-ups, 9,939 kilos of waste collected, of which one-fifth were plastics. The program's substantially contributes to the dissemination of the circular economy model, as the 706kg of plastics collected from last year's actions were processed and turned into utility items. With the specialized know-how and Green Technology of the "Circular Economy & Eco Innovation Center (CEEII)" Institute in Sweden, the plastics were transformed into benches and waste sorting bins, which were given to the Municipalities, as a daily reminder for the value of sustainable development.

The initiative of the Detergents & Home Care products sector of Henkel Hellas, is under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy and is part of the company's Sustainability strategy.

For the successful course of the program, Rania Filippakopoulou, Marketing & Trade Marketing Director of Henkel for Greece and Cyprus, stated: "In 2020, we pledged to join our forces "for the common good", starting with the environmental program "Clean in Depth". This year, faithful to this commitment, we strengthen and expand the scope of the program so as to reduce our environmental footprint and give back to our society, demonstrating in practice the importance of protecting the environment and circular economy."



INNOVATIVE SOLAR ENERGY PROGRAM BY OLYMPIC BREWERY AND ABSOLICON

As part of the sustainable development strategy "Together to ZERO" and with a view to manage its environmental footprint, Olympic Brewery commences a solar energy pilot project to meet its energy needs at the Sindos production plant, in collaboration with Absolicon, a Swedish company.

The project includes the installation of a solar panel system at the Olympic Brewery in Sindos that will supply the plant with thermal energy, solely produced from solar energy, for its production needs. This initiative is expected to serve as an example in the brewery industry to gradually reduce its dependence on conventional fossil fuels, increasingly using forms of renewable energy.

One of the main sustainable development goals set by the Olympic Brewery and the Carlsberg Group is to achieve zero carbon emissions as regards the production process by 2030. Thus, the company continuously invests in modernizing its facilities, equipment and processes across its entire range of operations, while it adopts and expands green practices to optimize energy consumption and to further use renewable energy, including solar.

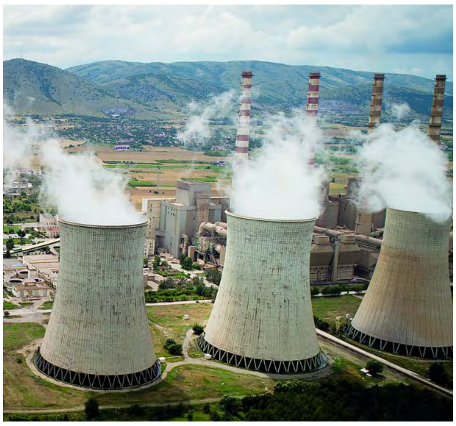
On the launch of the program, **Katerina Cintsifa, Olympic Brewery ISC Lead,** noted: *"As a responsible company, we are committed to achieve a net zero carbon operating footprint in the coming years. Our cooperation with Absolicon is an important step towards this direction and we believe that it will be a model for the brewing industry to achieve net-zero emissions."*

Joakim Byström, Absolicon Solar Collector AB CEO, stated: *"Our strategy at Absolicon involves creating a global industrial solar energy market, working with companies that share our vision for a greener future. We are impressed by the ambitious strategy and achievements so far by the Olympic Brewery and Carlsberg Group in protecting the environment and look forward to the implementation of this first joint program."*

GREEK PUBLIC POWER TO ISSUE SUSTAINABILITY-LINKED BONDS

Public Power Corporation (PPC), Greece's biggest power utility, plans to issue sustainability-linked bonds to raise 350 million euros ($416 million), according to an announcement of July 12th.

PPC mandated Goldman Sachs Bank Europe and HSBC Continental Europe as joint lead managers for the issue due in 2028, subject to market conditions and demand, it said.



Proceeds from the bonds would be used to help repay existing debt, PPC said.

The utility, which is 51% owned by the state, has committed to shutting down all its coal plants by 2025 and reducing carbon emissions by 40% by the end of 2022. PPC raised about 725 million euros from two sustainability-linked bonds earlier this year.