

International Energy and Natural Resources Law

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This article surveys the developments during 2012 in Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Mozambique, Russia, Spain, Timor-Leste, and the United States.

I. Angola

Following the 2011 pre-salt licensing round with participation by major international companies, the Angolan government enacted laws and regulations in 2012 to incentivize Angolan oil and gas companies,¹ to govern foreign exchange operations,² to strengthen

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1. Decreto Legislativo Presidencial n. 3/12 de 16 de Março de 2012, DIÁRIO DA REPÚBLICA [D.R.] (52, série I): 1191 de 16.3.2012 (Angl.).

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V. Croatia

Important legislative developments included the implementation of the *acquis communautaire* of the EU's third energy package⁷⁷ and the drafting of two new laws to replace the current Mining Act.⁷⁸ The transpositions of the EU's Gas and Electricity Directives 2009/72/EC⁷⁹ and 2009/73/EC⁸⁰ into the Energy Act and the Act on the Regulation of Energy Activities further support Croatia's accession process to the European Union.⁸¹ The Energy Act regulates issues of common interest for all energy activities.⁸² The Act on the Regulation of Energy Activities (HERA Act) broadens the authority and responsibilities of the Croatian Energy Regulatory Agency (HERA), particularly with regard to regulation of electricity and gas prices.⁸³

Two laws currently being drafted—the Hydrocarbons Act and proposed Mineral Mining Act—are expected to replace the current Mining Act next year.⁸⁴ The creation of a separate law for hydrocarbons is intended to create an improved legal and regulatory environment favorable to increased investment. Given that oil and gas development is seen as one of the top governmental priorities for economic recovery, tenders are expected shortly after the new Hydrocarbons Act is passed in 2013.

VI. Mozambique

Two backdated pieces of legislation containing important energy regulations were published in 2012. The first creates a specific statutory regime for the production, processing, trading, and distribution of biofuels and biofuel mixtures.⁸⁵ It addresses a range of matters, including (i) the types of licenses and their award requirements and procedures; (ii) the requirements in regard to monitoring, storage, blending and supply contracts, pricing, and licensing fees; and (iii) the minimum percentage of biofuel to be blended with diesel and gasoline.⁸⁶ The second covers safety regulations for high voltage power lines.⁸⁷ In line with Mozambique's goal to expand its power transmission and distribution grid, the new regulations aim to adapt the statutory regime to the latest technological advances occurring in the field of high-voltage transmission of electrical current.⁸⁸

77. Energy Act, Narodne novine, No. 120/2012 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia) [hereinafter Energy Act]; Act on the Regulation of Energy Activities, Narodne novine No. 120/2012 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia) [hereinafter HERA Act]; see also *Single Market for Gas & Electricity: Third Package*, EUR. COMMISSION, http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas_electricity/legislation/legislation_en.htm (last visited Feb. 2, 2013).

78. See Mining Act, Narodne novine No. 75/09, 49/11 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia) [hereinafter Mining Act].

79. Council Directive 2009/72/EC, art. 49, 2009 O.J. (L 211) 89 (EC).

80. Council Directive 2009/73/EC, art. 54, 2009 O.J. (L 211) 121-32 (EC).

81. See *id.*

82. See Energy Act, *supra* note 77, art. 1(2).

83. See HERA Act, *supra* note 77, art. 11.

84. See Mining Act, *supra* note 78; *Oil and Gas and Renewable Energy Legis. and Mkt. Update*, INT'L L. OFF. (Oct. 8, 2012), <http://www.internationallawoffice.com/newsletters/Detail.aspx?g=15a0bfe1-fabd-4069-b9ea-2456a6524e96>.

85. Decreto No. 58/2011, de 11 de Novembro de 2011, B.R. 1 (45, 2d supp.): 502-(36-39) (Mozam.).

86. *Id.*

87. Decreto No. 57/2011, de 11 de Novembro de 2011, B.R. 1 (45, 2d supp.): 502-(3-35) (Mozam.).

88. *Id.*

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