



Kostadin Sirlishtov

Partner, CEE Head of Energy

Kostadin Sirlishtov is a partner at CMS Sofia – the largest international law firm in Bulgaria. He is Head of Energy for CEE and also of the Energy, Projects and Construction (EPC) practice group in Bulgaria.

His particular area of expertise is in energy and utility law, having worked as Chief of Minister's cabinet with the Ministry of Energy and Energy Resources between 2002 and 2004. Kostadin also served as board member to the North East Electricity Distribution Company (prior to the acquisition by E-on), Terem JSCo., Puzzle Consulting and Financing JSCo and Energy Traders JSCo. Between 2008 and 2010 he was as Chairman of the National Energy Efficiency Chamber in Bulgaria and is a member of the Board of the National Association for Renovation of Buildings and "Justice" Foundation. He is praised by clients for his *"huge knowledge and understanding of the sector"* and is named *"a real leader on the market."* He is constantly singled out as top lawyer by clients in the energy field in the world's most renowned legal directories *Chambers & Partners* and *Legal 500*.

Kostadin has advised on all offshore oil & gas production concessions in Bulgaria and was involved in all recent tenders in the sector. He has also advised a multitude of energy clients on their oil & gas exploration and production activities in Bulgaria.

Highlights of his experience include advising:

- A group of large international oil & gas companies on their successful exploration activities for the "Han Asparuh" block offshore Bulgaria, which is the largest oil & gas exploration project ever developed in Bulgaria with estimated exploration costs exceeding 500 million EUR.
- Petroceltic on negotiations and signing of three production concession agreements and on the extension of its exploration rights since 2008.
- Saipem on their successful selection for main contractor on South Stream Offshore gas pipeline project worth 2 billion EUR and on various regulatory, tax, corporate and immigration matters.
- Burgas Alexandrupolis Oil Pipeline project on the regulatory elements of the structuring and the implementation of the Burgas – Alexandrupolis oil pipeline project.
- Nabucco gas pipeline project on various regulatory matters in Bulgaria including: those related to the Bulgarian Regulator and the approval of the exclusion from the EU policy for third-party access; the review of the permitting process in Bulgaria.

- BP on their planned acquisition of a portfolio of upstream assets in Bulgarian (2008) and on regulatory matters.