

## Kostadin Sirleshtov

### Managing Partner | CEE Head of Energy, Projects and Construction

Kostadin Sirleshtov is Managing Partner of CMS Sofia and Head of the Energy, Projects and Construction (EPC) practice for Central and Eastern Europe and for Bulgaria.

His particular area of expertise is in oil & gas, conventional power, nuclear, electricity, renewables, infrastructure, projects, PPP, public procurement, underground resources. He has worked as the Chief of the Minister's cabinet for the Ministry of Energy and Energy Resources 2002-2004 and Chief of Minister's cabinet in the Ministry of Defence 2005-2007. As part of the team at the Ministry of Energy and Energy Resources Kostadin was a member of the working group, which prepared the current energy legislation of Bulgaria, including the Energy Act 2003 and the Energy Efficiency Act 2004.

Kostadin has advised some of the world's most prominent energy companies on their oil & gas exploration and production activities in Bulgaria, on the exploration of gas projects, regulations and permits, negotiations and disputes. He has advised on all offshore oil & gas production concessions in Bulgaria and was involved in all recent tenders in the sector.

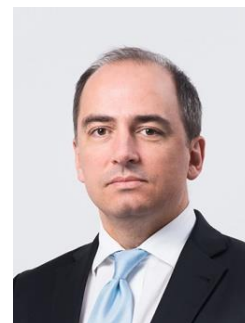
Kostadin was also involved in the successful preparation and approval by the EU Commission of the feasibility study for the international gas pipeline Nabucco project in 2002-2003 as part of the Bulgarian Ministry of Energy and Energy Resources team. The work involved co-ordination on behalf of the Minister of Energy and Energy Resources of the national gas company Bulgargaz and the Concessions and Natural Resources department at the Ministry of Energy and Energy Resources, and negotiations for the support and approval of the EU grant for the preparation of the feasibility study.

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 singled out by clients as one of the top Bulgarian energy experts in the world's most renowned legal directories Chambers & Partners and Legal 500. In front of Chambers & Partners Europe, clients comment: "**If we have a difficult case we always contact him first; he will know how to approach the situation.**" Legal 500 says: "**Practice head Kostadin Sirleshtov is outstanding**".

Kostadin is an honorary advisor to the Deputy Chairman to the Energy Commission to the Bulgarian Parliament on legislative reform matters.

#### Relevant experience:

- A consortium 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 EUR 500 million.
- Shell International Exploration and Development Italia on the Han Kubrat oil & gas



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#### Practice areas

Oil & gas  
Projects & PPP  
Real estate and construction  
Public procurement  
Disputes

#### Languages

Bulgarian  
Russian  
English



Kostadin Sirleshtov



#### Education:

Master's degree (Hons) from Law Faculty of Sofia University (2000) covering all three additional specialties: Jurisprudence, International Law and Public administration.

Diploma in EU and UK law from the University of Cambridge, UK (2000)

exploration project located offshore Bulgaria in the Black Sea and on the exploration rights transfer related to this project. CMS Sofia has been assisting the client in its participation in the bid round for winning the exploration license; in the negotiations with the Bulgarian State on the exploration agreement. We also provided oil and gas licensing support, mining and environmental advice. We facilitated the communication of the client with the Bulgarian state authorities and the Ministry of Energy. In 2018 CMS Sofia advised Shell on the transfer of 30% of its exploration rights to the local branch of Australia's Woodside Energy Limited and 20 % to Repsol.

- An oil & gas investor in relation to Turkish stream project. CMS Sofia is advising the client on a wide range of complex legal services: legal advice on consortium arrangements; assistance with the preparation and negotiation of the consortium documentation; corporate legal services; tax services; legal advice on public procurement regulation and legal services related to public procurement; employment legal services, financial legal advice, etc.
- Petroceltic on:
  - the preparation of all necessary documents and the application for the licensing of Galata gas storage facility - Bulgaria's second gas storage, including on the relevant legislative changes. Our work included various meetings and negotiations with the Bulgarian Energy and Water Regulatory Commission – the Regulator, and with the Bulgarian Parliament.
  - all of their concessions in Bulgaria: Galata, Kavarna, Kavarna East and Kaliakra. We have been providing comprehensive legal advice on all related regulatory, corporate and tax matters. We have also advised Petroceltic on their gas sale agreements and on the communication with the Bulgarian Ministry of Energy.
- Repsol since 2012 and their first participation in upstream oil and gas project offshore Bulgaria and the subsequent partial acquisition of rights and obligations in relation to prospecting and exploration in Han Kubrat Block, Bulgaria;
- SPM Bulgaria LLC on the issuance of a permit and entering into an agreement for prospecting and exploration of Block 1-25 Vratsa West, the biggest onshore block in Bulgaria tendered in the past few years. CMS is advising the client on various regulatory, corporate and tax matters.
- OMV on ongoing matters related to their interest in offshore Bulgaria project including regulatory and corporate support.
- Corinth Pipeworks on their planned participation in the tender launched by ICGB for the award of the Line Pipe Supply Agreement for the Needs of Gas Interconnector Greece – Bulgaria.
- The Nabucco project on various regulatory matters in Bulgaria including: those related to the Bulgarian Energy and Water Regulatory Commission and the regulatory approval of the exclusion from the EU policy for third-party access to the grid.
- Chevron on their application for shale gas exploration onshore Bulgaria. The work included regulatory, public procurement related advice and assistance with the negotiations with the Bulgarian Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism.
- eCORP, leader in shale gas exploration and gas storage, on:
  - their bid for the acquisition of the exploration rights of an international company with several exploration blocks in Bulgaria.
  - the preparation and filing of three applications for onshore Bulgaria shale gas exploration rights; the work included regulatory advice, preparation of the various applications, meetings and negotiations with the state authorities.
  - the planned acquisition of a holder of onshore Bulgaria exploration rights, including full legal due diligence and negotiations with the sellers.