

## **Renewable Energy Law and Policy in Ghana: A Legal Analysis of the Support Schemes under the Regulatory Framework and Some Lessons from the EU Experience**

Renewable energy sources (RES) in Ghana are readily available and abundant. Due to issues of climate change at both national and global levels, lack of access to energy services and the recurring shortages in electricity supply plaguing the country, the Ghanaian government recognised the necessity for developing its renewable energy (RE) potential at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The realisation to develop its RE potential is to enable Ghana to generate electricity from its abundant RES to support economic, environmental and social developments in the country. To this goal, the Ghanaian government established a Strategic National Energy Plan (SNEP) to achieve 10% penetration of renewable energy sources (RES) into the country's energy mix by the year 2020. The Government also established a National Energy Plan (NEP) to achieve a 100% nationwide access to electricity by 2020. In line with both the SNEP and NEP, the country in 2011, adopted its Renewable Energy Act, 2011 (RE Act) with the objective of providing for the development, management and utilisation of renewable energy sources for the production of heat and power in an efficient and environmentally sustainable manner. This study examines whether the support schemes provided under the RE Act creates the necessary legal and regulatory environment for achieving those objectives. This paper will argue that, for the Ghanaian RE Act to create the enabling environment it would have to establish vibrant and tangible support mechanisms that will address the issue of lack of investment into the RE sector of the country. The support systems established under the RE Act must also provide long-term stability to enable return on investment for investors. It will further suggests some policy and regulatory improvements by highlighting some regulatory issues from the EU experience.