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# Press release

*Barometers are regularly being translated in other languages, depending on the translation partnerships the EurObserv'ER team is able to conclude. See reports in German, Italian and Spanish on: [http://www.eurobserv-er.org/downloads\\_ital.asp](http://www.eurobserv-er.org/downloads_ital.asp)*

From: EurObserv'ER

Subject: **Released: photovoltaic barometer**  
Global, European and Member State figures, policy developments and industry news for 2012

Free download of the bi-lingual barometer (PDF, English/French, 24 pages, 2.2 MB):  
<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro-jdp9.asp>

Date: April 2013

Pages: 4

## Key data on solar photovoltaic electricity for the year 2012:

- Photovoltaic capacity connected in the EU in 2012: 16.5 GWp (22.0 GWp in 2011)
- Installed PV capacity 68.6 GWp in the European Union at the end of 2012 (52.1 GWp end 2011)
- Photovoltaic electricity generated in the EU in 2012: 68.1 TWh (45.3 TWh in 2011)

## EurObserv'ER: slowdown in 2012 on European Union's photovoltaic market after the 2011 euphoric growth

*After the euphoria of 2011, the European Union's photovoltaic (PV) market slowed right down in 2012. EurObserv'ER puts newly-connected capacity in 2012 at 16.5 GWp compared to 22 GWp in 2011, which is a 25% slide. At global level the market generally held up, with just over 30 GWp installed, bolstered by the build-up of the America and Asian markets.*

The global market is migrating towards the Asian and American markets. With a little hindsight, it is fair to say that European market growth conditions were not ideal. In the last three years, growth has mainly been driven by speculative investments taking advantage of the persisting difference between the guaranteed earnings levels and the very fast drop in production costs. Some governments are finding the pill hard to swallow as they seek to lighten the cost by introducing taxes on electricity production or retroactive amendments to their laws: Czech Republic (retroactive tax on investments), Bulgaria (grid access tax), Greece (tax on already-installed and future systems), the Flanders region of Belgium (retroactive grid access tax) and Spain (tax on all electricity producers' earnings).

According to EurObserv'ER, newly-connected capacity in the European Union amounted to 16520 MWp in 2012, which is a 25% year-on-year slide. At the end of 2012 the installed capacity to date in the European Union was 68647 MWp, which equates to 136.3 Wp of photovoltaic capacity per capita. This additional capacity naturally implies an increase in PV solar power output, which rose to 68.1 TWh in 2012 (50.1% more than in 2011). Output is now actually three times higher than it was in 2010 and solar power currently covers more than 2% of European Union electricity consumption.

The European Union (EU) per capita PV capacity figure now stands at 136.3 Wp per inhabitant. Leading EU countries are Germany (399.5 Wp/inhab), Italy (269.0 Wp/inhab) and Belgium (240.0 kW/1000 inhab). Also Czech Republic, Greece and Bulgaria have a relatively high PV capacity per thousand inhabitants.

Besides the 2012 realisations per EU Member State other subjects that are discussed in the new barometers are:

- Selected country reviews
- Renewable energy policies
- Industry overview
- Comparison with National Renewable Energy Action Plans

For additional information on renewable energy issues (data referring to 2011, among others EU Member State renewable energy employment, turnover and realisations) see also the annual EurObserv'ER publication '*The State of Renewable Energies in Europe*', 2012 edition: <http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/bilan12.asp> (January 2013, PDF, English/French language, 240 pages, 15 MB).

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Note: the interactive database on the website (click on 'Interactive EurObserv'ER Database' on the [www.eurobserv-er.org](http://www.eurobserv-er.org) homepage) allows you to download the Barometer data separately. This will allow you to create your own graphs to be used in your publication.

See also the EurObserv'ER policy files at [www.eurobserv-er.org/policy.asp](http://www.eurobserv-er.org/policy.asp) for an overview of renewable energy policies in all 27 EU Member States for all technologies

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### **About the EurObserv'ER Barometer**

The EurObserv'ER Barometer regularly publishes indicators reflecting the current dynamics in renewable energies (solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal and biomass, biogas, biofuels) worldwide and within the European Union.

Barometers published are all available for download. Direct links to all 2013/2012/2011 EurObserv'ER publications:

Solar Photovoltaic Barometer  
(April 2013, PDF, 26 pages, English/French language, 2.2 MB):  
<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro-jdp9.asp>

Wind Power Barometer  
(February 2013, PDF, English/French, 24 pages, 2.4 MB):  
<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro-jde12.asp>

'The State of Renewable Energies in Europe', 2012 edition  
(January 2013, PDF, English/French language, 240 pages, 15 MB)  
<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/bilan12.asp>

Solid Biomass Barometer  
(December 2012, PDF, English/French language, 16 pages, 2.1 MB)  
<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro212biomassEu.asp>

#### Biogas Barometer

(December 2012, PDF, English/French language, 14 pages, 2.0 MB)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro212biogasEu.asp>

#### Renewable Municipal Waste Barometer

(December 2012, PDF, English/French language, 12 pages, 1.9 MB)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro212mswEu.asp>

#### Biofuels Barometer

(July 2012, PDF, English/French language, 21 pages, 3.6 MB)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro210.asp>

#### Solar Thermal Barometer

(June 2012, PDF, 24 pages, English/French language, 3.7 MB):

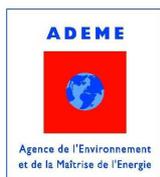
<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro209.asp>

#### Ground source Heat Pump Barometer

(September 2011, PDF, English/French language, 20 pages, 2.6 MB)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro205.asp>

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## Note to the editors

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When including a web link to an article on the Barometer, for technical reasons please use either

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/downloads.asp> (all Barometers), or  
<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro-jdp9.asp> (PV Barometer)

and not a direct link to the PDF file.

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