Press Release

Estimates of the renewable energy share in gross final energy consumption for the year 2016

Paris, December 2017

European renewable energy share increases to 17,0% in 2016

The 2009/28/EC Directive sets the Member States a mandatory 20% global renewable energy share target of gross final energy consumption with binding compulsory targets for each individual country for 2020. EurObserv'ER monitors all the Member States' trajectories towards these targets. The estimates published below are the first to appear for 2016.

Calculating the renewable energy share for each country is a delicate task. The results presented are EurObserv'ER's estimates based on data collected by the project team over the past year. According to these initial figures, the renewable energy share of gross final energy consumption in the European Union stood at **17,0% in 2016** compared to **16,7% in 2015**, which amounts to a 0.3 point rise.

According to EurObserv'ER data, final gross renewable energy consumption in the European Union increased by 6.4 Mtoe between 2015 and 2016 (from 187.1 to 193.5 Mtoe), which equates to a 3.4% rise. The reason for this increase lies in the demand for an additional 4.0 Mtoe of renewable heat across the EU. Some of the key European Union countries (such as France) had a cooler year in 2016, which drove up the demand for solid biomass heat in particular (by 3.0 Mtoe). The other sectors (biogas, renewable municipal waste, solar thermal, heat pump and geothermal energy) shared the remaining Mtoe between them. However, these cooler temperatures must be put in perspective, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) readings for the last three years – 2014, 2015 and 2016 – were in ascending order the hottest years on record in Europe.

Renewable electricity's contribution, which takes into account normalized wind energy and hydropower output, also made positive growth with an additional 2.9 Mtoe, that breaks down as 2.2 Mtoe for wind energy, 384 ktoe for all the biomass segments taken together (solid biomass, biogas, renewable municipal waste and liquid biomass) and 245 ktoe for solar photovoltaic. This contrasts with the renewable energy input in the transport sector, which contracted (by 401 ktoe) because countries such as Poland and Finland slashed their biodiesel incorporation rates in transport fuel.

Total gross final energy consumption (renewable and other) in the European Union continued to pick up in 2016. It was 20.1 Mtoe (1.8%) higher than in 2015, rising to 1 141.6 Mtoe, which is on a par with the 2011, 2012 and 2013 levels.

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Share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption in 2015 and 2016, indicative trajectory and national overall targets in 2020*

Country	2015	2016*	Indicative trajectory 2015-2016**	2020 target	*Percentage of target achieved*
Sweden	53,8%	52,2%	43,9%	49,0%	106,6%
Finland	39,1%	39,7%	32,8%	38,0%	104,5%
Latvia	37,5%	36,7%	35,9%	40,0%	91,7%
Austria	33,0%	33,8%	28,1%	34,0%	99,5%
Denmark	31,3%	33,0%	22,9%	30,0%	110,0%
Croatia	29,0%	31,4%	16,1%	20,0%	156,9%
Estonia	28,7%	28,6%	21,2%	25,0%	114,3%
Portugal	28,1%	28,5%	25,2%	31,0%	91,8%
Lithuania	25,7%	26,1%	18,6%	23,0%	113,7%
Romania	24,8%	24,3%	20,6%	24,0%	101,2%
Slovenia	22,0%	21,3%	20,1%	25,0%	85,3%
Bulgaria	18,2%	18,7%	12,4%	16,0%	117,0%
Italy	17,5%	17,6%	10,5%	17,0%	103,5%
Spain	16,2%	16,0%	13,8%	20,0%	80,0%
France***	15,2%	15,9%	16,0%	23,0%	69,1%
Greece	15,5%	15,7%	11,9%	18,0%	87,1%
Czech Republic	15,2%	15,2%	9,2%	13,0%	117,0%
Germany	14,6%	14,9%	11,3%	18,0%	82,9%
Hungary	14,9%	14,7%	8,2%	13,0%	112,8%
Slovakia	12,9%	13,2%	10,0%	14,0%	94,4%
Poland	12,0%	11,3%	10,7%	15,0%	75,3%
Ireland	8,8%	9,1%	8,9%	16,0%	56,9%
Cyprus	9,4%	9,0%	7,4%	13,0%	69,4%
United Kingdom	8,2%	8,9%	7,5%	15,0%	59,1%
Belgium	7,9%	8,7%	7,1%	13,0%	66,8%
Malta	5,1%	6,0%	4,5%	10,0%	60,2%
Netherlands	5,8%	6,0%	7,6%	14,0%	42,8%
Luxembourg	5,2%	5,5%	5,4%	11,0%	49,8%
European Union 28	16,7%	17,0%		20%	

Note: *Calculations, defined by the Directive, use a normalized hydro and wind generation. * EurObserv'ER estimates, calculated on the basis of the project's data collection campaigns. ** All percentages originate from Annex I of Directive 2009/28/EC. The indicative trajectory has been calculated from Part B of the Annex. Results for France calculated by EurObserv'ER don't include the overseas territories but for the purpose of Directive 2009/28/EC the accounting of energy from renewable sources for France has to include French overseas territories.* ***Sources: EurObserv'ER 2017***

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The increase in final renewable energy consumption was enough to take the renewable share to 17.0% in 2016 compared to 16.7% in 2015, i.e. 0.3 of a percentage point gain. This compares with 0.5 of a percentage point gain between 2014 and 2015 and almost a full percentage point between 2013 and 2014. The current trend has dropped below the level required by the European Union to achieve its common target. An annual 0.75 of a percentage point increase is needed through to 2020 if the target is not to be missed.

Each EU Member State has its own target for 2020. The national targets take into account the starting point differences as well as the renewable energy potentials and economic performance levels of the individual Member States. At national level, 11 Member States – the same as in 2015 – had already achieved their 2020 targets by the end of 2016 according to our estimates: Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Four countries are almost up to the mark having achieved more than 90% of their targets – Austria, Latvia, Portugal and Slovakia. We note that in the high energy consumer country league, France and Germany are up to 69.1% and 82.9% of their targets respectively, while the UK is at 59.1% of its target.

EurObserv'ER will publish sharper estimates in its annual publication "The State of Renewable Energies in Europe" which will be out in a few weeks' time. The publication will provide the opportunity to make a full and up-to-date assessment of all the renewable energy production sectors.

Links and further information

- Free download of the report "State of renewable energy in Europe", 16th edition (PDF, ENG, 5 MB)
- Free download of All Barometers (PV, Wind, solar thermal/CSP, Biomass, Biogas, Biofuels)
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About EurObserv'ER

EurObserv'ER regularly publishes market reports (Barometers) containing energy data reflecting the current dynamics in renewable sources of energy in 10 sectors (solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, biogas, solid biomass, biofuels, heat pumps, small hydro, renewable waste) within the European Union and worldwide.

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