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Press release



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From: EurObserv'ER
Subject: **Estimates of the renewable energy share in gross final energy consumption for the year 2012**
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Key data for the year 2012 (EU-27):

- Renewable energy share in gross final energy consumption: 14.4% in 2012 (13.1 % in 2011)

European renewable energy share increases to 14.4% in 2012

The Directive 2009/28 states that the Member States should achieve an overall 20% share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption across Europe. It has set a binding individual target for each country by 2020. EurObserv'ER is monitoring the progress of each Member State towards achieving these targets. The following estimates are the first to be published for 2012.

Calculating the renewable energy share for each member country is a delicate task. The results presented are estimations made by the EurObserv'ER consortium, based on the information gathered over the past year by the project team.

Our preliminary estimates put the renewable energy share of gross final energy consumption in the European Union at **14.4% in 2012** compared to **13.1% in 2011**, which is a **1.3 percentage point increase** (using rounded figures).



Part de l'énergie produite à partir de sources renouvelables dans la consommation brute d'énergie finale en 2012, trajectoire indicative et objectifs 2020

Share of renewable sources in gross final energy consumption in 2011 and 2012, indicative trajectory and national overall targets in 2020

	2011*	2012*	Trajectoire indicative pour 2011 et 2012 Indicative trajectory for 2011-2012**	Objectifs 2020 de la Directive 2009/28/CE 2020 target from Directive 2009/28/EC**
	%	%	%	%
Sweden	49,4	52,4	41,6	49
Finland	32,9	36,4	30,4	38
Latvia	32,7	33,0	34,1	40
Austria	30,7	32,2	25,4	34
Estonia	25,9	27,8	19,4	25
Portugal	25,0	24,7	22,6	31
Denmark	23,5	24,2	19,6	30
Romania	21,5	22,1	19,0	24
Lithuania	20,3	20,8	16,6	23
Slovenia	19,4	20,2	17,8	25
Bulgaria	13,4	17,7	10,7	16
Spain	15,1	16,7	11,0	20
Italy	12,3	13,8	7,6	17
France	11,5	13,7	12,8	23
Greece	10,9	12,5	9,1	18
Poland	10,9	12,4	8,8	15
Germany	11,8	12,4	8,2	18
Czech Republic	9,4	11,3	7,5	13
Slovakia	9,9	10,6	8,2	14
Hungary	9,1	9,8	6,0	13
Ireland	6,6	7,5	5,7	16
Cyprus	5,4	7,0	4,9	13
Belgium	4,2	5,3	4,4	13
Netherlands	4,4	4,5	4,7	14
United Kingdom	3,8	4,1	4,0	15
Luxembourg	2,9	3,1	2,9	11
Malta	0,2	0,3	2,0	10
EU 27	13,1	14,4	-	20

* Estimations EurObserv'ER, réalisées à partir des données collectées tout au long de l'année 2013 dans le cadre du projet.
 EurObserv'ER estimates, calculated on the basis of the project's 2013 data collection campaigns.
 ** Tous les pourcentages proviennent de l'annexe I de la directive 2009/28/CE. La trajectoire indicative a été calculée à partir de la partie B de l'annexe. All percentages originate from Annex I of Directive 2009/28/EC. The indicative trajectory has been calculated from Part B of the Annex.



There are a number of reasons for the sharp rise in the renewable energy share.

- The first two are administrative and stem from the incorporation of sustainability criteria in our biofuel consumption calculations for the first time. According to the Renewable Energy Directive, these criteria must be met if the consumption is to be eligible for inclusion. As it happens, a number of EU countries did not apply these sustainability criteria or only partly certified their consumption in 2011. The certified proportion of biofuel was much higher in 2012, which mechanically increased the renewable share. The other administrative-type factor is that Member States may now include part of their heat output from reversible air-to-air heat pumps, even though these heat pumps are mainly used for cooling purposes. This has had the effect of significantly increasing the output figures of a number of countries, Italy being a prime case in point.
- The third explanatory factor is weather-related, for in 2011, an exceptionally mild winter resulted in lower wood consumption for heating right across the EU. Wood is the main form of renewable energy used in Europe. In 2012, the return to normal weather conditions prompted a catch-up phenomenon which considerably increased wood consumption.
- In fourth place can be ventured the more conventional increase in the electricity and heat production capacities of wind energy, solar photovoltaic and also biogas and solid biomass, the latter primarily through the development of biomass co-firing and cogeneration. This growth essentially comes from the capacities commissioned in these technologies in 2011 that reached their full potential in 2012. However the increase in hydropower output across the European Union in 2012 had little impact on the final results, as hydropower output has standardized over the past fifteen years.
- Lastly, our estimates of the total consumption of final energy (renewable or otherwise) continued to decrease in 2012, as an effect of the recession. We put this drop at 8 Mtoe (from 1 133.3 Mtoe in 2011 to 1 125.2 Mtoe in 2012) at the scale of the European Union, while at the same time final renewable energy consumption increased by 13.4 Mtoe (from 148.8–162.2 Mtoe).

EurObserv'ER will publish more refined estimates in its annual publication "The state of renewable energy in Europe" which will be available in a couple of weeks. The publication will provide the opportunity to draw up a full, up-to-date report on all the renewable energy producer sectors.



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.

Note: the interactive database on the website (click on '*Interactive EurObserv'ER Database*' on the 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.

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