



# COUNTRY POLICY PROFILE

## Austria

October 2014

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**LOG FILE OF CHANGES IN SUPPORT  
POLICIES AS COMPARED TO LATEST  
MEMBER STATE PROGRESS REPORT**

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# The EurObserv'ER project

The EurObserv'ER Barometers monitor the renewable energy progress in each Member State of the European Union. Every two months a barometer dedicated to one particular renewable energy technology is published. Moreover, once a year a EurObserv'ER Overview Barometer<sup>1</sup> collects the main indicators published during the year and completes these with additional renewable sectors which have not been detailed in the individual Barometers. Finally, the Overview Barometer also reports on socio-economic aspects: employment and turnover in the field of renewables, and the renewable energy investment climate. The country policy reports monitor policy developments by providing an overview of policy changes compared to the Member State Progress Reports.

All Barometers are available for download at <http://www.eurobserv-er.org>. An overview of direct links to Barometers is available in Annex A.

New Barometer releases are announced on Twitter ([https://twitter.com/eurobserv\\_er](https://twitter.com/eurobserv_er)).



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<sup>1</sup> Free download at <http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/bilan13-gb.asp>, latest edition is 2013.

## Abstract

Renewable energy policy in Austria exists on three levels: the Federal level, the regional level of the provinces (Bundesländer) and the local level of municipalities.

In Austria, electricity from renewable sources is supported mainly through a feed-in tariff. Since 2002, the Eco Electricity Act (Ökostromgesetz) sets feed-in tariffs for different renewable energy sources. The levels of feed-in tariffs are annually adapted and set in the Eco Electricity Ordinance (Ökostromverordnung). No use is made of any other instruments, such as quotas or certificates. Feed-in tariffs are basically set in annual regulations and may be set for several years. There is a special annual reduction in the feed-in tariff (8 %) for photovoltaic systems. Unless new tariffs are set, the feed-in tariff is reduced by 1 % per annum for all other technologies.

Measures in individual provinces (investment funds and support programmes on state level) most notably in the renewable heat sectors are further important support schemes. The most substantial form of supporting small-scale RES heating and cooling is provided by the Environmental Assistance in Austria (UFI) programme. There are special investment incentives for solar thermal installations, heat pumps, geothermics and biomass heating plants.

In Austria, the main support scheme for renewable energy sources used in transport is *a quota system*.

## Abbreviations

BiokraftQuG	Biofuel Quota Act (Biokraftstoffquotengesetz)
BGBI.	Federal Law Gazetter (Bundesgesetzblatt)
BMVIT	Ministry for Transport, Industry and Technology (Austria)
BTL	Biomass-to-Liquids
CHP	Combined heat and power plant (KWK Kraft-Wärme-Kopplung)
E-Control	Energie-Control Austria for regulation of electricity and gas (E-Control)
EEAG	Environmental and energy aid guidelines
EU-27	European Union, 27 Member States (excludes Croatia)
EU-28	European Union, 28 Member States (includes Croatia)
FEC	Final energy consumption
FIP	Feed-in premium (scheme)
FIT	Feed-in tariff
GDP	Gross domestic product
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GWh	Gigawatt hour
ha	hectar
HH	Households
HP	Heating plant
IEA	International Energy Agency
ktoe	Kiloton oil equivalent
MSW	Municipal solid waste
kWh	Kilowatt hour
MWh	Megawatt hour
N/A	Not available
NREAP	National Renewable Energy Action Plan
OeMAG	Abwicklungsstelle für Ökostrom AG
Ökostromgesetz	Eco electricity Act
Ökostrom-Verordnung	Eco electricity ordinance
PEC	Primary energy consumption
PV	Photovoltaic energy
RE	Renewable energy
RED	Renewable Energy Directive
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
RES-E	Electricity from Renewable Energy Sources
RES-H/C	Heating and Cooling from Renewable Energy Sources
RES-T	Transport from Renewable Energy Sources
REEEP	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
RMSW	Renewable Municipal solid waste (renewable fraction in MSW)
RQS	Renewable quota scheme
tRÖE	tonne of Oil equivalent (Rohöleinheit - 1000t RÖE = 41,868TJ =11,64GWh)
TSO	Transmission system operator
VO	Ordinance (Verordnung)

## Renewable energy mix and 2020 target

Source: EurObserv'ER, 2014, [www.eurobserv-er.org](http://www.eurobserv-er.org)

The 2012 share of renewable energy in Austria amounted to 31.9%; the target for 2020 has been defined as 34% (source: EurObserv'ER report 'The State of Renewable Energies in Europe'<sup>2</sup>).

**Table** Renewable energy production in the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU-27) and the corresponding figures for Austria. Data have been expressed in ktoe and refer to the year 2012

[ktoe, 2012]	European Union (27 countries)	Austria	Contribution of Austria to EU-27
Hydro*	29408	3381	11.5%
Wind*	17089	207	1.2%
Solar PV	5732	29	0.5%
Solar thermal**	2116	174	8.2%
Solid Biomass***	74804	4360	5.8%
Biogas	6212	101	1.6%
MSW****	4426	70	1.6%
Geothermal	7825	134	1.7%
Biofuels	11711	430	3.7%
Ocean energy	44	0	0.0%

\* Normalised electricity generation

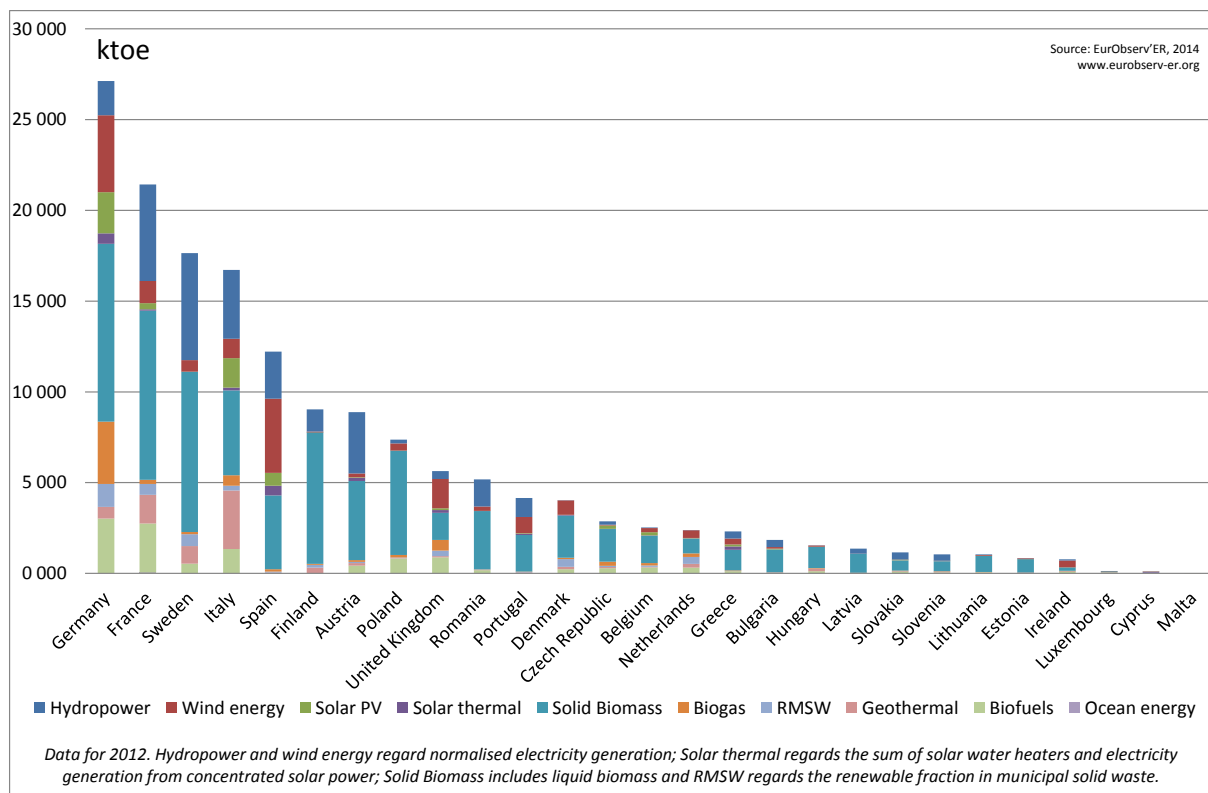
\*\* Including electricity generation from Concentrated Solar Power

\*\*\* Including liquid biomass

\*\*\*\* Municipal Solid Waste only regards the renewable fraction in the waste

Source: EurObserv'ER, 2014 ([www.eurobserv-er.org](http://www.eurobserv-er.org))

<sup>2</sup> Free download at <http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/bilan13-gb.asp>, latest edition is 2013.



**Figure** Renewable energy production in the European Union Member States. Data have been expressed in ktOE and refer to the year 2012. Source: EurObserv'ER, 2014 ([www.eurobserv-er.org](http://www.eurobserv-er.org))

## Recent RES Policy Developments

The current EurObserv'ER policy profile is listing recent policy changes in the EU Member States. Starting point for this monitoring is the situation as it has been described in the country's Progress Report (which were due end of 2013). All Renewable Energy Progress Reports are available in English language from [www.eurobserv-er.org](http://www.eurobserv-er.org) (translated versions).

Date	Technology	Policy change
January 2014	All RES	Austria published its NREAP progress report in January 2014, see Section 2 (page 5=PDF page 11) to Section 4 (page 25=PDF page 31) for a description of policy measures and support schemes.
March 2014		<no change to be reported>
May 2014		<no change to be reported>
June 2014		<no change to be reported>
August 2014		<no change to be reported>
October 2014		<no change to be reported>
December 2014		<not available yet>

Note to the reader: the above overview had been compiled with care. However, in case you miss recent developments please be invited to inform EurObserv'ER on policy changes in a Member State. For communication use e-mail ([policy@eurobserv-er.org](mailto:policy@eurobserv-er.org)) or Twitter ([https://twitter.com/eurobserv\\_er](https://twitter.com/eurobserv_er)).

## Glossary

Auctions for granting renewable energy support	An auction is a process, organised by a governmental renewable energy implementation agency, of granting production or investment support to a specified volume of eligible renewable energy (or renewable energy generation capacity) based on the lowest bids per unit of renewable energy (or renewable energy generation capacity) by eligible renewable project developers.
Degression rate	See under 'Sliding feed-in tariff'
Feed-in tariff (FiT)	A technology-specific support scheme which provides for a technology-specific remuneration per unit of renewable energy payable to eligible renewable energy producers, typically for a period of 10-20 years. The FiT level is set <i>ex ante</i> by the National Regulatory Agency (NRA). It is to cover all future production costs including a <i>normal</i> rate of return to capital invested. In many schemes priority network access is offered to eligible renewable electricity generators, whilst a designated third party - e.g. the transmission or distribution network operator concerned - is being mandated to pay the FiT remuneration due. A proper, periodic review of FiT rates is often undertaken with the aim to prevent both too high FiTs so as to minimise regulatory rents, i.e. supra-normal returns and too low FiTs to preclude below-target market uptake because of FiT levels that are perceived by market participants to be less attractive.
Feed-in premium (FiP)	A technology-specific support scheme which provides for a technology-specific subsidy level per unit of renewable energy to eligible renewable energy producers, typically for a period of 10-20 years, at a pre-set fixed or floating (see under 'Floating FiP') rate, projected by the National Regulatory Agency (NRA) to enable renewable energy generation investments deemed commercially attractive by project developers without yielding supra-normal profits.
Floating FiP	A feed-in premium, which is periodically adjusted to exactly offset the change in the average energy wholesale market price, based on a pre-specified benchmark market price. A floating FiP may move freely or may only be allowed to move within a pre-set interval.
Grants	Grants are non-repayable funds disbursed by one party (grant makers), often a government department, corporation, foundation or trust, to a recipient, often (but not always) a non-profit entity, educational institution, business or an individual. (Source: Wikipedia.org)
Green public procurement	In Green public procurement contracting authorities take environmental issues into account when tendering for goods or services. The goal is to reduce the impact of the procurement on human health and the environment. (Source: Wikipedia.org)



NRA	National Regulatory Agency
Renewable quota scheme (RQS)	A renewable quota scheme mandates certain market actors (typically retail suppliers or large energy end-users) to respect a pre-set minimum share or amount of their total energy procurements from renewable sources of energy. Typically a tradable green certificate (TGC) scheme is operated to enable the obligated parties to prove their compliance with the prevailing renewable quota target by means of TGCs. Typically the renewable quota target is increased gradually over time. Renewable quota systems are also known under terms such as quota (obligation) schemes or renewable portfolio standards.
Request for tenders (RFT)	A request for tenders (RFT) is a formal, structured invitation to suppliers, to bid, to supply products or services. In the public sector an official fee is needed to fortify and secure the tender bid engagement/win documents, such a process may be required and determined in detail by law to ensure that such competition for the use of public is open, fair and free from bribery and nepotism. For example, a government may put a certain level of MW of offshore wind energy at a pre-defined location 'out to tender'; that is, publish an invitation for other parties to make a proposal for the construction of offshore wind farms, on the understanding that any competition for the relevant government contract must be conducted in response to the tender, no parties having the unfair advantage of separate, prior, closed-door negotiations for the contract. An evaluation team will go through the tenders and decide who will get the contract. (source: adapted from Wikipedia.org)
RD&D funding	The funding of research, development and demonstration activities and programmes. For technologies far remote from commercial maturity, government grants or subsidies might be considered. For technologies close to commercial maturity which are not taken up for commercial research any way, instruments such as fiscal instruments (tax credits, accelerated depreciation, etc.) and public-private partnerships may be considered, based on shared public and private RD&D funding.
Sliding feed-in-tariff	A FiT scheme which pre-sets technology-specific declining feed-in tariffs for certain prospective vintages in line with the technology-specific learning curve, as projected by the National Regulatory Agency (NRA). Often a depression rate is used indicating the %/annum decrease in the rate level.
Soft loans	Loans at concessional (below market-based) terms, for example at sub-market-conform interest rates, made available in several Member States to stimulate certain renewable energy technologies.
Tax credits	These are amounts a tax paying entity is allowed to deduct when declaring payable taxes, for example company tax or income tax, to the tax authorities, for example the producer tax credits (PTCs) used in the United States to stimulate among others wind energy deployment.
Tenders	See 'Request for tenders'

## References

EurObserv'ER, 2014, [www.eurobserv-er.org](http://www.eurobserv-er.org)

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Austrian Energy Agency 2013: [Infoguide on support schemes in Austria](#), (sourced November 2013).

BMWFJ 2013: [Fortschrittsbericht 2013 zum nationalen Aktionsplan 2010 für erneuerbare Energie für Österreich](#) (NREAP-AT) gemäß Richtlinie 2009/28/EG des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft, Familie und Jugend (BMWFJ), (sourced February 2014), (English version at [Member states progress report 2013-AUSTRIA](#)).

BMVIT /EEG 2014: [Innovative Energietechnologien in Österreich- Marktentwicklung 2013, Biomasse, Photovoltaik, Solarthermie, Wärmepumpen und Windkraft](#), Berichte aus Energie- und Umweltforschung, 26/2014, Peter Biermayr, et al. (authors), Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie (editor), Mai 2014, (sourced June 2014).

E-Control 2011: [Ökostrombericht 2013](#), Bericht der Energie-Control Austria gemäß § 25 (1) Ökostromgesetz, Wien 2013, (sourced August 2014).

EC 2014: [Members States' renewable energy progress reports 2013](#), (sourced February 2014).

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management: [Website of Lebensministerium](#) (sourced August 2013).

Klima aktiv: [Website of Klima:aktiv](#), (sourced October 2013).

Kommunalkredit Public Consulting: [Umweltförderung im Inland](#) – UFI.

OeMAG : [All versions of the Ökostromgesetz \(2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2012\)](#) as well as the corresponding Ökostromverordnung (2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012), (Sep2013).

PV Austria 2014: [Fördersituation Österreich](#) , (sourced March 2014).

RES Legal 2014: [Legal Sources on renewable energy in Austria : Electricity](#), (August 2014).

RES Legal 2014: [Legal Sources on renewable energy in Austria: Heating and Cooling](#), (Aug. 2014).

RES Legal 2014: [Legal Sources on renewable energy in Austria : Transport](#), (August 2014).

Umweltbundesamt 2013: [Biokraftstoffe im Verkehrssektor 2012](#), (sourced July 2013).

# Annex A

Overview of Feed in tariffs for Austria in 2014 (Eco electricity Ordinance, December 2013)

	Specification	Capacity / size	Support level 2013 in €/kWh <sup>3</sup>	Duration of payment
<b>Wind power</b>			9,45*	13 years
<b>PV</b>	KLI.EN investment grant roof-top or ground- mounted	up to 5 kWp	€ 200 per kWp	n.a.
	KLI.EN investment grant: building integrated	up to 5 kWp	€ 400 per kWp	n.a.
	Buildings	5 -350 kWp	12,50	13 years
	Stand alone	5 -500 kWp	10,00	13 years
<b>Biogas (waste)</b>	Sewage gas		5,94 (-1% for 2014)	13 years
	Landfill gas		4,95 (-1% for 2014)	13 years
<b>Geothermal</b>			7,43 (-1% for 2014)	13 years
<b>Solid Biomass</b>		up to 500 kW	17,91	15 years
		500 -1000 kW	15,72	15 years
		1 -1,5 MW	15,42	15 years
		1,5 - 2 MW	14,92	15 years
		2 -5 MW	14,30	15 years
		5- 10 MW	13,81	15 years
		over 10 MW	10,94	15 years
<b>Waste with high biogenic share*</b>			5	15 years
<b>Co - Firing of biomass*</b>			6,12	15 years
<b>Liquid Biomass</b>	liquid biomass		5,74	15 years
	bonus for CHP		2,00	15 years
<b>Biogas (agricultural digestion)</b>		up to 250 kW	19,50	15 years
		250 - 500 kW	16,93	15 years
		500 -750 kW	13,34	15 years
		Over 750 kW	12,93	15 years
	co-fermentation of waste		minus 20%	15 years
	bonus for CHP		2,00	15 years
	bonus for conditioning to natural gas standard		2,00	15 years
<b>Hydropower**</b>		for first 500 000 kWh	10,55	15 years
		for next 500 000 kWh	7,59	15 years
		for next 1 500 000 kWh	6,63	15 years
		for next 2 500 000 kWh	5,53	15 years
		for next 2 500 000 kWh	5,22	15 years
		more than 7 500 000 kWh	4,97	15 years

<sup>3</sup> For 2014, the 2013 tariffs for wind, geothermal, biogas, hydro power and biomass, will be reduced by 1 %.

## Annex B

A brief overview of the different regional support schemes for heat pumps in the Austria states is given below.

- [Kärnten \(Carinthia\)](#): up to € 1.500 for heat pumps for space heating. € 500 for drilling
- [Steiermark \(Styria\)](#): In Styria there are no direct subsidies for heat pumps. However, the regulation for renewable heating systems within the “Eigenheimförderung” (subsidy for house building) and the “Wohnhaussanierung” (residential building refurbishment) also applies to heat pumps. A conditional support is given for private homes and HP with a SFP of 4,0. The maximum investment subsidy € 5.000 for private homes.
- [Oberösterreich \(Upper Austria\)](#): Support of heat pumps by non refundable investment grant with SFP of 4 (3.5 for Air HP): € 1.000-1.500 and € 1.700-2.200 for heat pumps with SFP of 4.5
- [Vorarlberg](#): € 1.500 to 3.500 for single family houses / € 750 – 1.750 € for multi-family houses
- [Salzburg](#): Heat pumps up to 400 kWth: and SFP of 4,0: up to € 10.000 when electricity is supplied by renewable sources of energy.
- [Niederösterreich \(Lower Austria\)](#): the maximum amount is 1.100-2.200 or up to 2.950 € in the case of a coefficient of performance of 4 or higher.
- Burgenland: Investment grant of 20% of eligible costs (15% with SFP below 5,0) for .heating and a maximum of € 2.500. Heat pumps supplying hot water receive 15% of investment costs (maximum of € 850).

## Annex C

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

### Biofuels Barometer 2014

(July 2014, PDF, 14 pages, 7.5 MB)

 English: [http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro222\\_en.asp](http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro222_en.asp)

 German: [http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat\\_baro/observ/baro222\\_de.pdf](http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat_baro/observ/baro222_de.pdf)

### Solar Thermal Barometer (CSP and solar water heaters) 2014

(May 2014, PDF, 18 pages, 3.6 MB)

 English: [http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro221\\_en.asp](http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro221_en.asp)

 German: [http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat\\_baro/renac/baro221\\_de.asp](http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat_baro/renac/baro221_de.asp)

### Solar Photovoltaic Barometer 2014

(April 2014, PDF, 16 pages, 2.9 MB)

 English: [http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro-jdp11\\_en.asp](http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro-jdp11_en.asp)

 German: [http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat\\_baro/renac/baro-jdp11\\_de.asp](http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat_baro/renac/baro-jdp11_de.asp)

### **Wind Power Barometer 2014**

(February 2014, PDF, 14 pages, 2.8 MB)

 English: [http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro-ide14\\_en.asp](http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro-ide14_en.asp)

 German: [http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat\\_baro/observ/baro-ide14\\_de.pdf](http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat_baro/observ/baro-ide14_de.pdf)

### **'The State of Renewable Energies in Europe', 2013 edition**

(January 2014, PDF, 200 pages, 12 MB)

 English: <http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/bilan13-gb.asp>

### **Solid Biomass Barometer 2013**

(December 2013, PDF, 14 pages, 2.9 MB)

 English: [http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro219\\_en.asp](http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro219_en.asp)

 German: [http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat\\_baro/renac/baro219\\_de.asp](http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat_baro/renac/baro219_de.asp)

### **Heat Pump Barometer 2013**

(October 2013, PDF, 18 pages, 2.5 MB)

 English: <http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro218.asp>

 German: [http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat\\_baro/renac/baro218\\_de.asp](http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat_baro/renac/baro218_de.asp)

### **Biofuels Barometer 2013**

(July 2013, PDF, 16 pages, 3.1 MB)

 English: [http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro216\\_en.asp](http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro216_en.asp)

 German: [http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat\\_baro/renac/baro216\\_dt.asp](http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat_baro/renac/baro216_dt.asp)

### **Solar Thermal Barometer 2013**

(June 2013, PDF, 27 pages, English/French, 3.6 MB):

 English: <http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro215.asp>

### **Biogas Barometer 2012**

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

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

### **Renewable Municipal Waste Barometer 2012**

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

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