



# COUNTRY POLICY PROFILE

## Spain

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 an [Overview Barometer](#) 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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## Abstract

According to the Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources the target for the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy in the year 2020 for Spain is 20% (according to EurObserv'ER calculation the share was 14.2% in 2012). The Directive has a mandatory 10 % target for transport to be achieved by all Member States, which refers to renewable sources as a whole, not biofuels alone.

In Spain, the main support scheme, called "Régimen Especial" (Royal Decree 661/2007) operated until the end of 2011 was suspended at the beginning of 2012. The price regulation system is currently phased out through Real Decreto 9/2013. In the former system, operators could choose between two options: a guaranteed feed-in tariff and a guaranteed bonus (premium) paid on top of the electricity price derived on the free market.

More recently, the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2014, Spain approved a clean energy bill that introduces an entirely new subsidy system. The FiT and market price plus premium systems have effectively been abolished retroactively and replaced by a sum to be allocated based on the plant's installed capacity to compensate for investment-related financial outlay. Under the decree, generators will earn a rate of return of about 7.5 percent over the lifetime of the plant. This rate, which may be revised every three years, is based on the average interest of a 10-year sovereign bond plus 3 percentage points. These measures will be implemented retroactively to apply from July 2013.

Currently, there is no support scheme for RES-H&C in place in Spain but buildings must satisfy to a minimal solar contribution of warm sanitary water. Approved in March 2006, through Royal Decree 314/2006 of 17 March 2006, the Building Technical Code (CTE – Código Técnico de la Edificación) requires all new or renovated buildings to cover 30%-70% of the Domestic Hot Water demand with solar thermal energy. Some exceptions are defined in the law, mainly in the case of buildings that either satisfy their demand of warm water by other renewables or by cogeneration or for shaded buildings.

Concerning transport, promotion of biofuels consists of a quota system. Here also the government has decided to review its ambition downward with his decision on 22 February 2013 to reduce its incorporation target to 4.1% in 2014 from 6.5%, with specific incorporation targets in diesel fuel that dropped from 7 to 4.1%, and from 4.1 to 3.9%

## Abbreviations

BTL	Biomass-to-Liquids
CHP	Combined heat and power plant
EEAG	Environmental and energy aid guidelines
EU-27	European Union, 27 Member States (excludes Croatia)
EU-28	European Union, 28 Member States (includes Croatia)
FiP	Feed-in premium (scheme)
FiT	Feed-in tariff (scheme)
GHG	Greenhouse gas(es)
GHG	Greenhouse gas
ktoe	Kiloton oil equivalent
MSW	Municipal solid waste
NREAP	National Renewable Energy Action Plan
PV	Photovoltaic energy
RE	Renewable energy
RED	Renewable Energy Directive
RES	Renewable energy sources
RMSW	Renewable Municipal solid waste (renewable fraction in MSW)
RQS	Renewable quota scheme
TSO	Transmission system operator

## Renewable energy mix and 2020 target

Spain is among the countries of the European Union's most richly endowed with renewable energy deposits. Load factors in the field of wind and solar factors are among the highest in Europe, making wind turbines or solar power plants the most productive and most profitable in Europe. The most developed renewable energy sources are logically wind power, solar photovoltaics, solar thermal and concentrated solar power. The country represented in 2012 a quarter of the solar thermal energy (including concentrated solar power) and nearly a quarter of the wind energy production in the European Union. The 2012 share of renewable energy in Spain amounted to 14.2%; the target for 2020 has been defined as 20% (source: 'The State of Renewable Energies in Europe', [2013 edition](#)).

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

[ktoe, 2012]	European Union (27 countries)	Spain	Contribution of Spain to EU-27
Hydro*	29408	2591	8.8%
Wind*	17089	4090	23.9%
Solar PV	5732	705	12.3%
Solar thermal**	2116	530	25.0%
Solid Biomass***	74804	4067	5.4%
Biogas	6212	136	2.2%
MSW****	4426	55	1.2%
Geothermal	7825	40	0.5%
Biofuels	11711	0	0.0%
Ocean energy	44	0	0.0%

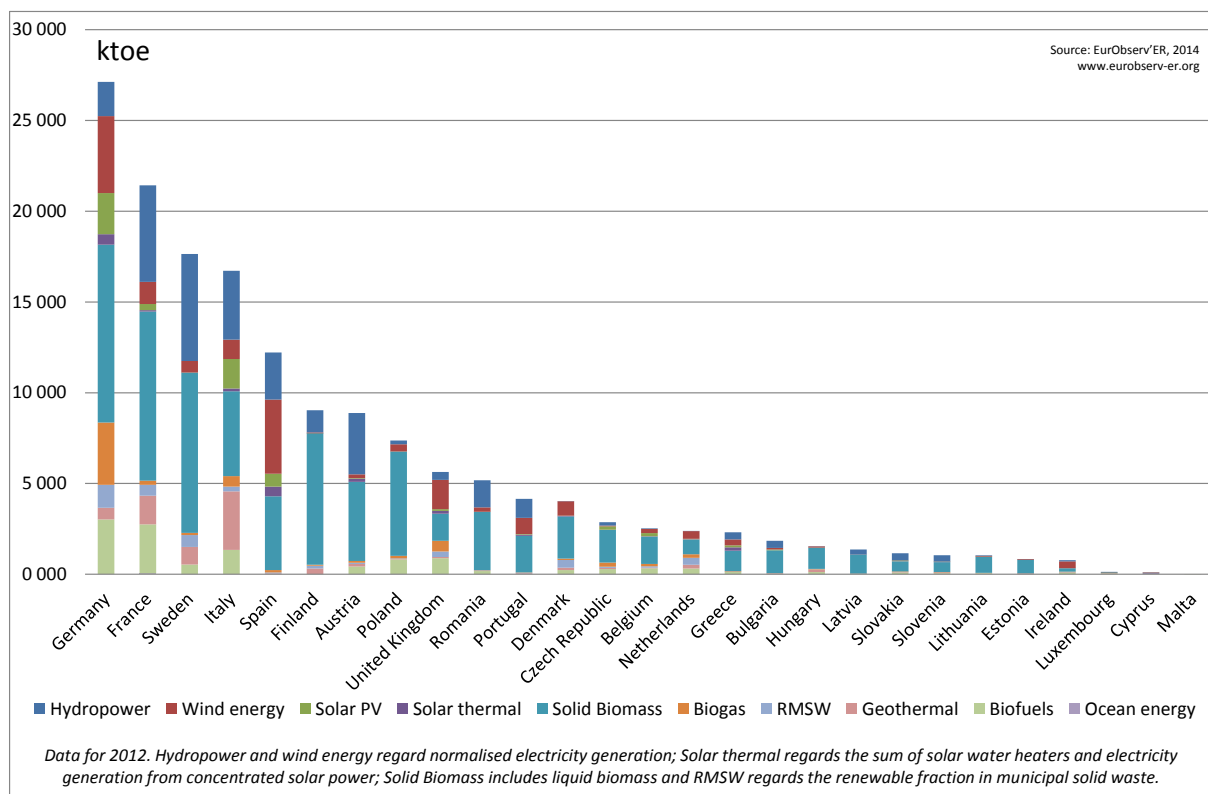
\* Normalised electricity generation

\*\* 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))



**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		
February 2014	All renewables	The European Commission released the Progress Report for the Spain in February 2014. See Section 2 (page 7) to Section 4 (page 29) for a description of policy measures and support schemes.
March 2014		
May 2014		
June 2014	Renewable electricity	The 6 <sup>th</sup> June, Spain approved a clean energy bill (Royal Decree 413/2014) that introduces an entirely new subsidy system that will cap the earnings of all existing renewable power plants. Under the decree, generators will earn a rate of return of about 7.5 percent over their lifetimes. This rate, which may be revised every three years, is based on the average interest of a 10-year sovereign bond plus 3 percentage points. These measures will be implemented retroactively to apply from July 2013. According the Industry Ministry, Renewable energy subsidies had to be revised or the power system would have gone bankrupt.
July 2014		
September 2014		
November 2014		

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

### Electricity Support schemes

In Spain, the generation of electricity from renewable sources is mainly promoted through a price regulation system. Plant operators may choose between two options: a guaranteed feed-in tariff and a guaranteed bonus (premium) paid on top of the electricity price achieved on the wholesale market. The price regulation system is currently phased out through Real Decreto-ley 9/2013. The reason for this suspension is traced in the preamble of RDL 1/2012. A different regulation that had previously suspended the support schemes, before their final phasing out: RD 6/2009 established that by 2013 a part of the consumers' electricity bill (the "peajes de acceso") should be able to fully balance the costs incurred by the State arising from the support scheme. It was deemed, however, that the situation would not have allowed this goal to be reached by 2013. For this reason, and together with the high growth of RES-E in the past years, even beyond the set goals, all support schemes for RES-E were blocked. (source: [www.res-legal.eu](http://www.res-legal.eu))



## References

Royal Decree 413 2014 <http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2014/06/10/pdfs/BOE-A-2014-6123.pdf>

23client\_briefing\_english\_royal\_decree\_law\_9\_2013\_\_of\_12\_july\_6018949.pdf (Cliffordchance 2014)

<http://www.res-legal.eu/search-by-country/spain/>

Wind power barometer 2014, [www.eurobserv-er.org](http://www.eurobserv-er.org)

Photovoltaic Barometer 2014, [www.eurobserv-er.org](http://www.eurobserv-er.org)

Solar and CSP barometer 2014, [www.eurobserv-er.org](http://www.eurobserv-er.org)

Biofuel barometer 2014, [www.eurobserv-er.org](http://www.eurobserv-er.org)

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

## Annex A

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

Biofuels Barometer

(July 2014, PDF, English language, 14 pages)

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

Solar Thermal Barometer (CSP and solar water heaters)

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

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

Solar Photovoltaic Barometer

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

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

Wind Power Barometer

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

[http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro-jde14\\_en.asp](http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/baro-jde14_en.asp)

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

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

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

Solid Biomass Barometer

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

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

Heat Pump Barometer

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

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