



# COUNTRY POLICY PROFILE

## Belgium

August 2015

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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 the Annex.

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.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat\\_baro/barobilan/barobilan14\\_EN.pdf](http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat_baro/barobilan/barobilan14_EN.pdf) (edition 2014).

## Abstract

In Belgium renewable energy is a regional matter, with exceptions for offshore wind power, hydropower and renewable energy sources used in transport which are governed by national regulations. Electricity from renewable sources is promoted mainly through a quota system based on the trade of certificates. Net metering regulation is in place in the regions Brussels, Flanders and Wallonia. For renewable heating and cooling, companies are eligible for a tax deduction on investment costs. The main support scheme for renewable energy sources used in transport is a quota system (RES-Legal Europe, 2014).

## 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

Solid biomass is the most important renewable energy source in Belgium (1510 ktoe in 2012), followed by biofuels in transport (329 ktoe). Wind power (224 ktoe), solar PV (185 ktoe) and biogas (121 ktoe) are next important technologies. Source: EurObserv'ER, 2014, [www.eurobserv-er.org](http://www.eurobserv-er.org). The 2012 share of renewable energy in Belgium amounted to 8.8%; the target for 2020 has been defined as 13% (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 Belgium. Data have been expressed in ktoe and refer to the year 2012

[ktoe, 2012]	European Union (27 countries)	Belgium	Contribution of Belgium to EU-27
Hydro*	29408	32	0.1%
Wind*	17089	224	1.3%
Solar PV	5732	185	3.2%
Solar thermal**	2116	15	0.7%
Solid Biomass***	74804	1510	2.0%
Biogas	6212	121	2.0%
MSW****	4426	85	1.9%
Geothermal	7825	28	0.4%
Biofuels	11711	329	2.8%
Ocean energy	44	0	0.0%

\* Normalised electricity generation

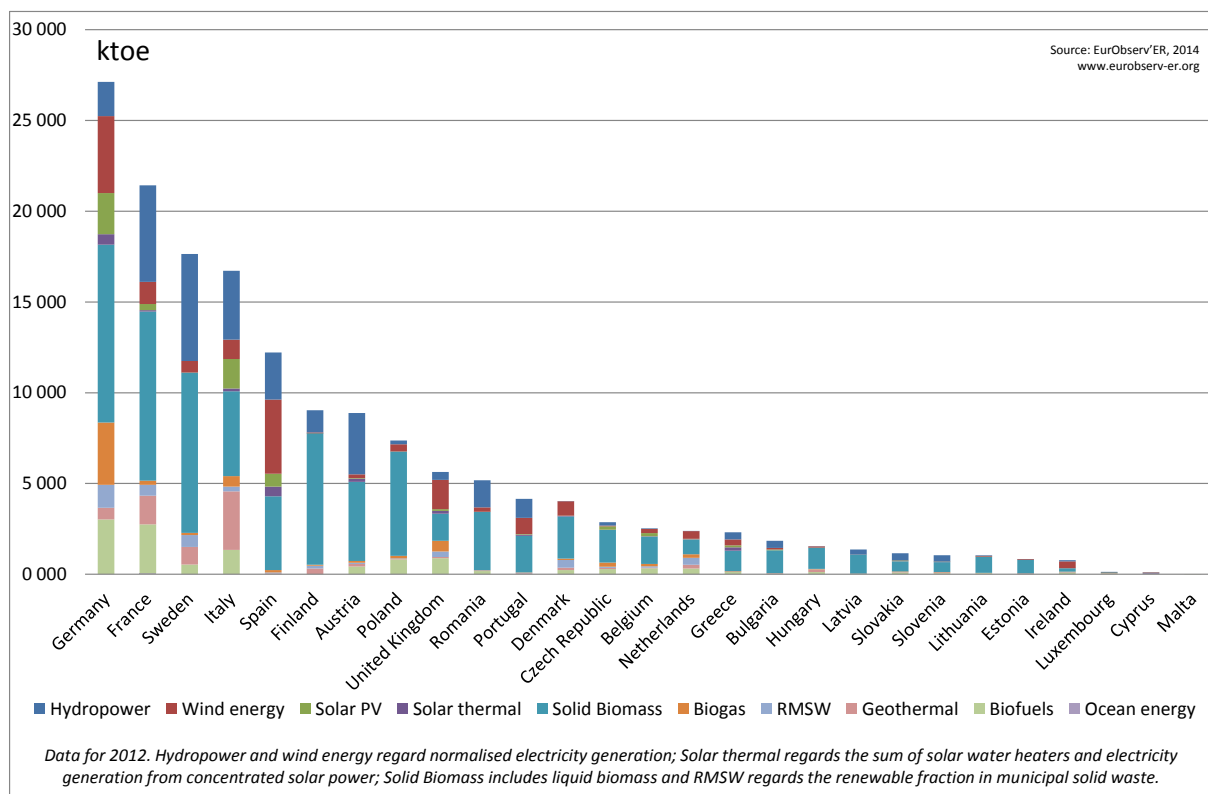
\*\* Including electricity generation from Concentrated Solar Power

\*\*\* 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.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat\\_baro/barobilan/barobilan14\\_EN.pdf](http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat_baro/barobilan/barobilan14_EN.pdf) (edition 2014).



**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		The European Commission released the Progress Report for the Belgium in January 2014. See Section 2 (page 11) to Section 4 (page 40) for a description of policy measures and support schemes.
February 2014		<no change to be reported>
March 2014	PV	The Quali watt support scheme, starting March 1 <sup>st</sup> , is targeting PV systems below 10 kW in Wallonia (Quali watt, 2014). Annual support may mount up to 800 euro.
April 2014		<no change to be reported>
May 2014		<no change to be reported>
June 2014		<no change to be reported>
July 2014		<no change to be reported>
August 2014		<no change to be reported>
September 2014		<no change to be reported>
October 2014		<no change to be reported>
November 2014	Offshore wind	No policy change. CREG publishes a 6report on determining the minimum value of offshore wind. (CREG, November 2014)
December 2014		<no change to be reported>
January 2015		In Flandres, energy loans were launched, for obtaining loans up to 10 000 euro, at an interest of 2% (or 0% for certain consumer groups), to be paid back in 5 years. Initial budget was 15,5 million euro for a total of 3500 loans.
February 2015		<no change to be reported>
March 2015		<no change to be reported>
April 2014		Flandres doubles the budget for energy loans to 30 million euro (Standaard, 2015).
May 2015		<no change to be reported>
June 2015		<p>No policy change. The Court of Appeal in Brussels in her judgment of 30 June 2015 determines that VREG must determine the balances (difference between budgeted and actual cost of green power and CHP certificates) for the period 2010-2013. The situation has been caused when in July 2014 the responsibility of the distribution network tariffs were transferred from the federal to the regional level (CREG, July 2014).</p> <p>The Walloon government has approved a selection of projects in the FEDER programme for regional development. For the period 2014-2020 a budget of 1.7 billion euro is available, among others for investments in renewable energy</p>

		(wallonie.be, 2015).
July 2015		<no change to be reported>

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 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. The auction procedure is normally organised by a governmental agency responsible for promoting renewable energy..
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 still far from commercial maturity, government grants or subsidies might be considered. For technologies close to commercial maturity which are not taken up for commercial research anyway, 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

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'The State of Renewable Energies in Europe', <http://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/bilan13-gb.asp>, (edition 2013) and [http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat\\_baro/barobilan/barobilan14\\_EN.pdf](http://www.energies-renouvelables.org/observ-er/stat_baro/barobilan/barobilan14_EN.pdf) (edition 2014)

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## Annex

The EurObserv'ER Barometers are all available for download.

Links to all EurObserv'ER publications:

*'The State of Renewable Energies in Europe'* (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-annual-overview-barometers>

Wind Energy Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-wind-energy-barometers>

Photovoltaic Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-photovoltaic-barometers>

Solar Thermal Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-solar-thermal-and-concentrated-solar-power-barometers>

Biofuels Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-biofuels-barometers>

Biogas Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-biogas-barometers>

Renewable Municipal Waste Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-renewable-municipal-waste-barometers>

Solid Biomass Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-solid-biomass-barometers>

Heat Pump Barometer (PDF, multiple languages)

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-heat-pumps-barometers>