



Press Release

Just three points short of the 2020 target

EurObserv'ER releases the 17th edition of the *State of Renewable energies in Europe*

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Paris, 28th February 2018

Key data for European Union (EU) in 2016

- 17% Renewable GFEC¹ share in total EU generation in 2016 (16.7% in 2015)
- 29.6% Renewable electricity share in total EU generation in 2016 (28.8% in 2015)
- 19.1% Renewable heat share in total EU generation (18.7% in 2015)
- 99.3 Mtoe Renewable heat (and cooling) consumption in 2016 (95.3 Mtoe in 2015)
- 951.4 TWh Electricity production from renewables in the EU in 2016 (935.6 TWh in 2015)
- 1.42 mln. Jobs in the European renewable energy sector
- € 149 bn. Turnover generated by renewable energy sources in EU-28 in 2016
- 322 Mtoe EU-28 substituted fossil fuels in 2016 (314 Mtoe in 2015)
- € 83 bn. Result avoided expenses in EU-28 through renewables in 2016 (€ 97 bn. In 2015)

Main findings

In 2016, the European Union moved up a level towards achieving the main 2020 target set in the Renewable Energies Directive. *Gross final energy consumption* in the EU-28 increased by 0,3 point % between 2015 and 2016 to reach a 17% share which is exactly twice its 2004 level (8.5%), the first year for which data was registered. The European Union is now only 3 points short of its target for 2020, bearing in mind that this share must be at least 27% in 2030, and even more if the European Parliament and Council come to a new agreement when they adopt the next Energy Climate Package.

Shift in the renewable energy workforce

With a relatively stable workforce in 2015 and 2016, the renewable energy sector has strengthened its position in the European economy, which becomes visible from the impact of manufacturing industry: early mover countries have only few employments from new investments, but an important share from maintenance activities on the existing installations and the manufacturing industry, which is providing countries elsewhere, both in the European Union as worldwide.

¹ Gross Final Energy Consumption



Offshore overtakes onshore wind investments

With respect to overall investment amounts, it is not surprising that investments in onshore and offshore wind are by far the highest. In 2015, wind investments, including both onshore and offshore wind, totaled € 31 billion and grew to € 34 billion in 2016, which corresponds to an increase by almost 10%. This increase in wind investments was mainly driven by offshore, which even overtook onshore investments in 2016. Its share increased from 45% in 2015 to more than 65% in 2016. Due to this upsurge in wind investments, its share in overall RES investments increased even further.

International trade overview

The EU displays a strong competitiveness in all RET fields, but is losing trade shares and competitiveness in all RET fields, while China is gaining. The US is only strong in biofuels, and is enforcing its position there, while in other RET its contribution is far below that of the EU.

Links

- Free download of the report “[State of renewable energies in Europe](#)”, 17th edition (PDF, ENG, 5 MB)
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The next Barometer will cover the topic: WIND ENERGY

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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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“This barometer was prepared by Observ'ER in the scope of the “EurObserv'ER” project with the collaboration of the Renewables Academy (RENAC), the Energy research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN), Frankfurt School of Finance and Management (FS), and Fraunhofer-ISI. Sole responsibility for the publication's content lies with its authors. It does not represent the opinion of the European Commission nor DG ENER which may all not be held responsible for any use that may be made of the information published. This action benefits from the financial support of DG ENER of the European Commission.”