



Press Release

## THE EU GETS CLOSER TO THE 2020 RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS IN 2017

EurObserv'ER releases the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of “*The state of renewable energies in Europe*” and reports a renewable energy share increase from 17.0 to 17.5 % (in 2017)

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Paris, March 2019

### Key data for the European Union (EU) in 2017

<b>17.5%</b>	RES share in total EU gross final energy consumption in 2017 (17.0% in 2016)
<b>30.7%</b>	RES-E share in total EU generation in 2017 (29.6% in 2016)
<b>19.5%</b>	RES-H share in total EU heat consumption in 2017 (19.0% in 2016)
<b>975.2 TWh</b>	Electricity production from renewables in the EU in 2017 (953.9 TWh in 2016)
<b>1.45 million</b>	Jobs in the European renewable energy sector in 2017 (1.43 million in 2016)
<b>€ 154.7 bn.</b>	Turnover generated by renewable energy sources in EU-28 in 2017 (€ 149.2 bn. in 2016)

### Key findings: Slight growth of EU renewable energy share

The EU-28 has reached 17.5% of gross final energy consumption (GFECE). The 2017 increase in the renewable energy share across the European Union was a little higher than that of 2016 when 0.3 percentage point (pp) was added between 2015 and 2016. Yet it is still below the gains made in 2012 (1.3 pp), 2013 (0.7 pp) and 2014 (0.8 pp). The current growth rate is too low to meet the 2020 target, for it needs to be at least 0.83 pp every year between 2018 and 2020. With collective effort the target still remains within the European Union's reach, if countries that expect to overshoot their targets do not slow down and implement cooperation mechanisms that include “statistical transfers” to countries expecting to fall short of target.

### Slight increase of the renewable energy workforce to 1.45 million full time jobs

The economic activity in the RES sector is estimated to translate into 1.45 million jobs in 2017. This was comparable to the estimation for 2016 with an increase of just over 1%, corresponding to 18 500 jobs. Biomass (364 800 FTE) and wind energy (356 700 FTE) remained the major renewable employers in the EU-28. The combined turnover for the 10 renewable energy sectors covered in the 28 EU member states amounted to 154.7 billion euro in 2017, 3.6% higher than in 2016. Renewable energy substituted around 322 Mtoe of fossil fuels in 2017 (315 Mtoe in 2016). These figures correspond to an avoided annual € 93.5 billion spent in fossil fuels in 2017 (€ 84.6 billion in 2016) for the EU-28 collectively.



**The state of renewable energies in Europe** features dedicated chapters on

**Energy indicators**

**Socio-economic indicators**

**Investment indicators**

**Renewable energy costs, prices and cost competitiveness**

**Avoided fossil fuel use and resulting avoided costs**

**Indicators on innovation and competitiveness**

**International Trade**

## Links and free downloads

- **REPORT:** [“The State of renewable energies in Europe”, 18th edition,](#)
- **NEW: DATABASE** with all data from barometers
- Free download of all [EurObserv'ER graphs and tables](#)

## Communication

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**The topic of the next Barometer will be: WIND ENERGY (expected March 2019)**



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For further information, please contact:

Ms Diane Lescot

Observ'ER

146, rue de l'Université

75007 Paris / France

Tel: +33 (0) 1 44 18 00 80

Email : [diane.lescot@energies-renouvelables.org](mailto:diane.lescot@energies-renouvelables.org)

## About EurObserv'ER

Since 1999, EurObserv'ER regularly publishes market reports (Barometers) containing energy data reflecting dynamics in renewable sources of energy in 10 sectors (solar PV, wind, hydropower, geothermal energy, biogas, solid biomass, biofuels, heat pumps, small hydro, renewable waste) within the EU-28 and worldwide.

## Note for editors

Suggested report citation: EurObserv'ER 2019: “State of renewable energies in Europe”, 18<sup>th</sup> edition, [eurobserv-er.org](http://eurobserv-er.org). We appreciate receiving a short reference when EurObserv'ER data is used in an article, report, news, or website. Please send an e-mail to [diane.lescot@energies-renouvelables.org](mailto:diane.lescot@energies-renouvelables.org)

This barometer was prepared by Observ'ER in the scope of the EurObserv'ER project, which groups together Observ'ER (FR), ECN part of TNO (NL), the Renewables Academy (DE), Frankfurt School of Finance and Management (DE), Fraunhofer-ISI (DE) and Statistics Netherlands (NL). The information and views set out in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.