



Press Release

Estimates of the renewable energy share in gross final energy consumption for the year 2018

European renewable energy share increases to 17,5% in 2017

Paris, December 2018

The 2009/28 Directive stipulates that an overall 20% share of renewable energy in Europe's gross final energy consumption should be achieved by the Member States. It has set individual binding targets for each country for 2020. EurObserv'ER monitors each Member State's trajectory towards these targets. Calculating the renewable energy share of each member country is a delicate exercise. Hence, the results presented are estimates, based on the information collected over the past year by the EurObserv'ER project team. These initial estimates suggest that the renewable energy share of the European Union's gross final energy consumption rose to 17.5% in 2017 from its 2016 level of 17.0% (using rounded figures).

According to EurObserv'ER data the European Union's gross final renewable energy consumption increased by 7.5 Mtoe between 2016 and 2017 (from 195.5 to 203.0 Mtoe), amounting to 3.8% growth. The main reason for this increase is the higher contribution made by renewable electricity. Renewable electricity, which takes into account normalised production for wind energy and hydropower, delivered 4.1 Mtoe more than in 2016, namely 3.1 Mtoe for wind energy, 0.7 Mtoe for photovoltaic solar power and 0.3 Mtoe for all the biomass sectors taken together (solid biomass, biogas, renewable urban waste and liquid biomass).

Renewable heat made a lower contribution. According to EurObserv'ER, the 2017 increase was 2.2 Mtoe for a total contribution of 101.5 Mtoe. Solid biomass alone contributed half of the additional contribution of renewable heat (1.1 Mtoe). It was followed by renewable heat from heat pumps, which provided an additional 560 ktoe. This confirms that in several countries, electrification of heating is a growing trend. Transport biofuel that fulfils sustainability criteria also made positive input by adding 1.2 Mtoe, for a total of 15.2 Mtoe.

The European Union's total gross final energy consumption (renewable and other) continued to pick up in 2017. It rose 14.3 Mtoe (1.2%) over its 2016 level to reach 1162.8 Mtoe in 2017. The increase in final renewable energy consumption took the renewable share to 17.5% in 2017 from its 2016 level of 17%, i.e. a 0.5 percentage point (using rounded figures). Although the 0.5 percentage is higher than the one achieved in 2016 the current trend remains insufficient for the European Union to achieve its common goal of 20% if the current low growth trend does not increase. An annual 0.8 percentage point increase till 2020 is needed to meet target.



Share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption in 2016 and 2017*, indicative trajectory and national overall targets in 2020

Country	2016	2017	Indicative trajectory 2017-2018**	2020 target	Percentage of target achieved
Sweden	53,9%	54,4%	45,8%	49%	111,1%
Finland	38,8%	40,8%	34,7%	38%	107,2%
Latvia	37,1%	39,0%	37,4%	40%	97,6%
Denmark	32,2%	34,1%	25,5%	30%	113,6%
Austria	33,0%	32,6%	30,3%	34%	95,7%
Estonia	29,4%	29,5%	22,6%	25%	118,1%
Portugal	28,7%	29,0%	27,3%	31%	93,5%
Croatia	28,3%	28,2%	17,4%	20%	140,9%
Lithuania	25,6%	25,8%	20,2%	23%	112,3%
Romania	25,0%	25,0%	21,8%	24%	104,0%
Slovenia	21,4%	21,6%	21,9%	25%	86,6%
Bulgaria	18,8%	18,7%	13,7%	16%	116,8%
Italy	17,4%	17,7%	12,9%	17%	104,3%
Spain	17,2%	17,3%	16,0%	20%	86,3%
Greece	15,4%	16,5%	14,1%	18%	91,8%
France	16,1%	16,3%	18,6%	23%	70,9%
Germany	14,8%	15,4%	13,7%	18%	85,6%
Czech Republic	14,9%	14,8%	10,6%	13%	113,7%
Hungary	14,2%	13,7%	10,0%	13%	105,3%
Slovakia	12,1%	11,9%	11,4%	14%	84,8%
Poland	11,3%	11,0%	12,3%	15%	73,4%
Ireland	9,3%	10,7%	11,5%	16%	66,6%
United Kingdom	9,1%	10,1%	10,2%	15%	67,3%
Cyprus	9,4%	9,4%	9,5%	13%	72,7%
Belgium	8,7%	9,2%	9,2%	13%	70,5%
Malta	6,1%	6,9%	6,5%	10%	68,7%
Netherlands	6,0%	6,6%	9,9%	14%	47,1%
Luxembourg	5,4%	6,3%	7,5%	11%	56,9%
European Union 28	17,0%	17,5%		20%	87,3%

Note: Calculations, defined by the Directive, use a normalized hydro and wind generation.
 * EurObserv'ER estimates, calculated on the basis of the project's data collection campaigns.
 ** All percentages originate from Annex I of Directive 2009/28/EC. The indicative trajectory has been calculated from Part B of the Annex
 EurObserv'ER 2018

Each EU Member state has its own Europe 2020 target. The national targets take into account the different starting points together with the renewable energy potentials and Member State-specific economic performance levels. As it stands, according to our country-level estimates eleven Member States have achieved their 2020 targets. They are the same countries as quoted last year, namely Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Four countries have achieved more than 90% of their targets – Austria, Latvia, Portugal and Greece. This contrasts with Member States falling behind their indicative trajectories and Member States seeing their renewable energy share decrease in 2017 due to a higher increase in their total final energy consumption when compared to their increase in final renewable energy consumption. This trend continues to show that as the trajectory becomes steeper Member States need to keep up their efforts to reach their 2020 binding target.



EurObserv'ER will publish more up-to-the-minute estimates in "The State of Renewable Energies in Europe", its annual publication that will be available in a few weeks' time. EurObserv'ER believes it is possible that the renewable share of some countries could rise through better accounting for renewable energy production from heat pumps, and air-source HPs in particular. The publication provides the occasion to make a comprehensive and updated assessment of all the renewable energy production sectors.

Links and further information

- Free download of the report "The State of renewable energies in Europe", 17th edition, <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/17th-annual-overview-barometer>
- Free download of All Barometers : <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/>
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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 44180080

E-mail : diane.lescot@energies-renouvelables.org

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 PV, wind, hydro power, geothermal, biogas, solid biomass, biofuels, heat pumps, small hydro, renewable waste) within the European Union and worldwide.

Note for editors

In case you use this press release for an article, the consortium would appreciate receiving a short reference to the article. The reference can be sent to the e-mail address mentioned above. Suggested report citation: EurObserv'ER 2018. www.eurobserv-er.org.

Disclaimer

This barometer was prepared by Observ'ER in the scope of the EurObserv'ER project, which groups together Observ'ER (FR), the Energy research centre of the Netherlands (ECN part of TNO, NL), the Renewables Academy (RENAC, 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.