



Press Release

Revival in the EU photovoltaic market: 7.6 GW of new PV capacity installed in the EU in 2018

EurObserv'ER releases 2019 photovoltaic barometer

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Paris, May 2019

Key data for European Union (EU) photovoltaic energy sector in 2018

- 7.6 GW New photovoltaic capacity installed in the EU during 2018 (5.7 GW in 2017)
- 114.5 GW Cumulative photovoltaic capacity in the EU end of 2018 (106.7 GW in 2017)
- 122.3 TWh Electricity production from PV in the EU in 2018 (113.5 TWh in 2017)

Main findings of the 2019 EurObserv'ER PHOTOVOLTAIC BAROMETER

The global photovoltaic base continues to make inroads across the five continents. At the end of 2018, its capacity exceeded half a million megawatts, which equates to about 100 GW of newly-installed capacity. In 2018, China's market faltered, while there was a revival in the European Union market and the emerging markets (India, Japan or Mexico) picked up steam. The most significant event of the 2018 photovoltaic market was the Chinese market slide. China now accounts for less than half of the global market. The United States ended the year with at least 23.9 GW of high-capacity power plant projects under power purchase agreements (PPA).

Activity picks up in the European market

Newly-connected solar capacity in the European Union shot up in 2018. According to the data collected by EurObserv'ER, 7 607 MW of on-grid capacity was added across the EU. The European base in service now amounts to 114 549 MW. The largest PV markets in the European Union were Germany (2 936 MW of new capacity) followed by exceptionally strong Netherlands (1 397 MW), and France (862 MW). This recovery signals that the transition to market mechanisms for large power plants has been completed. At the end of the year the market also began to take advantage of the September abolition of anti-dumping taxes levied against Chinese modules and cells by the European Commission. The full effect of this U-turn should be felt in 2019 and 2020. Lower module prices and regular publication of tenders in the main European solar markets (Germany, Netherlands, France) have brought new momentum to the sector. Photovoltaic is also taking up the strong self-consumption trend driven by solar production costs which are reaching grid parity in a growing number of Member States. Electricity generation from solar PV in the EU increased to 122.3 TWh in 2018 compared to 113.5 TWh in 2017.



The next EurObserv'ER barometer will cover the topic:

SOLAR THERMAL ENERGY / CSP

Links and free downloads

- **REPORT:** “The State of renewable energies in Europe”, 18th edition, <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/18th-annual-overview-barometer>
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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: “Photovoltaic Barometer”*, www.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.

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.