



Press Release

Revival of European PV market continues: 15.6 GW of new capacity installed in the EU in 2019

EurObserv'ER releases 2020 photovoltaic barometer

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Paris, May 2020

Key data for European Union (EU) photovoltaic energy sector in 2019

- **15.6 GW** New photovoltaic capacity installed in the EU-28 in 2019 (8.5 GW in 2018)
- **130.7 GW** Cumulative photovoltaic capacity in the EU-28 end of 2019 (115.1 GW in 2018)
- **131.8 TWh** Electricity production from PV in the EU-28 in 2019 (122.9 TWh in 2018)

Main findings of the 2020 EurObserv'ER photovoltaic barometer

Newly installed capacity surged in the European Union in 2019. According to EurObserv'ER, at least 15.6 GW was installed in 2019 (8.5 GW in 2018) in the European Union of 28. The robust German solar market, the return to the fore of the Spanish market and the capacity build-up of the Dutch, Belgian, Polish, Hungarian and Greek markets have clearly changed the game. The EU-28 reached 130.7 GW of cumulative photovoltaic capacity at the end of 2019. Apart from the UK, which officially left the European Union at midnight on 31 January 2020, newly installed capacity reached 15.1 GW and the installed base of the EU of 27 stood at 117.1 GW at the end of 2019. The EU-28 will reach 140 GW in 2020 according to EurObserv'ER projections, dwarfing the initial NREAP (National Renewable Energy Action Plan) projections of 84 GW.

Emerging from the crisis with new momentum

The effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic on global production, distribution and installation circuits as well as the ensuing global economic recession will naturally have an impact on the 2020 market, even if it is too early to quantify the extent of the damage. The call to take action against the enduring climate and environmental crisis in post-pandemic economic recovery plans demonstrates that awareness and political determination are present. Introduced in December 2019 before the Covid-19 crisis, the European Green Deal is a growth strategy for making the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all. According to this roadmap, the governments can enable renewable technologies to emerge from the crisis with new momentum. Several solutions are already on the drawing board such as setting up of major grid infrastructure projects, deploying industrial capacities in the energy storage area and producing low-carbon hydrogen.



The next Barometer will cover the topic: **Solar thermal and CSP (Concentrated Solar Power)**

Links and free downloads

- **REPORT:** “The State of renewable energies in Europe”, 19th edition, <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/19th-annual-overview-barometer>
- **EurObserv’ER DATABASE:** <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/online-database>
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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
Email: 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, marine energy and renewable waste) within the EU-28 and worldwide.

Note for editors

Suggested report citation: EurObserv’ER 2020: “Photovoltaic Barometer 2020”, <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/category/all-photovoltaic-barometers>. 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.

Disclaimer

This barometer was prepared by Observ’ER in the scope of the EurObserv’ER project, which groups together Observ’ER (FR), TNO Energy Transition (NL), the Renewables Academy (DE), Frankfurt School of Finance and Management (DE), Fraunhofer-ISI (DE) and Statistics Netherlands (CBS, 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.