



## Press Release

# Solid biomass energy consumption grew by 1.7% in the EU

## EurObserv'ER releases Solid Biomass Barometer 2018

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Paris, January 2019

### Key data for the European Union (EU) solid biomass sector in 2017:

- **98.8 Mtoe** Primary energy consumption from biomass in the EU in 2017 (98.5 Mtoe in 2016)
- **79.9 Mtoe** Heat consumption from solid biomass in the EU in 2017 (79.1 Mtoe in 2016)
- **94.5 TWh** Electricity production from solid biomass in the EU in 2017 (93.5 TWh in 2016)

### Main findings of the 2018 EurObserv'ER Solid Biomass Energy Barometer

A 1.7% growth in primary energy production was observed in the EU in 2017, placing the gross consumption of biomass primary energy just below the 100 Mtoe threshold at 98.9 Mtoe. Heat consumption from solid biomass rose marginally by 1.4% over the past year to reach 79.9 Mtoe. This is mainly due to higher temperatures recorded over the year in the EU leading to a lower demand for heating. According to EurObserv'ER, heat used by final consumers only increased by 1% as compared to 2016 levels while the gross solid biomass heat sold to heating networks has risen by 4.1%. The latter was driven in part by proactive biomass cogeneration policies in Finland, Denmark and Sweden.

Coal fired power plant conversions particularly in the UK, Finland and Denmark has expanded by 2.9%. Combined to an increase in net electrical capacity in major producer countries and greater efficiency of existing capacities, this has led the production of biopower to reach 94.5 TWh. Primary energy production from biomass sourced from EU also rose drastically by 10.5%. A slower pace of growth in terms of EU's wood pellet output (6.2%) caused an increased reliance on imports especially from the USA and Canada. In 2018, 95% of the gross inland consumption of solid biomass sourced from the EU and 5% came from imports.

### Developments in specific countries

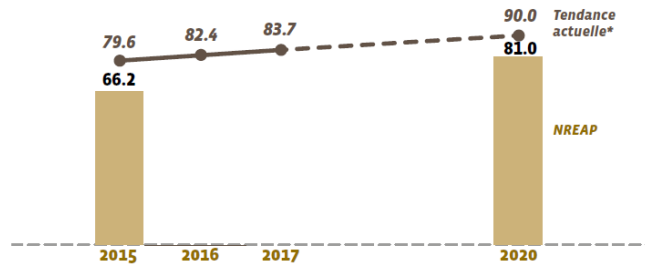
The top 3 countries in terms of solid biomass consumption are Germany (12,4 Mtoe), France (10,8 Mtoe) and Sweden (9,3 Mtoe). But in relative terms, the 3 largest consumers of energy from solid biomass in toe per inhabitant are Finland (1,519), Sweden (0,956) and Estonia (0,683).

Germany remains the top producer in primary energy production and gross inland consumption with a slight increase of 0.1 Mtoe in production and the same amount consumed as in 2017. In Denmark, primary energy consumption continued to expand for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running leading to a 14.2% year on year rise. This was stimulated by conversions of



coal and gas fired power plant to CHP as part of the country's policy to attain carbon neutrality by 2050. Sweden on the other hand has encountered a contraction in biomass energy consumption but the sector is expected to pick up with new plants opening and action plans in line with its new 'climate' law.

Comparison of the current trend of heat consumption from solid biomass against the NREAP (National Renewable Energy Action Plan) roadmaps (in Mtoe)



These data include an estimate of the renewable heat from incineration plants of municipal waste.  
Source: EurObserv'ER 2018.

### Links and free downloads

- ["The State of renewable energies in Europe"](#), 17<sup>th</sup> edition,
- All [EurObserv'ER graphs and tables](#),

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The topic of the next Barometer will be:

### WIND ENERGY



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### About EurObserv'ER

Since 1999, 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 EU and worldwide.

### Note for editors

Suggested report citation: EurObserv'ER 2018: *Solid Biomass Barometer*, [www.eurobserv-er.org](http://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 (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.