

EREF

European Renewable Energies Federation

PRESS DECLARATION

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Europe falls short to deliver- Europe's missing targets for Renewables – EREF report now published

Under a realistic scenario for the current European Union member countries, only Germany is on track to attain the targets for the share of renewable energies in their overall electricity consumption by the end of the decade, according to a study based on latest available statistical data and reports.

The information, researched, analysed and tabulated by the European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF) forecasts that the EU collectively could under the same business-as usual-scenario attain 17.8% level for renewable energies by 2010 instead of the 22% they promised in the EU to obtain in the combat against climate changes in the EU Directive 2001/77/EC on the promotion of renewable energies in the internal electricity market.

EREF is an association of independent national producers of renewable energies in most of the current 15 EU member states and with first new members from other incoming states.

The major elements of the study's conclusion include the fact that while Germany may possibly reach its target for introduction of renewable energies as a portion of electricity or fall just short of its 12.5% goal, no other EU member is even close and several will in fact experience drops in the share of renewable energies in the national consumption.

Only under a very optimistic scenario which would imply more and dramatically higher efforts in many of the EU 15 member states than currently the case, Belgium, Italy and Sweden could reach their indicative targets, Spain could even slightly go beyond and Germany could increase by a further 3 %.

As a result, the EU as a whole is expected under both scenarios to fall considerably short of its objective of 22% of renewable energies, probably reaching only 20,4 % in the optimistic scenario or best forecast..

Some countries appear to be receding in their efforts to reach the targets, in part because of substantial growth in overall energy consumption which surpasses any increase in renewable energy output and consumption. But other reasons involve stalling efforts on the political and administrative level, as well as on the level of grid upgrading/connection, with sometimes

drastically negative results possible such as could be the case for Austria, Denmark, Finland and Greece.

Some reasons for failure underlined by the study include an overdependence on only one or few sources of renewable energy in one country to meet the targets instead of developing a mix of technologies and production. A case is cited as an example, in France where hydro-electricity is by far the prime national source of renewable energy, but which suffered a catastrophic decline during the 2003 heat wave and drought, forcing the country to import external energy to meet the shortfall, which was largely from traditional sources. A very similar case is Greece.

The study points to the need for reliable support schemes and enduring political priority on national, regional and local levels. Apart from much more and reliable support for renewables, Europe and its Member states must come to terms with fast growing electricity needs, partly already reflecting climate changes and the need for more cooling systems in summer and more electricity used for heating in winter, especially in Northern European countries such as Finland.

Recently EREF published a good planning guide in order to help the EU Commission and Member States to develop efficient planning procedures for RES technology.

“We are very pre-occupied with this negative development. The majority of member states seems not to have awakened to the crisis in energy and to the need for constructive energy policies which probably have already the dimension of national and European security interests. The willingness to invest in these technologies, the need to increase the share for RES and to completely change the current fossil fuel dependent structure must still find its way in many countries beyond election rhythms and lip service”, stresses Joan Fages, President of EREF. “Our study also made it very clear that up to now only feed-in systems have delivered.”

EREF will continue to monitor the market. This is now the second evaluation, and already the previous, prepared jointly with WWF end of 2001 came to mostly pessimistic conclusions for 2010.

On the other hand some countries, especially Germany and Spain, show that good legal conditions and an encouraging investment climate in RES, together with reliable administrative procedures paves the way towards success.

The whole report can be available on the EREF web page. The following table reflects the development and scenarios:

Share of Renewable Electricity in the national electricity consumption in Europe

	1999	2002	2003	2010	2010	2010
	Actual	Actual	Actual	EU targets	Optimistic Scenario ^a	Realistic scenario ^b
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Austria	71.9	64.5	57	78.1	61	58
Belgium	1	1	1.2	6.0	6	3
Denmark	13	20	not yet avail.	29	24	22
Germany ^c	6	7.6 ^d	7.5 ^d (7.9 ^e)	12.5	15	12
Finland	24	23 ^f	not yet avail.	31.5	26 ^g	25
France	15	16.7	14.1 ^f	21	19	18
Greece	10	8.4 ^h	not yet avail.	20.1	14.5	12
Ireland	5	4.8	not yet avail.	13.2	11	8
Italy	17	18.3 ^j	17.6 ^j	22.0	17-20	17
Luxemburg	3	2.4	2.6	5.7	5	4
Netherlands	2	2.7	5.2	9.0	7	6
Portugal	36	20.4 ^h	37.5 ⁱ	39.0	37	34
Spain	19	16.7 ^h	23.3 ⁱ	29.4	30	24
Sweden	52	48	41 ^h	60.0	60	55
United Kingdom	2	2.9	not yet avail.	10.0	10	7
EU-15	14,5	14,8	not yet avail.	22	20,4	17,8

- a) Based on the assumption that all goes according to National plans, including all legal and administrative instruments for its execution enforced and no modifications threatening planning.
- b) Business-as-Usual, based on real world in respective countries, assumptions according to reality.
- c) German values for 2002 and 2003 based on calculations.
- d) Not corrected for average hydro and wind year
- e) Including biomass share of waste incineration.
- f) Preliminary or estimated figure.
- g) Finnish Government has according to its report to the EC lowered its 2010 target to 26 percent.
- h) Value is dependent on hydropower: this year was a dry year; for 2010 an average year is assumed.
- i) Value is dependent on hydropower: this year was a wet year; for 2010 an average year is assumed.
- j) Renewable national production related consumption, excl. 12 TWh/year imports and industrial waste.