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Brussels in brief

EU energy policy

Confidence boost for Europe's renewable energy industry as Heads of State show support

Europe's leaders have spurred confidence over the future of renewable energy in spite of stalling over 2030 targets.

In a last minute addition to the European Council's conclusions, leaders stated the need for a "supportive EU framework for advancing renewable energies."

Despite delaying on an agreement, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said in a press conference that the Council would have a deal on the climate and energy framework by "no later than" October 2014.

"This extra time could be a golden opportunity for pro-renewables countries like Germany, Denmark and Portugal to rally round and start fighting for greater ambition for renewables and the energy security they bring," said Thomas Becker, chief executive officer of the European Wind Energy Association.

"The conclusions show that Heads of State are wising up to the energy challenges that Europe is facing. I think the situation in the Ukraine is proving a sobering experience for policymakers over the frailty of Europe's energy security" he added. "We must act and we must do it now."

The wind energy industry is also throwing its weight behind the drive for more renewables: over 160 companies and organisations

have [signed a statement](#) calling for a stronger commitment from policymakers to Europe's 2030 climate and energy objectives including a legally binding target for renewable energy. Contact Sarah Azau for more information: sarah.azau@ewea.org

30% by 2030

A 30% renewables target would reduce gas imports by almost three times more than the 27% target put forward by the European Commission in January, create 568,000 more jobs, save €260 billion extra in fossil fuel imports.

However, it remains unlikely that a 2030 deal will be in place before a United Nations meeting convenes in September, when global leaders are expected to set out plans to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

The European Council is set to meet again for talks on 26 and 27 June.

R&D

Offshore wind a research priority, says wind energy body

The surrounding landscape and soil, the mechanism of the wind turbine, its integration into the power grid and offshore wind energy are the sector's four main research priorities.

That's according to the research agenda published at EWEA 2014 in Barcelona on 11 March at a meeting with representatives from the European Commission, the industry and national authorities.

This 'Strategic Research Agenda' – and the accompanying 'Market Deployment Strategy', which focuses on commercialisation – was published by the EU-funded forum for wind energy research 'TPWind' and aims to be a reference point for European and national authorities.

[Read the report.](#)

Energy Security

Fossil fuel imports in 2012 cost Europe three times more than Greek bailout

- Water used for fossil and nuclear EU power production equivalent to annual consumption of Germany

EWEA's two new reports show the phenomenal impact of fossil fuels on Europe's economy and environment.

Europe spent €545 billion on fossil fuel imports in 2012, three times more than the Greek bailout, shows the 'Avoiding fossil fuel costs with wind energy' report. Member States' total spend on imported fuels over the two years from 2011-12 is equal to the combined GDP of the Netherlands and Sweden.

Using wind energy avoids billions of Euros in fossil fuel imports: the more wind energy and other renewables Europe uses, the greater the savings, shows the report.

Wind energy also requires no water in its power production. This is unlike Europe's nuclear, coal and gas plants, which use 4.5 billion m³ of water a year, equivalent to that of 82 million EU citizens – the same as the population of Germany - or the same amount as

three Olympic size swimming pools per minute. Energy production represents 44% of the EU's total water use: more than any other activity.

Yet wind energy, which uses no water, avoids the use of 1.2 billion m³ of water per year, representing savings of €2.4 billion says the report, 'Avoiding water with wind energy'.

Both reports recommend that Heads of state and government discussing a 2030 climate and energy policy at their summits this year should take the research into account: boosting wind and renewable energy via an ambitious and binding renewable energy target for 2030 will have major benefits for Europe's energy security, environment and economy.

The two reports were released at the [EWEA Annual Event 2014](#) in Barcelona in March.

Read the reports: www.ewea.org/publications/reports/

National news

French support for renewables is declared legal

The new French support mechanism for renewable energy is legal, according to a ruling by the European Commission published at the end of March. The French authorities proposed a new Feed-in Tariff, which the Commission then needed to analyse whether or not it was compatible with state aid guidelines.

Previously, the European Court of Justice had ruled that the country's former support mechanism qualified as state aid, making it illegal – and meaning it should have been notified to the European Commission.

The French authorities will now have to formally approve and publish the new wind energy tariff so that the support mechanism continues with no interruption.

The French FiT is currently at €82/MWh for 10 years, then between 2.8 and 8.6 €cents/kWh, according to France Energie Eolienne (FEE).

EWEA and the French national wind energy associations are arguing that tariff continuity is essential to avoid market disruptions.

For more information on the situation, read the [FEE press release](#).

EU-funded project to guide electricity market design post 2020

A newly launched EU-funded project – Market4RES - will explore how the so-called Target Model for electricity trading should evolve post-2020. It will look at the suitability of existing market instruments in boosting the new investments required to decarbonise the electricity sector in a cost-effective way, while ensuring system adequacy and security of supply.

The project will come up with proposals for the adaptation of market mechanisms and provide guidance for a more efficient integration of renewable electricity in an integrated European electricity system, in line with the 2020 objectives and the climate and energy targets for 2030.

EWEA is a partner in this project, which is coordinated by SINTEF Energy Norway. Market4RES will run for 30 months and is funded by the EU's Intelligent Energy Europe programme.

Interim results are expected at the end of this year; final results and recommendations will be published in September 2016.

EWEA news

Barcelona welcomes international wind industry gathering



With participants from over 80 countries, the [EWEA Annual Event](#) reached one of its widest audiences yet. From 10-13 March 2014, the Fira de Barcelona Gran Via sang to the tune of 8,000 people from the wind energy industry and beyond doing business, making connections and

learning the latest about the issues and the trends in the wind energy sector.

Feedback from the event has been resoundingly positive, including Felix Losada, Deputy Head of Corporate Communications at Nordex who said: "The EWEA Annual Event is among the finest wind energy conferences and events found anywhere in the world. It should not be missed by anyone who is a professional in wind business – not only in Europe."

And David Jones, Managing Director – Head of Renewable Energy at Allianz Capital Partners GmbH who said: "As the leading European wind sector gathering, the EWEA conference and exhibition is a highly efficient and enjoyable way of maintaining existing business contacts and making new ones."

This year's event included an exclusive members' brunch taking place on the first morning of the event attended by 150 of you – we hope you enjoyed this opportunity to meet and connect with key players in your industry.

Did you attend this year's Annual Event and would like to give feedback? If so, please write to us at events@ewea.org.

EWEA 2015 in Paris 17-20 November

Next year the [EWEA Annual Event](#) will take place later in the year – from 17-20 November 2015 in Porte de Versailles, Paris. This will be the occasion to unite the industry just two weeks before the United Nations climate summit – COP 21 – also in Paris – and make our collective voice heard: We have the technology to fight climate change, EWEA 2015 will be the moment to come together to bridge the communication gap between our industry and the decision-makers at COP 21.

Exclusive early bird rates for EWEA members are currently available – to book your booth at an extra 15% discount, check out the [EWEA 2015 floor plan](#) and make your reservation online **before 30 April**. If you have any questions, please contact Raul Lanzarote at raul.lanzarote@ewea.org.

EWEA OFFSHORE 2015 comes to Copenhagen 10-12 March

Ten years' ago the first ever EWEA OFFSHORE took place. Back then there was less than 700 MW of offshore wind power installed in European waters. Returning to Denmark, the home of the world's first offshore wind farm, [EWEA OFFSHORE 2015](#) will unite players in this hugely promising industry and drive you and your offshore plans forward.

Jan Hylleberg, CEO of the Danish Wind Industry Association, said: "EWEA Offshore will celebrate its 10 year anniversary in 2015 in Copenhagen and we expect to attract a lot of delegates, exhibitors and political attention. Offshore wind started in Denmark and we are still open for business with 1,450 MW in tender, full scale test facilities and a full offshore supply chain looking forward to seeing you."

Already almost 100 exhibitors have booked more than 3,000 m² of space at EWEA OFFSHORE 2015 in Copenhagen - join them and [take advantage of a 30%+ discount](#) by being a member of EWEA.

Energy subsidies – everybody is talking about them

Energy subsidies are both complicated and emotive – do you have all the facts and would you like to join the discussion? EWEA is hosting a [public debate on subsidies](#) that are received in the power sector. The objective is to contribute to the policy discussion in advance of the European Commission's study on the topic that is due to be published before summer 2014.

Venue: EWEA's office, 80 rue d'Arlon, 1040 Brussels

Date: Tuesday 29 April 2014

Time: 16:00-18:00 followed by a drinks reception

Panellists:

Tom Howes, Deputy Head of Unit A4 - Economic analysis and financial instruments, Directorate General for Energy, European Commission – confirmed

Ronald Steenblik, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD – confirmed

Thomas Becker, Chief Executive Officer, EWEA – confirmed

Representative of other major generation sources to be confirmed

This event is free of charge and open to the public. [Register online](#) or contact Tim Robinson on tim.robinson@ewea.org for more information.

Coming up in May's Wind Watch....

Look out for the May edition of Wind Watch for more top EU policy information affecting wind energy, news on EWEA activities and events, and exclusive interviews with EWEA staff on the key dossiers that we work on aiming to create a better policy environment for wind energy across Europe.

New members this year

Since January this year, EWEA has welcomed 18 new members. We look forward to helping you further your business objectives!

Welcome to...

AMSOIL	http://www.amsoil.com
ArcelorMittal	http://arcelormittal.com/industry
Danish Wind Export Association	http://www.dwea.dk
EFLA Consulting Engineers	http://www.efla-engineers.com
EKO	http://www.eko zg.hr
FTI Consulting	http://www.fticonsulting.co.uk
GED	http://www.gedynamics.com
HOLTROP SLP	http://www.holtropslp.com
Inerco Forespro S.L.	http://www.forespro.es
INTPOW	http://www.intpow.com
Landsvirkjun	http://www.landsvirkjun.com
Mesh Engineering GmbH	http://www.mesh-engineering.de
Moventas	www.moventas.com
Puhuri Oy	http://www.puhuri.fi
Red-D-Arc Weld Automation	http://www.reddarc.com
Roboticssa	http://www.roboticssa.es
Technion	http://www.technion.ac.il
Termo Fluids	http://www.termofluids.com

