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Future Trends Series - GR:REEN Project

Title of the report

Trends and projections in Europe 2013: Tracking progress towards Europe's climate and energy targets until 2020

Area

Energy and Environment

Reporter

European Environment Agency (EEA)

Type of the Reporter

International Organisation

Periodically updated?

Yes

First issued year

2002

Latest update

2013

Official website

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/>

Language available

English

Short summary

In this report, the EEA aims to provide an assessment of the progress of the European Union (EU) and European countries towards achieving their climate mitigation and energy policy objectives.

These targets include international commitments under the Kyoto Protocol (KP) and the EU's own commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 20 per cent, increase their share of renewable energy sources (RES) to 20 per cent of the EU's gross final energy consumption and to increase energy efficiency by 20 per cent during the 2013–2020 period.

Taken together, these three climate and energy targets for 2020 constitute the 20/20/20 objectives which form part of the 'Europe 2020 — Europe's growth strategy'.

Key trends

- The reduction of 2012 EU emissions was about 18 per cent compared to 1990 levels. The EU is therefore very close to reaching its 20 per cent reduction target, eight years ahead of 2020.
- With the current set of national domestic measures in place, EU emissions are expected to reach a level in 2020 which is 21 per cent below 1990 levels (including emissions from international aviation).

- By implementing additional measures in the planning stage, Member States are expected to achieve a reduction of 24 per cent below 1990 levels in 2020.
- However, for six Member States (Austria, Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg and Spain), the latest projections indicate that even additional planned measures at national level will not be sufficient to bring 2020 emissions below their respective 2020 targets.
- Renewable energy sources contributed 13 per cent of gross final energy consumption in the EU 28 in 2011. The EU has therefore met its 10.8 per cent indicative target for 2011–2012 and is therefore currently on track towards its target of 20 per cent of renewable energy consumption in 2020.
- Four EU Member States (Bulgaria, Denmark, France and Germany) are making good progress in reducing energy consumption and primary energy intensity through well-balanced policy packages across relevant sectors.
- For most EU Member States, however, the current policies are not sufficiently developed or implemented across the relevant sectors. This is due to insufficient enforcement as well as impacts arising from the economic crisis.
- 14 EU Member States are overall performing positively across the three policy domains, four Member States have an overall neutral rating while nine Member States score negatively overall.

Suggestions

- EU Member States must increase their efforts to design, adopt and implement emission-reducing policies and measures, and need to consider the use of flexibility mechanisms.
- Member States need to double their use of renewable energy by 2020 compared to the 2005–2011 period to reach the legally binding renewable energy target.
- Achieving optimal coherence between the various policy domains is crucial to maximize the co-benefits across sectors. This requires not only precise objectives, but also long term perspectives and equally long-term policy instruments.

Methodology

Research from secondary sources

Reference to other trends reports? If yes, which reports?

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