

Current status of the Renewable Energy Action Plan in Hungary

Based on the target set in the 2009/28/EC directive (RED) on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, Hungary has to reach 13% share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy by 2020. In the EU the target is 20%.

The forecast document on the development of use of renewable energy sources until 2020 was submitted to the European Commission at the end of 2009. During the process of the final REAP development a new government was elected in May 2010 and the tasks and responsibilities of the former Ministry of Transport, Telecommunication and Energy have been taken over by the newly established Ministry of National Development.

After a long stakeholder consultation process, the Hungarian Government approved the Hungarian Renewable Energy Consumption Action Plan on 22nd of December 2010 and has submitted it to the European Commission. In the final REAP the new Government set an even more ambitious target to reach 14.65% (120.56PJ) share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption by 2020. The Hungarian REAP has been drawn up in accordance with the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council in compliance with the format laid down in the Commission Decision on the related single template.

With this target level Hungary has stepped into the lower middle range of commitments among Member States. In addition to promoting the realisation of energy and climate change policy objectives, the measures specified in the REAP serve the Hungarian economic development, improvement in its competitiveness, job creation and sustainable rural development. This is done by boosting green economy and also by applying and spreading of renewable energy sources, which consequently may become a breakthrough point for the Hungarian economy.

The key areas of Hungarian renewable energy policy are the following:

- security of supply,
- environmental sustainability and climate protection,
- agriculture and rural development,
- development of green economy,
- contribution to Community goals.

Based on these considerations the measures and actions are based around four pillars:

- Support measures, programs (governmental, EU co-financing, direct EU funds)
- Other financial mechanisms (green economy development financing, R&D, transforming feed-in of green electricity, biofuel support, tariffs, taxes)
- Regulatory and comprehensive program development incentives (law on sustainable energy management, renewable energy act, simplification of licensing procedures, regional energy programs, etc)
- Social measures (employment, national and regional education, energy adviser network, awareness building, etc)

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