

## REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY TASK FORCE IN 2012

### *I. Background*

On 6 October 2011, in the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting the Ministerial Council extended the mandate of the Renewable Energy Task Force (RE TF) to finalise the analysis on the modalities for the implementation of Directive 2009/28/EC<sup>1</sup> in the Energy Community. Furthermore, the Ministerial Council encouraged the Contracting Parties to advance the implementation of the renewable energy *acquis* and to ensure a proper investment climate for renewable energy projects.

According to the Conclusion no.13 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Council, the PHLG appointed Mr. Joachim BALKE, representative of the European Commission as RE TF Chairman. The Task Force conducted its activities to act as an expert team of representatives from the Contracting Parties, Observers and Participants' countries to assist the work of the PHLG in the analysis required for the adoption of the Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC in the Energy Community.

In 2012, the Renewable Energy Task Force had one meeting, on 6 March. The conclusions and the meeting documents are available at:

[http://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC\\_HOME/INST\\_AND\\_MEETINGS?event\\_reg.category=E12829](http://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME/INST_AND_MEETINGS?event_reg.category=E12829)

### *II. RE TF Work Programme 2012*

RE TF Work Programme for 2012 has been agreed and adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> RE TF meeting in March 2012 and it is available at:

[http://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC\\_HOME/INST\\_AND\\_MEETINGS?event\\_reg.category=E12829](http://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME/INST_AND_MEETINGS?event_reg.category=E12829)

The activities of the RE TF have been concentrated on four major areas during 2012.

First, the activities towards the **implementation of Directive 2009/28/EC in the Energy Community** continued. The work to identify the modalities for a possible adoption of the Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC within the Energy Community Treaty was finalised in the first half of 2012.

In this relation, one key aspect for the work of RE TF was the determination of the 2020 RES targets based on sound and reliable statistical data. To overcome the problems with the consistency of statistical data on biomass consumption and following the agreement of the PHLG (Conclusion no. 7, 17<sup>th</sup> PHLG meeting 2010), the Secretariat contracted a Biomass Study that was launch at the end of 2010. The Study on biomass consumption surveys carried out by CRES has been finalised in March 2012.

The objective of the Biomass Study was to determine the biomass consumption for electricity, heating and cooling based on representative and consistent consumption surveys and to report on

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<sup>1</sup> **Directive 2009/28/EC** on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC  
(<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:140:0016:0062:EN:PDF>)

the share of energy produced from biomass in the gross final consumption of energy in the Contracting Parties of the Energy Community. Furthermore, the biomass consumption data were integrated into the energy balances of the Contracting Parties for 2009 and 2010 in accordance with EUROSTAT methodology. This served as an input for the re-calculation of 2020 RES targets with the new baseline year 2009, as adopted by the PHLG.

Second, upon the determination of 2020 RES targets calculation, the RE TF provided its contribution to the **Regional Energy Strategy up to 2020**. The Regional Energy Strategy including the policy objectives related to an increased contribution of the energy from renewable sources in the energy mix and the 2020 RES target for the Contracting Parties are submitted to the Ministerial Council for adoption.

Another area of work of the Task Force during 2012 was the continuation of fulfilment of the **Simplified Renewable Energy Action Plans** according to the Ministerial Council Recommendation 2010/01/MC-EnC.

In order to support the reporting requirements according to the MC Recommendation and to create compatibility also with the EU-Member States' National Renewable Energy Action Plans, a customised and shortened template of the NREAP for the Contracting Parties was agreed. The so-called Simplified Renewable Energy Action Plans serves as an important transparency tool towards the potential investors in renewable energy to observe the Government strategy to meet the policy objectives.

The template for a Simplified Renewable Energy Action Plan was developed to match the deadlines according to the MC Recommendation and it was adjusted to include the reporting requirements until 30 June 2012. The report with the deadline in June 2012 includes the requirements to ensure that the responsible institutions for authorisation, certification and licensing procedures have clearly coordinated, defined and transparent timetables for planning and building application for RES plants. Providing that the rules for authorisation, certification, licensing are objective, transparent, proportionate and do not discriminate between applicants taking into account the particularities of individual renewable energy technologies, it also requires the Contracting Parties to review and streamline the processes for small RES plants.

In relation to biofuels, it required the Contracting Parties to set up a mechanism through which an economic operator producing or using biofuels or bioliquids can show their compliance with the sustainability regime spelled out in the Directive (Articles 17 and 18) using proof of a voluntary scheme that has been recognised by the Commission.

Until 10 July 2012, the Simplified Renewable Energy Action Plans were submitted by Albania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova (partially filled in) and UNMIK. Croatia submitted a complete Renewable Energy Action Plan to the European Commission, according to the obligations agreed within the accession process.

The submitted plans identified significant barriers for RES plants development related to existing non-harmonised authorisation, planning permitting, certification and licensing procedures that are mainly designed for large investment projects in conventional generation capacities, and therefore not appropriate for RES projects. Usually, there are too many authorities involved in the administrative and permitting procedures that need to be simplified and coordinated with defined and transparent timetables to process the RES applications. Despite the identification of the non-cost barriers that delay the development of a RES project and impact the capacity of attracting foreign investors, only Albania planned and made serious efforts towards a one-stop-shop institution to deal with all the administrative applications for RES projects.

Finally, the fourth area covered in the 2012 RE TF Work Programme was capacity building related to promotion of renewable energy. The Donor Community provided technical assistance to the Contracting Parties on individual basis for the completion of the legal and regulatory frameworks, key conditions for investments in renewable energy projects.

### ***III. Follow-up to the work of the TF regarding the Implementation of Directive 2009/28/EC in the Energy Community***

In March 2012, the European Commission submitted to the PHLG for discussion the Commission proposal for the Implementation of Directive 2009/28/EC in the Contracting Parties of the Energy Community and amending the Article 20 of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community.

The PHLG called for a detailed discussion of the Commission's proposal. A technical meeting was organised by the Secretariat in Vienna on 22 May 2012 where the text of the Commission's proposal was discussed. The Contracting Parties proposed amendments referring to the extension of the deadlines for the transposition, for the submission of National Renewable Energy Action Plans and for reports on the progress on the implementation of the Directive 2009/28/EC. Some Contracting Parties proposed amendments to the review clause to reflect possible statistical uncertainties on which the proposed targets are based. As regards the proposed national targets (Article 4 of the Commission's proposal), the Secretariat presented a possible compromise solution which consisted in a trajectory-based approach to the correction of the additional effort as resulting from the methodology.

Based on the amendments on the deadlines proposed during the meeting, on written comments received after the meeting as well as the support of the trajectory based approach for the correction of the 2020 RES targets, the Secretariat presented a proposal for revisions to the draft decision to the 25th PHLG meeting in June 2012. The PHLG agreed on the text of the draft decision as proposed by the Secretariat including the amendments on reporting deadlines and the review clause. As regards the targets a large majority of Contracting Parties also agreed to the trajectory based approach to reducing the overall targets as proposed by the Secretariat. No agreement was reached on the level of targets for the transport sector. The concrete target levels, including the share of renewable energy in the transport sector, are expected to be agreed by the Ministerial Council. In view of this, the PHLG invited the Secretariat to submit the draft decision on the implementation of the Directive 2009/28/EC in the Energy Community to the Ministerial Council for adoption.

It can therefore be noted that in as far as the preparation of a decision to implement Directive 2009/28/EC in the Energy Community is concerned the activities of the TF have been finalised. The PHLG is invited to consider whether a renewal of the mandate of the RE TF is appropriate in view of potential additional tasks to be fulfilled.