



Institute for European  
Environmental Policy

**The Renewable Energy Directive  
(2009/28/EC) – Development,  
implementation and the question of  
bioenergy**

**Catherine Bowyer, IEEP**

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# Timeline for Development



**2005** – Commission Communication – winning the battle against climate change - EU's future climate change strategy

**Jan – 2007** - Limiting Global Climate Change to 2° Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond - Proposed targets on emissions reductions and renewables

**March 2007** – Council approve high level targets

**Jan 2008**, Commission presented legislative proposals to achieve these targets: Climate Action and Renewable Energy Package (CARE)

**Trilogue negotiations** – Only one reading of the texts in the EP  
First and final reading in the EP of RED – 17 Dec, previously amendments adopted by ITRE in May and Sept 2008. Strong EP on RED

**Dec 2008** – New CARE Directives approved – timing pushed to deliver a platform for Copenhagen

**Jan 2009** – New legislation published in the official journal

- Effort sharing – Decision 406/2009/EC
- **Review of the EU ETS – Directive 2009/29/EC**
- **Renewable Energy – Directive 2009/28/EC**
- CCS – Geological storage of Carbon Dioxide – Directive 2009/31/EC
- Emissions performance standards for cars – Regulation EC/443/2009
- Reducing GHG from transport fuels – Directive 2009/30/EC

# Renewable energy Directive



## Renewable electricity Directive (2001/77/EC)

- Indicative targets
- 12 per cent by 2010 renewable electricity
- Highly variable support and success in delivering renewable electricity
- Anticipation that 2010 target would be missed

## Renewable transport fuel Directive (2003/30/EC)

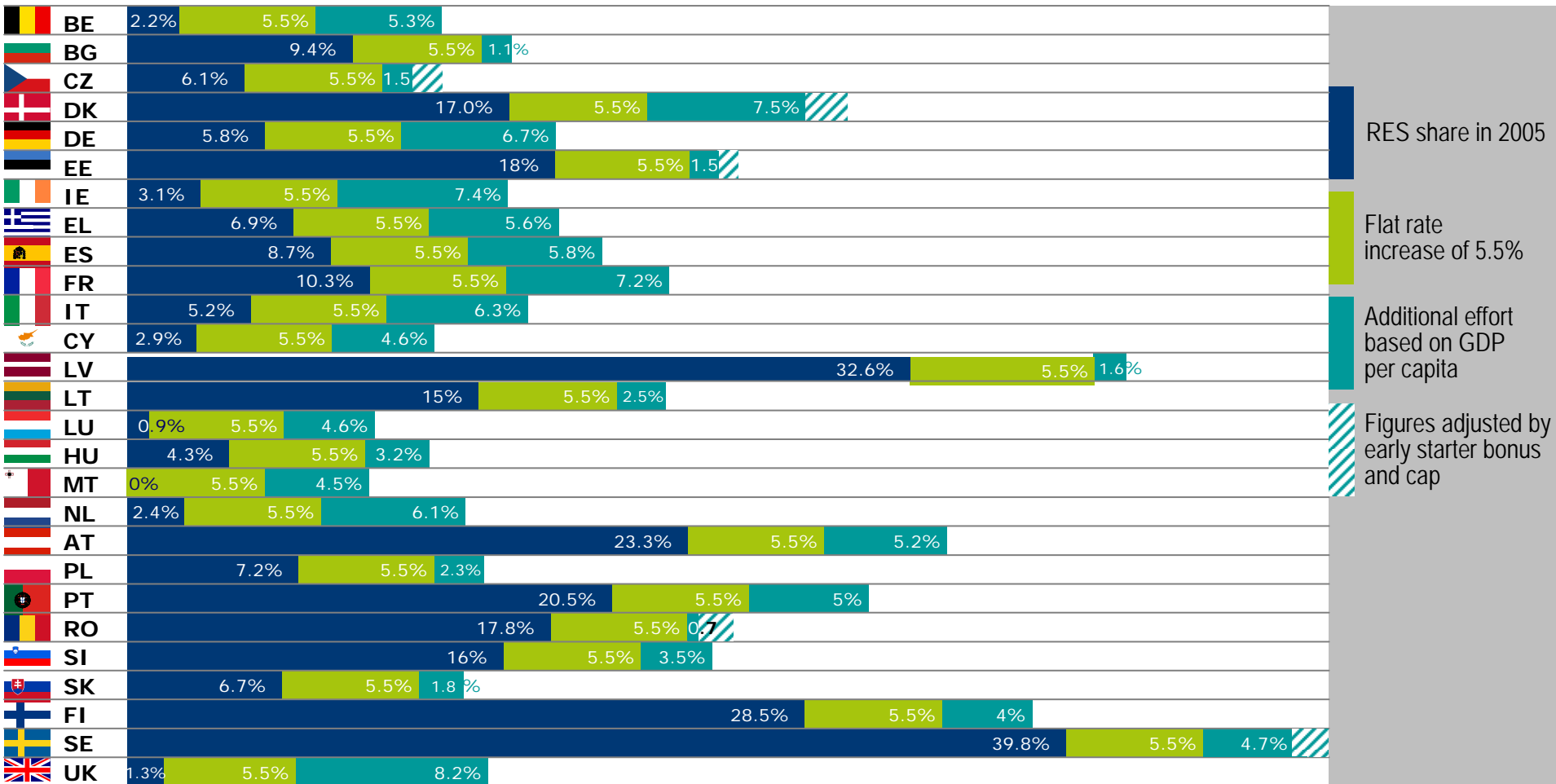
- Indicative targets
- 5.75 per cent in 2010
- Anticipated to be missed and rising concerns about multiplicity of schemes for biofuel sustainability



## New Renewable Energy Directive

- 20 per cent by 2020 of energy from renewable sources
- 20 per cent differentiated across MS
- 10 per cent of all transport fuels from renewable sources, applies to all equally NOTE this is not a biofuels target!!
- Covers electricity, heat and transport
- Binding target – extension of EU competence
- Environmental criteria for bioliquids and biofuels

# Sharing out the 20%



# Key aspects to the Directive



- Renewable energy Directive targets – considered most challenging to meet by majority of MS
- Directive requires **binding targets** and **indicative trajectories** ie to show you are on route there
- MS can use **flexibility** under the Directive to meet targets:
  - Statistical transfer – potential power shifts
  - Joint projects (other MS and third countries)
- **National Renewable Energy Action Plans** – Key to monitoring and basis for transfer
  - Commission Guidance published (see note)
  - Forecast documents – Dec 2009 – First time we understand where the power lies
  - NREAPs – June 2010
- **Guarantees of origin** – offer opportunity to track what source MS will use

# Why the interest in biomass



- Biomass – **opportunity**
  - New power sources and diversify supply – energy security
  - Offers opportunity to deliver renewables in areas difficult to address otherwise ie heat and transport
  - Offers opportunity to rapidly expand renewable usage and to deliver incremental change eg cofiring
  - Offers emission reductions and other potential benefits IF cultivated and processed correctly
- Biomass - **risks**
  - Agricultural production is expanding, risk increased food prices, expansion into biodiverse lands, degradation of land, competition for water supply
  - Release of Carbon stored in soils and biomass
  - Increases value of land, displacement and social problems

**Challenge – It all depends on where they are grown, what was there before, how cultivation is undertaken and how the the fuel is processed**



- RED (Art 17.) contains environmental criteria intended to help ensure the Directive delivers responsible bioliquids
  - Protection of highly biodiverse areas (forest, grassland and protected areas)
  - Protection of land with high carbon stocks (peat lands)
  - Requirement to deliver 35% emission reduction, rising to 50% (Jan 2017)
- Requirements to report on impacts – 2012
  - National measures taken on sustainability criteria inc soil, water and air protection
  - Impact on food prices
  - Effectiveness on information on sustainability
  - Feasibility of mandatory standards on air, soil and water

**BUT.....**



- No criteria on Biomass
  - proposals due early 2010
  - Forestry Directive??
- ILUC!!!
  - Major gap in delivering emission reductions
  - proposals March 2010?
  - How can this be ensured – consultation before Christmas
  - Misconception of free, idle or underused land
- Lack of understanding on how to deliver the criteria and division over what they mean – maps are not enough
- Comitology
  - Finalisation of criteria on highly biodiverse grasslands (with scrutiny)
  - Verification (Advisory)



# Why is this so important?



- This is not just a biofuels question, but **one of production of biomass** more generally and increasing demand for land
- Biofuels and biomass pushed the bounds on this as, in the EU, they are **motivated by GHG saving**
- We are not the only block looking to bioenergy, but our **trading power** means we can help dictate the path of the market for the better
- **Biofuels will happen** with or without the EU, need to make a positive intervention
- Potential to deliver more **sustainable supply chains for bioproducts**



- Monitoring implementation
  - NREAPs
  - Forecast documents
  - performance towards trajectories
- Holding the Commission to account on its promised reporting – key to understanding impacts
- Addressing the bioenergy
  - Improving sustainability criteria for biofuels
  - Robust verification
  - Approach to biomass sustainability
  - Reporting on impacts
  - ILUC



**Thank you**

**[cbowyer@ieep.eu](mailto:cbowyer@ieep.eu)**

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