



**MALTA ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
RENEWABLE ENERGIES ASSOCIATION
(M.E.E.R.E.A.)**

<http://www.meerea.org>

**GOVERNMENT URGED TO CONSULT PUBLIC ON RENEWABLE
ENERGY ACTION PLAN DUE FOR EC SUBMISSION END JUNE**

22nd May 2010

The Malta Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies Association (MEERA) urges the Government to open a public consultation process on the draft National Renewable Energy Action Plan to 2020 which must be submitted to the European Commission by 30th June.

Consultation should include all stakeholders – political parties, industry, commerce, NGOs, local authorities and others – so that the resulting Plan is a truly national commitment.

All EU Member States must submit their plans by this date. Under the European Renewable Energies Directive (Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009) Malta has committed to achieve the target of obtaining 10% of its energy supplies from renewable sources by 2020.

Malta can reach or even surpass the assigned target, recent private research shows.

A Renewable Energy Industry Roadmap for Malta has been developed under the leadership of the Fraunhofer Institute Systems and Innovation Research, Karlsruhe in co-operation with MEEREA, the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) and the

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Member of the World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)
Member of the World Council of Renewable Energy (WCRE)
National Contact Point of the European Motor Challenge Programme
Campaign Associate of the European Commission Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign 2009-2013
Member of the International Network for Sustainable Energy-Europe **INFORSE-EUROPE**

Vienna University of Technology, Energy Economics Group, Vienna, Austria. This work has been carried out with the support of Intelligent Energy Europe under the “*Renewable Energy Policy Action Paving the Way to 2020*” (REPAP2020) Project.

Research was complemented by feedback and information gathered during a national workshop organised in Malta by MEEREA on 12th February 2010 and attended by over 100 participants.

According to this roadmap, Malta can reach its renewable energy target of 10% by 2020 and even surpass it by between 0.2% and 2.2%, depending on the scenario adopted.

The National Target Fulfilment (Nat) scenario represents the most conservative approach which would produce a renewable energy share in primary energy supplies of 10.2%, while the Proactive Realisable Deployment Support scenario (ACT) envisages a 12.2% RE share by 2020.

MEEREA believes that this roadmap can make a key contribution to the Government's efforts to prepare, review and submit the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) to the European Commission by the 30th June deadline.

In the national forecast document issued on 12th February (the same day as the MEEREA workshop) the Malta Resources Authority stated that Malta could not reach its legally binding 2020 target.

On another note, MEEREA deplores the current stop/go approach to renewable energy support schemes. The Malta Resources Authority's recent decision to abruptly suspend grants for installation of photovoltaic electricity generating systems has dealt a harsh blow to the industry. On the other hand, the solar water heater market is already showing a fully-fledged collapse, following the means-test restriction imposed on solar heating grants for the period 2010-2012. Even though Gozitan residents have been excluded from this restriction, it is clear that the take-up of solar heating systems in Gozo has remained extremely low, and this jeopardises the Eco-Gozo concept.

MEEREA calls on Government to start a process of discussions which would address the 30th June deadline and also go beyond it, so as to determine the best way forward towards a wider dissemination of renewable energy applications in Malta and to:

- provide wider consultations with stakeholders to plan future support schemes for the public;
- set up programmes to educate consumers as to the use, limitations and legal responsibilities when using grants;
- develop best practice guidelines of renewable energy systems and make them available to all on the MRA website;
- prepare and carry out training courses for the certification of installers as required by the European Renewable Energy Directive;
- involve all stakeholders including legal and commercial entities, NGOs, researcher institutes and any other interested parties to ensure widest possible dissemination of RES in the local market.

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