



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

PRESS RELEASE

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Progress is Progress but Malta still has far to go to reach its 2020 EU Renewable Energy target, says MEEREA the energy efficiency and renewable energies NGO.

Renewable energy production has reached 3.4% of Malta's total electricity energy production in 2014, according to the National Statistics Office News Release No. 185/2015 of 14th October 2015. While noting this progress the Malta Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies Association (MEEREA) warns that this result still leaves a lot to be achieved by 2020 – if Malta is to reach the 10% of total final energy consumption to come from renewable energies, as stipulated in the EU Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC.

Based on the NSO's News Release, one can easily conclude that renewable energy has only reached 2.0% of the total final energy consumed in Malta, which includes not only electricity (assumed to be 60% of total) but also fuels for transport, aviation fuel, fuel used for heating, energy consumed in industry as well as energy for waste treatment. The average share of RE over the last two years would therefore be below of the 3% agreed EU trajectory target for 2014.

This situation should be of great concern not only to government but also to every Maltese citizen. What are we doing to reach the target? Government should give priority to launching a RE action plan which is completely independent of the National Budget, so as to ensure continuous and uninterrupted progress towards the final 2020 target.

Citizens are also encouraged to do their part. What energy efficiency measure did you implement this year over and above last year? Have you checked whether your installed PV system or solar heater are operating properly?

The fact that the share of PV generation in total renewable energy production has increased from 83.7% in 2013 (NSO 189/2014 of 9 October 2014) to 91.3% in 2014 is itself a matter of concern. It implies that Malta is focusing too much on PV and ignoring the development of other renewable energy systems such as solar heaters, energy from waste, heat pump technology, some of which are more efficient and much cheaper than PV systems.

The National Renewable Energy Action Plan that MEEREA urges should therefore strive to develop all sources of renewable energy and push to make them sustainable both in the short and long terms.

MEEREA also notes that in spite of the fact that the electricity generated from fossil fuels was reported to drop in 2014 compared to 2013, actual total electricity consumption - the sum of PV electricity and grid electricity generation- has actually increased by 0.3% in 2014 over that in 2013. This indicates that more needs to be done to promote energy efficiency.

MEEREA calls on government to carefully consider the trends of energy production and consumption in all sectors and come up with a more definitive plan on the way forward. It is imperative that data collection procedures be enhanced at all levels so as to be able to plan ahead both in terms of greater penetration of different renewable energy systems and also more aggressive policies to increase energy efficiency.

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