Monthly Progress Update

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Austria

Renewable Energy

*Three hydro-power projects on PCI list*

On 14 October 2013, the first list of projects of common interest (PCIs) has been published by the European Commission. Among the 248 projects on the list, there are 13 electricity storage projects, three of which are in Austria. PCIs can be defined as “key infrastructure projects, which help Member States to physically integrate their energy markets [and] enable them to diversify their energy sources”. The listed projects are chosen for preferential treatment, amongst others financial support, less administrative costs and an accelerated licensing process. For all PCIs, a total budget of € 5.85 billion has been allocated for the period 2014-2020. The list of PCIs will be updated every 2 years.


Transport

*Call for E-mobility programme announced*

On 26 September 2013, the Climate and Energy Fund announced a call for the programme “E-Mobilität für alle: Urbane Elektromobilität”. The programme aims to implement demonstration projects in agglomerations with a population of at least 50,000. In detail, inhabitants will be allowed to use different e-taxi and e-car sharing offers in order to generate an understanding of preferences and best practices, which will later be used for the improvement of these technologies. The programme is divided into three different stages, the first of which is the above mentioned call. The budget of the programme amounts to € 250,000 and the applications have to be submitted until 30 January 2014.

Belgium

Renewable Energy

Publication of surveys on renewable energy in Francophone Belgium

On the initiative of the Belgian federation for renewable energy Edora, two surveys were commissioned on the acceptance of renewable energy in the French-speaking regions of Belgium. According to the Ipsos survey published in October 2013, 95% of French-speaking Belgians are favourable to the development of large-scale renewable energy. Furthermore, for 90% of French-speaking Belgians, renewable energies are energy sources that best meet their current concerns in matters of energy policy. The second survey also conducted by Ipsos reveals that 81% of the Walloon people are in favour of wind energy. In addition, more than 70% is in favour of wind turbines in their own town.


Creation of an official label for Walloon companies active in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency

On 8 October 2013, the Walloon region launched a call for interest for organizations wanting to be recognized by the Walloon region as labelling organizations for companies installing renewable energy devices or energy refurbishment works. The call for interest addresses particularly photovoltaic systems as well as solar thermal and combined solar thermal systems. The creation of an official label for Walloon companies will ensure a better quality of installations and provide better visibility to the public.


Energy Efficiency

New call for energy consultants for 2014

The Flemish support programme for energy consultants was introduced in 2011 to stimulate energy efficiency and the rational use of energy via information campaigns and consultancy. As announced on 2 October 2013, the program will enter into a second project phase from 2014 until 2016. In total €1.2 million are foreseen for project phase 2 (2014-2016) with a maximum of €175,000 per project. The programme is directed towards households with special attention on low-income households, construction and agricultural companies. Project proposals can be submitted to the Flemish Energy Agency VEA.

Read more (in Dutch): http://www.energiesparen.be/energieconsulenten
Bulgaria

Energy Generation

*Ministry: Bulgarian transmission grid to be transferred from NEK to ESO*

On 8 October 2013, Deputy Minister of Economy and Energy, Ivan Ayolov presented the Ministry’s plans to transfer the Bulgarian transmission grid currently operated by the country’s largest utility NEK (Националната електрическа компания) and its asset-backed debts to the Electricity System Operator (ESO). While ESO is currently still a subsidiary of NEK, the Bulgarian government envisages transferring the company to the Bulgarian Energy Holding (BEH), which owns NEK. The unbundling of NEK and ESO is a requirement under the EU’s Third Energy Package. Whereas some of NEK’s creditors disapprove of this plan and criticise the lack of an acceptable financial model, Ayolov countered these claims and pointed out that the new model had been consulted with the EBRD, the European Investment Bank, and Credit Swiss Bank, which is among the nine creditors of NEK. Due to the fact that Bulgaria has so far failed to implement the Third Energy Package, the country could be penalised by the European Court of Justice with daily fines in the amount of € 8,448.


Renewable Energy

*Three options for dealing with renewables: tax, grid access fee or balancing groups*

On 8 October 2013, Deputy Minister Ayolov presented his plans to amend the Energy Act (Закон за енергетиката) as well as the RES Act (Закон за енергията от възобновяеми източници) in order to cope with increasing renewable energy production capacities and the associated impact on electricity prices. The options currently being discussed are the introduction of a tax on revenues from feed-in tariffs, a grid access fee for renewable energy plants or their inclusion in balancing groups for electricity trade. Prior to Ayolov’s statement, the Bulgarian Energy Holding (BEH) had asked the government to introduce a 30% tax on revenues of PV power plants from the feed-in tariff scheme. According to BEH, this measure would save the energy utility NEK from bankruptcy and reduce electricity prices for households. In response, Ayolov pointed out that another option would be to make renewable energy plants pay a fee for accessing the transmission and distribution grids, which have already been introduced temporarily by the regulatory authority DKEVR. However, the Supreme Administrative Court subsequently revoked these fees and ordered the distribution and transmission grid operators to reimburse a total of BGN 150 million (approx. € 76 m) that had been collected through these fees. Therefore, Ayolov stated, the likeliest option would be to include the RES plants in balancing groups which would require the plant operators to submit power production schedules on a daily basis to the Electricity System Operator (ESO) whose nonobservance would be penalised by reduced feed-in tariffs. A final decision is expected in the upcoming weeks.

F-Gases

Maritsa Iztok-3 fined for excessive sulphur dioxide emissions

On 25 October 2013, the Bulgarian Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water (RIEW - Регионалната инспекция по околната среда и води) imposed a fine of more than BGN 64,000 (approx. € 32,700) over excessive sulphur dioxide emissions on “Maritsa Iztok-3”, a lignite-fired thermal power plant belonging to the largest energy complex in South Eastern Europe. Furthermore, the companies Belovo Paper Mill and Fikosota Sintez OOD were fined penalties over improper wastewater disposal. Already in September 2013, the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water had issued a report on the results of all inspections conducted by RIEW. Officials of the Ministry had inspected over 1,500 sites, issued 79 statements of offence and 626 instructions on how to deal with irregularities.

Read more (in English): http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=154912
Croatia

Renewable Energy

**Biggest solar power plant in Croatia went into operation**

A ground-mounted photovoltaic installation in Trnovec Bartolovečki (near to Varaždin) began operation in middle of October. With a capacity of 999 kW it is the biggest solar power plant yet completed in Croatia. The building owner Gumiimpex GRP holds the status of “qualified producer” and has signed an agreement with the Croatian Energy Market Operator (HROTE) in order to receive the feed-in-tariff.

The power plant is expected to produce 1,113 MWh per year and to reduce the emitted amount of CO₂ in the coming 30 years by 10,260 tonnes compared to energy production with fossil fuel sources.


**EBRD supports RES in the Western Balkans**

On 23 October 2013, the EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) launched the second Sustainable Energy Financing Facility for the Western Balkans (WeBSEFF II).

WeBSEFF II is a financing facility under which the EBRD provides lines of credit to partner banks in Croatia and other Western Balkan countries. The partner banks are then able to lend to businesses and municipalities seeking to invest in energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy projects. The credit available under WeBSEFF II totals € 75 million and it is supported by grants from the European Union to the sum of € 11.5 million. These grants are to support technical cooperation programmes and investment incentives for credit users through free consultation and professional advice. The Croatian Bank “Zagrebačka Banka d.d.” has already concluded a credit agreement that amounts to € 20 million.

WeBSEFF II is based on the success of the first line of credit (WeBSEFF) launched in 2009, which has financed 129 energy efficiency and RES projects to date, with in total €59 million.


Cyprus

Renewable Energy

*CERA issues installation licenses for PV plants of 50MW*

On 10 October 2013, the Cyprus Regulatory Authority on Energy (CERA) announced initiation of the process of issuing the necessary installation licenses to the successful bidders for the 2012 PV tender. In aggregate, 50MW of PV will be licensed. CERA, in consideration of these projects’ importance in the current economic context, is accelerating and simplifying the licensing procedure. Other authorities involved are expected to follow the same accelerated approval processes, so that the 50MW PV plants may be connected to the grid by summer 2013. CERA finally estimates that the completion of these projects can contribute to a gradual reduction in the cost of electricity production.


Energy Networks

*First phase of EurAsia Interconnector ready by the first trimester of 2017*

It was announced in October that the first phase of the EurAsia Interconnector, the electricity interconnection between Israel, Cyprus, and Greece, may be completed by the first trimester of 2017. This is the first estimate given by Mr. Nasos Ktoridis, President of PPC S.A. - Quantum Energy, the company responsible for construction of the project.

EurAsia Interconnector is an ambitious project that constitutes one of the EU’s “Projects of Common Interest”. The project will be one of the longest underwater electricity interconnections in the world, with 870km of underwater cable under 200m of water and a transfer capacity of 2000MW. The decision to construct the project was made after an explosion at Evangelos Florakis naval base, on 11 July 2011, in Cyprus caused the destruction of almost half of Cyprus’s electricity production capacity. The project’s budget is estimated at €3.5 billion, which is being provided by the EU as a Project of Common Interest. The project is expected to be completed in two phases. The first one includes the interconnection of the Greek mainland grid with the island of Crete and the interconnection between Israel and Cyprus; and the second phase will connect Crete with Cyprus. The underwater cable will enable electricity to flow in both directions and electricity from RES will also be able to be fed-in. It is expected that completing the project will end Cyprus’s energy isolation.

Czech Republic

Horizontal measures

Parliamentary election fails to solve political crisis

Following several months of political turmoil the parliamentary elections held on the 25-26th of October 2013 failed to bring about a decisive winner. While the parties of the previous conservative government suffered a heavy defeat, the Social Democrats won 20% votes but fell short of winning a majority. There are discussions about forming a coalition government.

Read more (in English): http://www.dw.de/political-reboot-postponed-in-czech-republic-after-election/a-17186612
Read more (in English): http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/europe-24686257


On 23 October 2013, the Czech Government approved the Report on the Environment of the Czech Republic in 2012 (Zpráva o životním prostředí České republiky v roce 2012). According to the report, the state of the Czech environment improved over the last year, however, this development may be related to the downturn of the Czech economy. Even though emissions have steadily declined air pollution remains high, especially in the region of Moravia-Silesia.

Air pollution is closely linked to developments in the energy and industry, household heating and transport sectors. In the energy sector, the production of electricity and heat from renewable sources increased in 2012, mainly from biogas. However, because of significant exports of energy, the electricity generated by coal-fired power plants and the associated environmental pollution decreases only slowly. Furthermore, household heating is still a major source of PM10 emissions. A positive development can be observed in the transport sector with railway passenger transport increasing and the modernisation of the motor vehicles fleet. On the other hand, freight transport is still dominated by road traffic and old vehicles are scrapped only slowly, causing a constant increase in the number of registered cars and trucks.


Energy efficiency

New subsidies for the replacement of household boilers available from January 2014

On 23 October 2013, the allocated budget of CZK 60 million (approx. € 2.33 m) for the replacement of old household boilers in the region of Moravia-Silesia was exhausted. The call was announced on 1 July this year and a total of 1204 applications received funding. On 24 October, the Ministry of Environment and the Deputy Governor of Moravia-Silesia have agreed to launch a fifth call for proposals on 1 January 2014, which will again offer CZK 60
million (approx. € 2.33 m) to households willing to replace old boilers with new eco-friendly ones.


**Land use, land use change and forestry**

*Ministry launches new programme for the development of green areas*

On 23 October 2013, the Ministry of Environment announced a first call under a new programme for the development of green spaces in cities and their surroundings (Program zeleň do měst a jejich okolí). The call offers a total of CZK 130 million (approx. € 5 m) with a maximum subsidy amount of CZK 10 million (approx. € 388,000) per project. Support under this programme aims to increase the planting of greenery and the revitalisation of suburban forests. The project also includes measures related to general infrastructure such as the restoration and construction of roads, bridges and sidewalks and water supply systems. The implementation of these activities will lead to the reduction of air pollutants, maintain and enhance biological diversity and increase the attractiveness of the urban landscape. Applications can be submitted to the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic (SFZP - Státní fond životního prostředí ČR) from 24 October to 17 December 2013 (or until funds are exhausted).

Denmark

Horizontal Measures

Launch of Growth Plan for Energy and Climate

On 8 October 2013, the Danish Government announced the Growth Plan for Energy and Climate (Vækstplanen for energi og klima), which will help create growth, jobs, and better export opportunities for Danish companies in the energy technology and solutions industries.

The Growth Plan for Energy and Climate focuses on how the government's goal of transforming the Danish energy system and energy consumption can contribute to continued economic growth and increased employment in Denmark.

The Growth Plan includes a total of 30 initiatives in five focus areas:

- More flexible and coherent energy system;
- Promotion of export potential to global markets;
- Energy efficient and sustainable buildings;
- Research, development, maturing markets, and education;
- Efficient extraction of fossil energy resources in the North Sea.

Read more (in Danish): http://www.kebmin.dk/nyheder/lancering-vækstplan-energi-og-klima

Energy Efficiency

Analysing the national cooling sector

On 9 October 2013, the Danish Energy Agency launched an open tender for conducting a technical and economic analysis and evaluation of potential collective and individual solutions to meet the national cooling demand.

The task includes three parts:

- Status and prospects of cooling requirements and mapping of existing and planned cooling infrastructure;
- Description and analysis of technological and organizational solutions for cooling infrastructure;
- Assessments of technical and economic potential for cooling.


Read more (in Danish): http://www.ens.dk/info/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/udbud-nationalit-koelepotentiale
Adaptation

More inspiration for active use of rainwater

On 3 October 2013, the Danish Ministry of Housing, Urban and Rural presented a new publication "Rainwater in town" ("Regnvand i byen") to inspire municipalities and to disseminate experiences from around Europe regarding the development of urban spaces through storm water management.

The publication highlights nine local strategies for addressing rainwater drainage from around Europe. The examples come from countries including Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, as well as Denmark.

Read more (in Danish): http://www.klimatilpasning.dk/media/685519/regnvand_i_byen_-by_bolig_og_landdistrikter.pdf
Estonia

Horizontal Measures

*High-level Climate Policy Conference in Tallinn*

The high-level conference “Climate from the Nordic-Baltic perspective: Science, politics and economics” took place on 23-24 October 2013 and brought together policy makers, scientists, experts, NGOs, journalist, as well as citizens interested in the topic. The conference marks an increasing awareness about climate change impacts in Estonia, made evident by a comment from Ms. Keit Pentus-Roosimannus, the Estonian Minister of the Environment stating that, “This is the first time climate change is discussed on such a high-level in Estonia. During the conference, climate scientist Jens Hesselbjerg described the concrete consequences of climate change to Baltic and Nordic countries. The main speakers included OECD environmental director Simon Upton, Artur Runge-Metzger from the European Commission, Erika Jorgensen from the World Bank and the Estonia, Finnish and Swedish Ministers of the Environment.

Read more (in Estonian): [http://www.envir.ee/1202854](http://www.envir.ee/1202854)
Read more (in Estonian): [http://www.envir.ee/1202921](http://www.envir.ee/1202921)
More information about the conference: [www.norden.ee/et/kliima](http://www.norden.ee/et/kliima)

*Ministry of the Environment’s 2014 budget emphasis on nature conservation*

The Ministry of Environment’s main investments in 2014 will be aimed at nature conservation. A press release published by the Ministry stated, “The capital city Tallinn will have financing for the purchase of environmentally friendly trams, coastal areas will be cleaned and seven cities will benefit from new LED technology based street lighting.” Additional investments include improving the quality of drinking water and investing in forest conservation and environmental education. The funds gained from the sales of the Assigned Amount Units (AAU) will be invested into supporting the use of biogas in transport. Support measures for energy efficient renovations and support for renewable energy micro solutions will be continued.

Read more (in Estonian): [http://www.envir.ee/1202270](http://www.envir.ee/1202270)

Renewable Energy

*Conference on off-shore wind energy potential*

On 29-30 October 2013, a conference on the potential of offshore wind energy production took place in the second biggest island of Estonia, Hiiumaa. Estonia, as well as the entire Baltic Sea area, possesses environmentally, economically and technically favorable conditions for wind energy production. Currently, however, this potential is only partially exploited. The main topics included the potential of offshore wind energy in the wider Baltic Sea strategy, the EU policy framework as well as the engagement of local communities in the planning and execution process on the local level. The conference is indeed very timely...
as the Government of Estonia has recently launched the first two pilot projects of maritime spatial planning in the coastal counties of Pärnu and Hiiu.


**Transport**

Trans-European Network Transport Days 2013 in Tallinn

Between 16 and 18 October 2013, Tallinn hosted the Trans-European-Network Transport (TEN-T) Days. The event brought together the members of the European Commission, the European Parliament as well as national Ministers. The Days concentrated on the sustainability aspect of the TEN-T, the availability of European instruments for financing the project, potential opportunities for cooperation and the sharing of best practices.


Rail Baltic Project under public consultations in October

The environmental impact assessment and the counties initial detailed planning for the Rail Baltic route were under public consultation during the month of October 2013. Works are currently ongoing in all the three Baltic countries to determine the Rail Baltic 1435 route corridor and in order to find an optimum, sustainable and economically cost-effective solution for the suitable railway area.


**Waste**

New Competence Centre for Waste Recycling

On 17 October 2013, the biggest waste recycling enterprises in Estonia founded a new competence centre for waste recycling. The goal of the newly founded centre is to enhance the re-use of waste as a material and to promote the production of products from waste. The centre also seeks to raise the quality and know-how of waste-recycling by promoting international cooperation, assuring the technical quality of recycled products and rising awareness about recycling. A project planned for the future, of is to launch a certification system for products from waste in order to make them more competitive with products produced from other resources. The Competence Centre expects to host members not only from enterprises involved in waste recycling, but also enterprises interested in better recycling quality, education and research centres.

Finland

Horizontal Measures

**New environmental protection requirements for small scale energy producers**

On 24 October 2013, a new regulation on environmental requirements for plants with a production capacity below 50 MW was approved. The regulation applies to solid, liquid and gas-fueled power generation units and will replace the earlier applicable regulation from 2010.

Among other things the updated regulation clarifies the height and the chimney design principles and specifies emission limit values. Slight changes also apply to liquid fuel handling and storage and monitoring requirements. The new regulation will enter into force on 1 November 2013.


**Discussion on the national adaptation plan**

On 29 October 2013, a presentation took place on the update of the Finnish national adaptation strategy to climate change. The presentations were mainly given by officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and aimed to disseminate the results obtained during the update process and were followed by a discussion. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is the national level organization in charge of leading the Coordination Group for Adaptation to Climate Change, which brings together representatives from other ministries, research institutes and regional actors. Finland adopted its first national adaptation strategy already in 2005. The updated strategy is to be released before the end of the year.

The presentations (in Finnish) available at: [http://www.ym.fi/fi-FI/Ajankohtaista/Tiedotteet/Alle_50_MWn_energiantuotantoyksikoiden_y(26956)](http://www.ym.fi/fi-FI/Ajankohtaista/Tiedotteet/Alle_50_MWn_energiantuotantoyksikoiden_y(26956))

Renewable Energy

**Gulf of Bothnia becoming a leading wind energy region**

On 15 October 2013 a new wind farm was opened in Raahe, located on the coast by the gulf of Bothnia in the centre of Finland. The opening of the new wind farm follows recent legislative changes aimed at easing wind power plant construction (for more details see MPUs for May, August and September) and investor confidence. The Ministry of the Employment and the Economy stated that “…Regional concentration of wind power plants is to be preferred in Finland”. There are several nuclear power units (both on the Finnish and Swedish sides) on the coast of the bay of Bothnia, which is increasingly used to construct wind power plants to help Finland reach its 2020 renewable energy goals.

Transport

Finland contributing to the study on maritime transport greenhouse gas emissions

The Finnish Meteorological Institute, part of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, will be involved in the consortium responsible for the International Maritime Organization (IMO), maritime transport greenhouse gas emissions report updating. The update aims at providing the most accurate and up to date information on sea transport emissions levels. The study will provide an overview of carbon dioxide (CO2) levels for the years 2007 to 2012 and examine the emissions of other greenhouse gas components, such as methane. According to Merja Kyllönen, the Finnish Minister of Transport, “the fact that Finland can contribute to the report is a recognition of our high expertise in the field and will provide a useful experience for the scientists involved.” In addition, scientists from the Netherlands, UK, Japan, Canada, China and the United States will be involved in the project. The study is expected to be released in 2014.


Waste

Guidelines for material use and efficiency released

On 24 October 2013, the working group on energy efficiency and material use handed in its proposals for further measures to the Ministry of the Environment. The working group consisted of real-estate, construction and waste management experts. The guidelines are linked to the currently ongoing preparation of the national material efficiency program and focus on measures that promote more efficient use of building materials through waste reduction and improved recycling. The Minister of Environment Ville Niinistö stated, “Material efficiency is a key issue when considering the adequate use of resources, mitigation of climate change and the fight against other environmental problems. In addition, it is also of great importance to industry.” Minister Ville Niinistö emphasized that construction is costly in terms of resources and transport and the new program will improve opportunities for controlling, sharing best practices and business and technology development.

Read more and access the report (in Finnish): [http://www.ym.fi/fi-FI/Ajankohtaista/Tiedotteet/Rakentamisen_materiaalitehokkuusohjelma](http://www.ym.fi/fi-FI/Ajankohtaista/Tiedotteet/Rakentamisen_materiaalitehokkuusohjelma)
France

Taxation

*The National Assembly adopts climate-energy contribution*

On 21 October 2013, the National Assembly passed on first reading the proposed "climate-energy contribution" as defined in the draft finance act for 2014 (article 20). The measure foresees a gradual increase of the rate of the domestic consumption tax on energy products based on their CO$_2$ emissions. The value of the "climate-energy contribution", also called carbon tax will be set at €7 in 2014, €14.5 in 2015 and €22 in 2016. It is expected to yield €340 million in 2014, €2.5 billion in 2015 and €4 billion in 2016 (see MPU Issue 6/2013).

Three of the €4 billion will be distributed to companies in the form of a tax credit for competitiveness and employment ("crédit d'impôt pour la compétitivité et l'emploi") and €1 billion will fund a reduced VAT rate for energy refurbishment in residential buildings and social housing.

This is the third time France considers a carbon tax. Earlier attempts to introduce a carbon tax in France in 2000 and 2009 were abandoned after rejection by the Constitutional Council.


Energy Generation

*Permanent ban of shale gas exploitation and exploration in France*

On 11 October 2013, the Constitutional Council validated without reserve the law of 13 July 2011 prohibiting the use of hydraulic fracturing for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons. This decision followed the appeal raised by the Texas oil company Schuepbach. After the repeal of two exploration permits granted in 2010, the company had submitted in January 2013 an application for a preliminary ruling on the issue of constitutionality regarding the law of 13 July 2011. According to the Energy Minister Philippe Martin, the decision of the Constitutional Council reinforces the energy transition objectives of the French government, including a 30% reduction of consumption of fossil fuels by 2030.


Renewable Energy

Success of the call for tender for solar energy installations over 250 kWp

On 16 September 2013, the call for tender for installations over 250 kWp producing electricity from solar energy was closed. The tender was very successful, since 396 applications were submitted to the Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE), representing a combined electrical output of 1.968 MWp, whereas the target set by the French government for cumulative electrical capacity amounts to 400 MWp. On 8 October, the Energy Regulatory Commission transmitted the list of complete applications to the Minister of Energy. The Commission disposes of four months to submit an instruction note scoring the projects to the Minister of Energy.


Publication of a call for interest for hydrokinetic turbines on the French coast

On 1 October 2013, a call for expression of interest (CEI) for the installation of pilot farms of hydrokinetic turbines on the French coast was published in the Official Journal. The aim of this CEI is to test a significant sample of installations under operational conditions in order to remove technical obstacles regarding their installation, operation and maintenance. The French companies Alstom and GDF Suez have already expressed their intention to present a joint project for one site. Siemens also plans to establish French-German partnerships in the field of hydrokinetic energy. The selection of projects will be based on technical, financial and economic criteria. The environmental and territorial aspects of the applications will also represent a major factor. According to president Hollande, the funding for each farm will be subsidized by the state to the amount of € 30 million. The purchase price of electricity produced will be set at € 173 per MWh.


Energy Efficiency

Launch of the research programme “Efficacity”

On 17 October 2013, the government announced the launch of a research programme on the Energy Performance of Cities called “Efficacity”. The program will be funded under the “Investments for the future” program to the amount of € 15 million. The research programme aims at developing tools to improve the energy efficiency and carbon footprint of cities. “Efficacity” gathers six industrial companies (EDF R&D, GDF Suez, RATP, Veolia Environnement, Vinci Construction France and Compagnie IBM France), 7 engineering companies and 15 academic structures.

Read more (in French): [http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Le-plan-de-renovation-energetique,34265.html](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Le-plan-de-renovation-energetique,34265.html)
Launch of a communication campaign for the Energy Refurbishment Plan for Housing

On 21 October 2013, the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Energy launched a major communications campaign to familiarize the French people to the support schemes provided by the Energy Refurbishment Plan for Housing. The support schemes aim to encourage households to undertake energy renovation works in their homes. Households thus dispose of several options for financial support, including subsidies for the poorest households and premiums amounting up to € 3000. Aside from these two support instruments, other support schemes are already in place, namely the tax credit sustainable development (“crédit d’impôt développement durable”) and the eco-interest loan (“éco-prêt à taux zero”), which represent the two main incentive tools to achieve energy renovation in the residential sector.

Read more (in French): [http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Le-plan-de-renovation-energetique,34265.html](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Le-plan-de-renovation-energetique,34265.html)

Transport

Entry into force of the mandatory display of CO2 emissions for transport services

Since 1 October 2013, public transport companies as well as companies transporting goods and removal companies are obliged to inform their clients of the amount of CO2 emissions produced by their service. This device aims at highlighting the transport services with the lowest levels of CO2 emissions. Its implementation is the result of extensive consultations with various professionals of the transport sector within the Observatory for Energy, Environment and Transport (“Observatoire énergie environnement transports”). The decree of 24 October 2011 introduces the methodology for the calculation of the amount of energy consumed per transport section. The calculation takes into account the amount of carbon dioxide emitted during the transport and those resulting from the production phase of the energy sources.


Entry into force of the environmental tax on road transport

On 2 October 2013 two orders were published in the official journal providing for the entry into force from 1 January 2014 of the environmental tax on road transport (“éco-taxe poids lourds”) on the one hand, and for the implementation of the technical device needed to collect this tax on the other hand. The Ministers of Transport and of Budget had announced on 5 September 2013 the postponement of the entry into force of the environmental tax from 1 October 2013 to 1 January 2014 (see MPU Issue 6/2013). Its rate will range between € 0.025 and € 0.20 per kilometre, depending on the number of axles, the total weight of the vehicle and the emission class of the vehicle according to the European standards. A 30% reduction of the rate is foreseen for remote areas.

Germany

Renewable Energy

**EEG surcharge is expected to increase to €ct 6.24 in 2014**

On 15 October 2013, the four transmission grid operators announced that the EEG surcharge is expected to reach €ct 6.24 in 2014. This is an increase of €ct 0.94 compared to 2013. The surcharge represents the difference between the granted support (FiT, Premium) and the stock market price for electricity. As reported in MPU Issue 5/2013, the stock market witnessed decreasing electricity prices over the last years facilitated by an increase of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. This countervailing dynamic derives from the electricity price determination mechanism at the stock market (guaranteed purchase of RES combined with the merit-order effect).

Read more (in German): [http://www.eeg-kwk.net/de/EEG-Umlage.htm](http://www.eeg-kwk.net/de/EEG-Umlage.htm)

**Coalition negotiations on energy still ongoing**

Negotiations between CDU/CSU and SPD in the working group energy” just started and positions are still not clear. Within the SPD a debate is ongoing about how to proceed with the energy transition and the support of renewable energies. While Hannelore Kraft (Prime Minister of North Rhine Westphalia) is arguing for a slower build-up of renewable energies and the safeguard of the industry, others (such as Erhard Eppler, Monika Griefahn etc.) argue for prevailing climate action and the reduction of environmental harmful subsidies.


Energy Efficiency

**New energy saving ordinance (EnEV 2014) passed**

On 16 October 2013, the federal Government passed the new energy saving ordinance (Energieeinsparverordnung (EnEV)) which will enter into force on 16 April 2014. The ordinance is the main instrument to increase energy efficiency in buildings through setting standard and norms for building insulation, energy consumption, and heating facilities. By 2021, all new buildings need to fulfil the nearly energy neutral standard as defined by EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Directive 2010/31/EU). For public buildings, this obligation applies already from 2019 onwards. Moreover, owners of houses are required to replace oil and gas heaters installed before 1 January 1985 with modern heating systems until 2015.

Read more (in German): [http://www.bmvbs.de/SharedDocs/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2013/223-ramsauer-enev.html1](http://www.bmvbs.de/SharedDocs/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2013/223-ramsauer-enev.html1)
Greece

Renewable Energy

Amendment of RES Law approved

On 22 October 2013, the Greek Parliament approved the amendment of Law No.3468/2006 (RES Law). It should be noted that the draft bill was already submitted in the legislative drafting committee in June 2013 (see MPU Issue 3/2013) and was submitted to the Parliament in September 2013 (see MPU Issue 6/2013). The amendment includes provisions relating to the RES licensing procedure and introduces a net metering scheme for small PV and small wind plants. In addition, the amendment foresees that energy intensive industries can negotiate with ADMIE (Greek TSO) to reduce their electricity consumption during peak time, thus reducing their electricity costs. However, it has been argued that the cost imposed by this regulation will primarily affect electricity producers, including RES operators.


Greek Electricity Market Operator (LAGIE) pays RES producers from March 2013

On 25 October 2013, LAGIE announced that it will begin to pay RES producers from March 2013. LAGIE is the authority responsible for paying Greece’s RES Feed-in Tariff (FiT) to RES producers. Since 2012, LAGIE has started to pay RES producers with a three-month delay and this is currently extended to six months. In the first instalment, 8130 RES producers will be paid with €22,000 for electricity production from March 2013. The next instalment will amount to €90,000 and will follow on 29 October 2013 for approximately 270 additional facilities.

All in all, after making these payments, LAGIE will have repaid 75% of its obligations to RES plants from March 2013.

Read more (in Greek): http://www.lagie.gr/anakoinoseis/anakoinoseis/anakoinosi/article/782/

Energy Efficiency

Greenpeace: Greek government subsidises heating oil and neglects energy efficiency

Greenpeace, in its press release of 15 October 2013, criticized the inefficiency of the Greek government’s subsidy for household heating oil. The statement underlines that rather than investing in a new programme for increasing the energy efficiency of buildings (“Exsoikonomo kat’oikon”), the Greek government has announced a subsidy for the purchase of household heating oil.

Greenpeace estimates that €300 million are spent annually by the Greek government on oil subsidies, equal to almost half of the budget of the “Exsoikonomo kat’oikon” programme. For
2012-2014, more funds were spent on oil subsidies than on energy efficiency measures. However, this has not prevented the emergence of “energy poverty” in Greece.

This is why Greenpeace notes that the government should see the problem as an opportunity for designing a substantial social welfare policy and boosting economic development, through the introduction of a large programme to upgrade the energy efficiency of buildings.


**Energy Networks**

*Interconnection of the Cyclades Islands with the mainland: 9 proposals were submitted*

The first phase of the tender for the interconnection of the Cyclades Islands with the mainland electricity grid was closed on 17 October 2013 and 9 bids had been submitted. It should be noted that the same tender was opened in 2012 but was annulled due to budgetary disagreements with the successful bidder. In contrast to the previous tender, the budget amounts to €240 million, €160 million less than the first one and the interconnection is cut down into four separate categories.

Read more (In Greek): [http://energyin.gr/2013/10/17/%CE%BF%CE%B9-%CF%85%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%88%CE%AE%CF%86%CE%B9%CE%BF%CE%B9-%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%B1-%CF%84%CE%B7-%CE%B4%CE%B9%CE%B1%CF%83%CF%8D%CE%BD%CE%B4%CE%B5%CF%83%CE%B7-%CE%BA%CF%85%CE%BA%CE%BB%CE%AC%CE%B4/](http://energyin.gr/2013/10/17/%CE%BF%CE%B9-%CF%85%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%88%CE%AE%CF%86%CE%B9%CE%BF%CE%B9-%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%B1-%CF%84%CE%B7-%CE%B4%CE%B9%CE%B1%CF%83%CF%8D%CE%BD%CE%B4%CE%B5%CF%83%CE%B7-%CE%BA%CF%85%CE%BA%CE%BB%CE%AC%CE%B4/)
Hungary

Horizontal Measures

Consultation starts on New National Climate Change Strategy

On 17 October 2013, the Ministry of National Development published a draft of the revised National Climate Change Strategy, which was put up for public debate. The strategy lays out the country’s mitigation objectives and the political priorities of Hungary’s climate policy. It includes a Decarbonisation Schedule for Hungary (Hazai Dekarbonizációs Útitervet – HDÚ) that outlines policy measures for reducing GHG emissions until 2050. It also includes a National Adaptation Strategy (Nemzeti Alkalmazkodási Stratégia – NAS) addressing, for example, water supply, rural development, public health and tourism. Finally, there is as well an Awareness Raising Action Plan in order to increase public support for enhanced energy efficiency, the use renewable energy sources, nuclear power generation and the realisation of a low carbon society. According to the Ministry, the strategy is planned to be adopted by the Parliament in the course of autumn 2013.


Read more (in Hungarian): [http://www.kormany.hu/download/7/ac/01000/M%C3%A1sodik%20Nemzeti%20%C3%A9ghajlatv%C3%A1ltoz%C3%A1si%20Strat%C3%A9gia%202014-2025%20ekszentrikus%20vitaanyag.pdf](http://www.kormany.hu/download/7/ac/01000/M%C3%A1sodik%20Nemzeti%20%C3%A9ghajlatv%C3%A1ltoz%C3%A1si%20Strat%C3%A9gia%202014-2025%20ekszentrikus%20vitaanyag.pdf)


Taxation

Further reduction of final consumer prices for energy enters into force by 1 November 2013

Starting on 1 November 2013, the reduction of final consumer prices for energy will reach the second stage and decrease by 11.1%. The price reduction refers to electricity, natural gas and district heating prices. The Ministry of National Development stated that Hungarian households will be able to save HUF 170-180 million (approx. € 582,000-616,000) per year. Taking into consideration the reduction of final consumer prices for energy from January 2013, Hungarian households will pay 20% less for electricity, natural gas and district heating compared to last year’s energy prices.


Transport

Subsidy Programme on Purchasing CNG Buses Extended Until the End of 2013

On 22 October 2013, the Ministry of National Development announced that the subsidy programme on “Supporting Purchasing CNG buses for Public Transport” (Közösségi közlekedésben üzemeltett gázüzemű autóbuszok beszerzését elősítő) will be extended
Adaptation

Project on the effects on climate change in Hungary launched recently

A new project on climate change adaptation has recently been launched in Hungary. The “Developing a National Geographic Adaptation System” project (Nemzeti Alkalmazkodási Térinformatikai Rendszer (NATéR) kialakítása) aims at assessing the impacts of climate change on Hungary and at understanding how Hungary is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. According to the Ferenc Hízó, State Secretary for Climate Change, this project will give valuable input to Hungary’s climate change policy in upcoming years. The project’s start-up conference took place on 14 October 2013. The Hungarian Institute of Geology Geophysics (Magyar Földtani és Geofizikai Intézet) is in charge of this project, which will run until April 2016.

Ireland

Renewable Energy

*Public consultation on National Renewable Export Policy begins*

The first phase of the public consultation on the proposed Renewable Energy Export Policy and Development Framework was announced by the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Pat Rabbitte on 23 October 2013. The Minister called all interested parties and stakeholders (from local communities to public authorities) to contribute feedback to the efficient design of a coherent policy that considers other related legislation (i.e. Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report and the Habitats Directive Natura Impact Statement). The public consultation includes nine key questions that cover topics such as the necessity, strengths, opportunities and threats of the National Renewable Export policy. The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources is also carrying out a Cost-Benefit Analysis on that matter. The consultation process ends on 22 November 2013 and the second phase is due to begin in the first quarter of 2014.

Read more (in English): http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Press+Releases/2013/CONSULTATION+ON+NATIONAL+RENEWABLE+EXPORT+POLICY+BEGINS.htm
Read more (in English): http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/BE477998-F176-4749-A18B-BCFC7597B707/0/PublicConsultationStage1InformationDocumentFINAL.pdf

Energy Efficiency

*Initiation of public consultation on the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive*

On 17 October 2013, the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Pat Rabbitte, announced the beginning of the public consultation process relating to the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU). All interested parties and involved stakeholders can submit their comments and their proposals in written until the 13 November 2013. Stakeholders are also informed that the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP II), published in February 2013, offers a more detailed account on the general provisions of the Energy Efficiency Directive that should be transposed in national law. Consequently, NEEAP II stakeholders should take NEEAP II into consideration when expressing their comments on public consultation process.

Read more (in English): http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Energy/Energy+Efficiency+and+Affordability+Division/EED+Consultations.htm
Read more (in English): http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Press+Releases/2013/Minister+Rabbitte+announces+Consultation+on+the+implementation+of+the+Energy+Efficiency+Directive.htm
Italy

Energy Efficiency

Modification of tax deduction

The tax deduction for energy efficiency building renovations has been debated in the Italian Parliament for the past few months, with many calling for it to be decreased. On 15 October, a draft budget was published by the Government, which surprised many by not reducing the size of the deduction in 2014 at all. The draft budget indicates instead that the deduction will maintain its current level (65% of expenses related to refurbishment of existing buildings, renovations aimed to increase efficient use of energy of buildings and installation of RES-H technologies) until 31 December 2014, and then will progressively decline to 50% in 2015 and 36% in 2016. However, the draft budget still needs to pass a parliamentary vote to be confirmed, thus amendments could still be made.

Lithuania

Energy Generation

*Second referendum on the construction of the Visaginas Nuclear Power Plant possible*

During an interview that on 17 October 2013, Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius stated that in his view a second referendum on the construction of the Visaginas Nuclear Power Plant (VNPP) is necessary, as he claims that the expected cost of the project has decreased. However, it is unclear what the new cost estimates are. It is also unclear if and when a new referendum would take place. The first referendum on the VNPP took place on 14 October 2012 and resulted in 62.68% of voters rejecting the project.

Read more (in Lithuanian): [http://www.lrytas.lt/-/13819913041381470358-a-butkevi%C4%8Dius-d%C4%97-atomin%C4%97s-ekletrin%C4%97s-reik%C4%97s-dar-vieno-referendumo.htm](http://www.lrytas.lt/-/13819913041381470358-a-butkevi%C4%8Dius-d%C4%97-atomin%C4%97s-ekletrin%C4%97s-reik%C4%97s-dar-vieno-referendumo.htm)

Energy Efficiency

*Invitation to submit applications for grants for the installation of biofuel boilers up to 10 MW for district heating*

On 15 October 2013, the Lithuanian Environmental Investment Fund (LEIF) (LAAIF – Lietuvos Aplinkos Apsaugos Investicinis Fondas) invited applications for grants from the Special Programme for Climate Change (Klimato kaitos specialioji programa) financing installation of biofuel boilers up to 10 MW for district heating. Applications may be submitted by district heating suppliers and system owners. 3 million LTL (approx. €865,290) will be awarded to winning projects.

The maximum amount granted to each project may not exceed 5 million LTL (approx. €1.442 million) or 50% of eligible project costs. The subsidy is also limited by an environmental performance criteria, i.e. the subsidy may not exceed 0.5 LTL (approx. €0.14) per kilogram of CO₂-equivalent reduced by the project.

Applications may be submitted until the budget is exhausted.


Energy Networks

*Feasibility study regarding integration of the Baltic States into the EU’s internal electricity market completed*

On 14 October 2013, the Ministry of Energy announced the completion of a feasibility study, undertaken by the Swedish company Gothia Power, regarding the Baltic States’ integration into the EU’s internal electricity market and implementation of possible interconnections. The contract for this feasibility study was signed in May 2012 by Gothia Power and the Lithuanian electricity transmission system operator Litgrid. The feasibility study assessed technical, legal, and socio-economic aspects of the integration and came to the conclusion that the
synchronous interconnection of the Baltic States into the EU’s internal electricity market is a complex task, but would be both technically and legally feasible.


Lithuanian electricity transmission network development plan for 2013-2022 published

On 10 October 2013, the Lithuanian electricity transmission system operator, Litgrid, published the Lithuanian electricity transmission network development plan for 2013-2022. The plan envisions the construction of 540.4 km of 400-330 kV and 154.3 km of 110 kV overhead lines as well as four 400-330 kV and eleven 110 kV transformer substations by 2022. In addition, three new switchyards shall be constructed and three existing ones will be modernized. Moreover, the plan calls for two key strategic interconnection projects – one with Sweden (NordBalt) and the other with Poland (LitPol Link) – to be completed by 2015.


Waste

Deposit system for cans and PET bottles planned to be introduced from 2015 onwards

On 1 October 2013, the Ministry of Environment announced drafting of amendments to the Law on Packaging and Packaging Waste Management. According to these amendments, a deposit system for cans and PET bottles would be introduced in Lithuania in 2015. The draft amendments have been sent to stakeholders for informal coordination. A deposit system for glass bottles has been in place in Lithuania since 2006. The system has led to the recycling of 85-90% of glass bottles since its implementation.

Read more (in Lithuanian): http://www.am.lt/Vi/index.php#fa/13641


On 24 October 2013, a public consultation on the Draft National Waste Management Plan for 2014-2020 took place in the Ministry of Environment, where all interested parties had a chance to submit their comments and recommendations on the draft plan. Along with the draft plan, results of the strategic environmental impact assessment were presented and discussed and municipal waste management alternatives were analyzed and compared based on the waste management costs.

In the National Waste Management Plan for 2014-2020, key waste management goals and objectives will be established, as will specific measures for their achievement. Furthermore, the plan will set out national and local waste management targets and will describe the allocation of national and EU funds.

Read more (in Lithuanian): http://www.am.lt/Vi/index.php#fa/13745
Read more (in Lithuanian): http://www.am.lt/Vi/index.php#fa/13731
Latvia

Energy Generation

*Net-Metering introduced in Latvia*

According to a press release of 10 October 2013, the net-metering scheme introduced by the Ministry of Economics will be in force from 1 January 2014 onwards. The scheme will apply to clients who are at the same time producers of electricity and are connected to the electricity grid through a connection with a throughput value smaller than or equal to 11kW. Producers will have to apply for an offer from the responsible grid operator for supplying electricity to the grid and are required to pay a grid use charge.

Luxemburg

Energy Efficiency

New deadlines for “nearly zero energy buildings” in Luxembourg

The governmental council of 11 October 2013 approved the draft Grand-Ducal regulation, which modifies various legal acts regulating the energy performance of buildings. The main modification concerns the deadline set to achieve the target of “nearly zero energy buildings”. The Directive 2010/31/EU namely provides for these requirements to apply from 1 January 2019 in public buildings and from 1 January 2021 for all other buildings. However, the draft Grand-Ducal regulation goes beyond the European requirements since it provides for residential buildings to be built with “nearly zero energy” requirements from 2019 already. The adoption of a draft Grand-Ducal regulation by the governmental council marks the beginning of the legislative or regulatory process. As of 29 October 2013, the draft had not yet been approved by the Parliament.

Read more (in French): http://www.gouvernement.lu/salle_presse/conseils_de_gouvernement/2013/10-octobre/11-conseil/

Presentation of a thermographic cadastre for municipalities

On 2 October 2013, the energy distribution company Enovos Luxembourg and the construction certification company Cocert presented their thermographic cadastre, an innovative tool for municipalities aiming at assessing the heat loss through the roof of a municipality’s houses. Thanks to the thermographic cadastre, municipalities are able to reduce energy consumption in their land by informing citizens about the thermal status of their homes. In fact, heat losses through the rooftop mainly result from insulation and air tightness imperfections of roofs. Thus, the cadastre is expected to raise awareness and incentivise energy refurbishment works among citizens.

Read more (in French): http://www.enovos.lu/commune/services-produits/cadastre/cadastre-thermographique
Malta

Transport

Autogas grant scheme launched

On 4 October 2013, the Maltese Government in conjunction with Transport Malta launched a grant scheme for the promotion of autogas in order to reduce the emissions caused by road traffic. Maltese car owners are granted an amount of €200 for the conversion of an M1 motor vehicle used for private purposes to autogas. This scheme is capped to 1,000 claims and will operate on a first come first serve basis. It will close on 31 December 2013.


The Netherlands

Horizontal Measures

Huge economic potential from developing a circular economy

On 4 October 2013 the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) released a report on the opportunities and challenges of developing a circular economy in the Netherlands. By examining the quantitative implications, the think tank proposes concrete actions, which take into consideration job creation and the environment. Doing so, the study differentiates between two cases of a circular economy: one focusing on abiotic materials (metal and electrical sectors) and another on biotic materials (waste streams of biomass). Based on TNO calculations, the added value from abiotic materials is estimated at €573 million per year and from biotic materials at €1 billion.


Renewable Energy

Study suggests strengthening the grid and predicts 20,000 new jobs by 2017

A study by ECN, Energie-Nederland, and Netbeheer Nederland released on 11 October 2013 analysed the effects of further government support for renewable energy sources on the energy market, energy facilities, smart grids, and the labour market. The study stressed the need for a long-term adjustment of the electricity grid in order to ensure its ability to handle the feed-in of renewable electricity. The energy transition and related innovation is estimated by the study to create 20,000 new jobs by 2017.


Status update SDE+ on 3 October 2013

SDE+ is the main support instrument for electricity and heat production from renewable energy, with a predicted total budget of €3 billion for 2013. This feed-in premium scheme encompasses a system of phased admission with increasing base tariffs. According to Agentschap NL, projects worth €2.2 billion have been approved as of 3 October. Applications for SDE+ 2013 can still be handed in until 19 December 2013.


Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fund filled with €300 million

On 18 October 2013, the Dutch Minister for Buildings Stef Blok announced that an agreement had been made with two private banks on their financial contribution to the Dutch
Energy Efficiency Fund. Accordingly, Rabobank will contribute €175 million and ASN Bank will contribute €50 million. Together with €75 million in federal support, the fund now totals €300 million and will be used to stimulate investments in energy efficiency measures in buildings. The fund is directed towards landlords, owners, and tenants to finance energy saving technology and measures with the help of low interest loans with a 7- or 10-year payback period. Support ranges between €2,500 and €25,000 per project.


*Energy saving of 12.4 PJ realised in 2012*

On 10 October 2013 Agentschap NL reported that around 1000 energy-intensive companies have already concluded energy efficiency agreements with the Dutch government. In 2012, these companies have a combined 12.4 PJ in comparison to 2011. This corresponds to the consumption of 190,000 households. The participating companies account for over 80 percent of industrial energy consumption in the Netherlands.

Read more (in Dutch): [http://www.agentschapnl.nl/actueel/nieuws/industrie-bespaarde-124-pj-m%23%A9%C3%A9r-2012](http://www.agentschapnl.nl/actueel/nieuws/industrie-bespaarde-124-pj-m%23%A9%C3%A9r-2012)
Poland

Energy Generation

*Polish Nuclear Power Programme has been adopted*

On 11 October 2013, the leadership of the Polish Ministry of Economy has adopted the Polish Nuclear Power Programme (Program polskiej energetyki jądrowej – PPEJ). The document defines the scope and structure of the organisation of activities necessary to implement nuclear power in Poland. These activities include: the creation of institutional and programmatic basis for the development of nuclear energy; the adoption and entry into force of legislation necessary for the development and operation of nuclear power stations; and the determination of the location for the nuclear power plant. It will now be forwarded for interdepartmental discussions. The final stage of the work on PPEJ will be its adoption by the Council of Ministers.


Renewable Energy

*Poland could halve demand for coal by 2030*

On 25 October 2013, “energy [r]evolution. A Sustainable Poland Energy Outlook” was published. The report was prepared by a Warsaw-based Institute for Renewable Energy, DLR (Germany’s aeronautics and space research centre), the European Renewable Energy Council, the Global Wind Energy Council and Greenpeace. According to this study, Poland could halve its demand for coal by 2030 with a shift to renewable energies. The ex-Polish Environment Minister Maciej Nowicki states that it is a "feasible, realistic scenario".

The study outlines that Poland could create 100,000 jobs with a shift to wind, hydro, biomass, geothermal and solar power by 2030. The scenario would require investment of $264 billion (approx. €191 billion), which is double the $132 billion (approx. €95 billion) cost of business as usual.


Transport

*PLN 10 million for investments in bio-components*

The Polish Ministry of Economy started a tender for funding investments for the production of bio-components, liquid biofuels or other renewable fuels. The overall budget amounts to PLN 10 million (€2.4 million). Applications must be submitted by the end of October 2013.
The minimum amount of eligible expenditure shall not be less than PLN 16,000 (€4,000). The maximum grant, including other de minimis aid received by the applicant in the current and two preceding fiscal years, cannot exceed €200,000. The maximum support may not exceed 50% of the eligible investment costs.

Read more (in Polish): http://www.mg.gov.pl/node/19285
Read more (in Polish): http://bip.mg.gov.pl/Komunikaty+i+ogloszenia
Portugal

Taxation

*Extraordinary levy on electricity producers expected to be introduced in 2014*

The Minister of Environment Jorge Moreira announced on 4 October 2013 the intention of the Portuguese government to introduce an extraordinary levy (*Contribuição Especial*) on generated electricity in 2014. The levy is expected to cover coal, large hydro and co-generation plants, creating additional revenues that amount to €100 million. The Minister ensured during the press conference that this new measure would not result in "any additional costs to domestic and industrial consumers". More details, such as the rate and the duration of the levy (e.g. if it will cover other years besides 2014), will be confirmed when the State Budget for 2014 is approved and published.

Read more: [http://www.noticiasamino.com/politica/112669/governo-quer-contribu%C3%A7%C3%A3o-especial-no-sector-electroprodutor#.UnD7hhCjF0Y](http://www.noticiasamino.com/politica/112669/governo-quer-contribu%C3%A7%C3%A3o-especial-no-sector-electroprodutor#.UnD7hhCjF0Y)


*Increase of the Circulation Tax (IUC) for vehicles expected for 2014*

The Portuguese government plans to increase the Circulation Tax (*Imposto Único de Circulação - IUC*) for light passenger cars and motorcycles fuelled with diesel in 2014. The additional levy varies depending on the engine capacity, vehicle category, and registration year. The levy is expected to range from approx. €1 to €25 for motorcycles and from approx. €5 to €68 for light vehicles. This measure was suggested in the Proposal of the State Budget for 2014, presented on 13 October 2013, but still needs to be approved.


Adaptation

*EEA Grants to adaption measures in Portugal*

During an interview at the EEA Grants Conference on 7 October 2013, the Portuguese Minister of Environment Jorge Moreira highlighted the need to incorporate adaption to climate change as a priority and stated that the economic crises should not be used as excuse to postpone action, due to the seriousness of climate change and the fact that studies indicate that it is cheaper to prevent damages than to repair them. According to the Minister, EEA grants amounting to €3 million are foreseen for pilot projects in priority areas and for the AdaPT Program (*Adaptar Portugal às Alterações Climáticas*), which aims to promote adaptation measures on the local level and to raise public awareness.
Read more: http://www.jornaldenegocios.pt/economia/ambiente/detalhe/moreira_da_silva_crise_nao_e_desculpa_para_adiar_adaptacao_a_s_alteracoes_climaticas.html

Waste

**Proposed Strategic Plan for Urban Solid Waste (PERSU 2020) presented**

On 17 October 2013, the Portuguese government presented its proposal for the Strategic Plan for Urban Solid Waste for the period 2014 - 2020 (*Plano Estratégico dos Resíduos Sólidos Urbanos - PERSU 2020*). The plan aims to achieve an annual recycling rate of 47 kilograms per person by 2020 and intends to reduce the amount of urban solid waste that is sent to landfills by 20%. Expected investments total €320 million and, according to the official press release, the cities of Lisbon and Porto will receive higher shares of investments, due to their large production of waste.

The plan focuses on:

- Prevention of hazardous waste production, including the review of the Prevention Program for Urban Waste (RUPP);
- Increasing recycling rates;
- Reduce land filling;
- Defining economic instruments to encourage recycling and discourage landfilling;
- Strengthening research and innovation in the sector.

The implementation and monitoring of actions are expected to take place through 2020.

Romania

Energy Generation

*Public protest against shale gas prospecting ongoing*

Trying to calm down the public protests, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change published a press release on 17 October 2013 specifying and emphasizing that no licenses for shale gas exploitation enabling hydraulic fracking have been issued so far. Instead, only licenses for prospecting activities have been issued. However, thousands of Romanian protested on 19 October 2013 against plans announced by Chevron to explore shale gas in Vaslui County in the eastern part of Romania. Even after Chevron had suspended it work in the small town of Pungesti in Vaslui County, protests by the public continued. Chevron had obtained prospecting licences for three other sites near the Black Sea earlier this year. For more information on this matter see MPU Issue 3/2013 and Issue 5/2013.

Read more (in Romanian): [http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/19/romania-shale-protest-idUSL5N0I90FW20131019](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/19/romania-shale-protest-idUSL5N0I90FW20131019)

Renewable Energy

*Legislative draft for further limitations of support scheme for renewable energy sources*

On 2 October 2013, the Energy Department of the Ministry of Economy published a legislative draft to limit the annual installed capacity of renewable energy sources that may benefit from the Green Certificate Scheme. According to the draft, in 2013 the Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority may accredit renewable energy power plants to the Green Certificate Scheme only up to an installed capacity of 3315 MW as foreseen in the National Renewable Energy Action Plan for 2013. The Ministry argues that the rapid increase of installed capacity of renewable energy sources since 2011 with growth rates of more than 190% annually, need to be kept in line with the trajectories outlined in the National Renewable Energy Action Plan in order to maintain the security of the national grid. In the case that this legislative draft will enter into force, it would mean that no additional renewable energy plant would be accredited for the Green Certificate Scheme in 2013, since according to the Romanian TSO Transelectrica, installed capacity of renewable energy plants reached 3.358 MW by the end of September 2013.

Energy Efficiency

Legislative draft for introducing smart metering put up for public debate

The Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority ANRE presented a revised legislative draft introducing smart metering to the public for consultation from 1 October 2013 until 15 October 2013. ANRE Ordinance on implementing smart metering for electricity (Proiect Ordin privind implementarea sistemelor de masurare inteligenta a energiei electrice) stipulates that distribution system operators (DSOs) are responsible for equipping 80% of the electricity consumers with smart metering until 2020. In 2014, pilot projects should be implemented covering urban and rural areas as well as distribution networks in different conditions. Large-scale implementation of smart metering is supposed to be undertaken between 2015 and 2020. Therefore, ANRE is in charge of approving the national implementation programmes of the different DSOs by the end of 2015. However, this provision does not apply to DSOs with less than 100,000 connected clients.

Read more (in Romanian): http://anre.ro/documente.php?id=647

Transport

Subsidy programme for non-polluting transport vehicles launched in October 2013

On 2 October 2013, the Administration of the Environmental Fund launched a new subsidy programme promoting the purchase of electric vehicles. Customers of electric cars may apply for a voucher, which values RON 12,000 (approx. € 2,700). Only one voucher can be offset from the purchase price of one electric car. Eligible parties are legal persons conducting economic activities on Romanian territory. The programme is administered and financed by the Administration of the Environmental Fund and launched in a yearly rhythm. The programme’s budget for 2013 amounts to RON 1.2 million (approx. € 260,000). The call for applications is open until 1 November 2013.

Read more (in Romanian): http://afm.ro/vehicule_electrice.php

New funds for infrastructure projects on developing the European Transport Network

The Ministry of Transport obtained some additional € 1.3 billion from the European Cohesion Fund for the project Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). These additional funds will be used to extend the European Transport Networks TEN-T. One of the projects financed will be the renovation of the railway line between Craiova and Calafat. The expenses for this projected are estimated at € 400 million. According to the Minister of Transport, Ramona Manescu, the remaining funds will be invested into improving the interconnection between railways and harbours and thus improving intermodal transport.

Slovakia

Renewable Energy

*Slovak Parliament approves amendment of Renewable Energy Act*

On 22 October 2013, the Members of the Slovak Parliament approved an amendment to the Act on the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources (*Zákon o podpore obnoviteľných zdrojov energie*). The amendment changes the conditions for the promotion of CHP plants with capacities of more than 125 MW and raises the current minimum share of renewable energy from 20% to 30%. Furthermore, renewable energy producers (except wind power plants) are now entitled to receive the preferential feed-in tariffs only for the first 5 MW (rather than 10 MW) of electricity supplied to the grid. However, plants with higher capacities can still receive the entire support, provided that they combine electricity and heat production. In addition, gases generated as by-products of metallurgical production processes may also be supported, which according to the Ministry of Economy aims to promote domestic energy sources to reduce the dependence on imports of primary energy sources.

The amendment has been met with some criticism as it is linked to the company U.S. Steel that demanded concessions from Slovakia on energy and the environment or threatened to leave the country. U.S. Steel is Slovakia’s largest private employer and central to the nation’s car industry.

However, it is worth noting that the amendment also intends to simplify the connection process for small renewable energy installations up to 10 kW. These producers shall be guaranteed a free connection to the distribution grid at existing delivery points and distribution system operators shall provide for the free installation of a bi-directional meter measuring the amount of electricity taken from and fed into the grid. These measures shall support installations in households which do not require support through a feed-in tariff but that cover a large part of the energy consumption.


Read more: [http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/26/slovakia-ussteel-idUSL5N0CI2OQ20130326](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/26/slovakia-ussteel-idUSL5N0CI2OQ20130326)
Slovenia

Horizontal Measures

*An amendment to the Environment Protection Act*

The Government has adopted an amendment to the Act on Environmental Protection (Zakon o varovanju okolja) during its session on 11 October 2013. The amendments include among other things: an alignment of Slovenian legislation with European Law, corrective actions on the issues identified by the European Commission regarding emissions trading and the introduction of a new “Council for sustainable development and environmental protection” as an advisory body for the Environment Minister. The amendment also brings improvements to inspection procedures for environmental issues, mainly to accelerate the process and make it more transparent.


*A new directorate to tackle issues related with the usage of water*

The Ministry of Environment and Agriculture is planning to introduce a new Directorate for Water related issues. Agriculture Minister Dejan Zidan stresses in this regard that it was in the water management that the most current problems and challenges lied.

He also stated that the Directorate needs to be well prepared in order to start its work, and that a delay of a month or two would not be critical, however a centralized and working water management is much more important.

The Directorate will combine all activities related to water that were dispersed among many actors, such as water management, water infrastructure project planning, the granting of concessions for the use of water, setting standards for drinking water, regulate the use of water for agriculture, coordinate efforts to provide clean water, deal with issues concerning with collecting water, etc.


**Energy Generation**

*Heating a major player in air pollution*

According to the report released by the EEA on 15 October 2013 (EEA, Air Quality in Europe 2013), Slovenia has the third highest ozone pollution and the tenth highest in air contamination in the EU, with particulate matter PM10. At the beginning of the heating season each year, emissions of particulate matter in the air increase mainly due to individual heating of households.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment is therefore concentrating its efforts in the winter season. Analyses by the Slovenian Environmental Agency (SEA) from the year 2013 show that individual burning for heating contributes around 30% of Slovenia’s air pollution.
The Ministry will therefore prioritize projects aiming at thermal insulation of buildings, the extension of district heating networks, and where this is not possible, to accelerate replacement of old boilers with new, more efficient ones.

Due to affordability, more and more households are switching to wood fuel, i.e. firewood, wood chips and pellets, and the quality of the latter is sometimes below the prescribed standards. With about 30% of Slovenian households using wood chips and pellets, according to the 2013 SEA analysis, this will have to be taken into account when projecting new measures.

Read more (in Slovene):
http://www.mko.gov.si/si/medijsko_sredisce/novica/browse/6/article/12447/6802/e55a49f3c089ae2be7b9e94eb1594e40/
http://www.rtvslo.si/okolje/slovenski-zrak-najslabsimi-evropi/320370
http://kazalci.arso.gov.si/?data=indicator&ind_id=545

**Transport**

*Positive trends in public transportation use in Ljubljana*

According to data released in October by the Ljubljana Municipality Transportation Company (LPP), its ridership has increased by roughly 30% since 2009. The company is still running at a loss, but expects to be able to consolidate its finances in the upcoming year. LPP also communicated data on the most ridden bus lines and its response to overcrowding - mainly linked with the implementation of the city’s Park and Ride plans and the partially implemented closure of the city centre to personal traffic. The plans also include implementation of new bus lines and the alteration of existing ones. The Municipality of Ljubljana is also planning to extend the hours during which drivers must pay for parking in the city centre. Among the novelties are also monthly parking options for season ticket holders at some parking areas.

Read more (in Slovene): http://www.rtvslo.si/lokalne-novice/ljubljana/vse-vec-jih-je-na-linijah-1-6-7-8-11-14-in-20/320580
http://www.rtvslo.si/lokalne-novice/ljubljana/v-srediscu-ljubljane-podaljsanje-placljivega-parkiranja/320835

**Agriculture**

*Draft of Amendment to the Act on Agricultural Land*

In October 2013 Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment released a draft of the Act on Agricultural Land (ZKZ), which is open for public hearings from 16 October to 15 November 2013. Key changes to the law aim at speeding up the process of determining the location of permanently protected agricultural areas throughout the Republic of Slovenia. The aim of this is to maintain and improve the production potential of agricultural lands and increase the volume of agricultural land for food production. Furthermore, it promotes the sustainable use of fertile soil and the landscape while also preserving rural development. Among other changes, new practices in the planning of farm buildings on agricultural land with detailed local plans are foreseen as the result of reduction of the necessary approvals for the land consolidation and reclamation process when it comes to lands in joint ownership.

Read more (in Slovene):
http://www.mko.gov.si/si/medijsko_sredisce/novica/browse/2/article/12447/6852/ab730c179c62d4a693c7553d8faea3a1/
Waste

*Slovenia and waste: burn it, recycle, or simply not take any more?*

In light of the recent data on Municipal Waste Management in Slovenia (EEA, 2013), which shows that Slovenia is achieving an above average rate for recycling (34%, EU average is 25%), but disposes of the remaining waste poorly – with most of it landing on landfills (58%, EU average is 37%), it has been suggested by government officials and Snaga (the garbage collection company of the Municipality of Ljubljana) that a trash incinerator be built in Ljubljana. According to the Municipality of Ljubljana (MOL) and the Association of Eco Movements (ZEG), this might be a good idea as a certain percentage of waste is unrecyclable and many other European countries are solving the problem similarly, drawing parallels to how the city of Vienna solved its waste disposal problems. The organisation *Ecologists without Borders* opposes the idea, as it would require much more waste to be turned into fuel; they propose that efforts should be put into lowering the amount of waste produced rather than on how to get rid of it. The decision on whether or not the incinerator plant will be built should be made by the end of 2013.

Spain

Transport

Fourth call for the PIVE program

The PIVE program (Programa de Incentivos al Vehículo Eficiente – incentive program for efficient vehicles) started in September 2012 with the aim of providing subsidies to owners of older, inefficient vehicles to encourage them to exchange them for new, efficient ones and consequently to reduce emissions from the transport sector. The Plan has already undergone three calls (the third one opened on 26 July 2013 with Real Decreto 575/2013) with the overall aim of replacing about 295,000 vehicles. Considering the success of the previous calls, the Government opened a fourth call on 25 October with a budget of € 70 million. The general criteria remain the same in terms of eligibility for the program, maximum price for the new vehicle, and extra support for vehicles capable of carrying more people. The call will be open from 30 October 2013 until 30 April 2014 or until funds are exhausted. The aim is to substitute about 70,000 vehicles with the fourth call, which was established by Real Decreto 830/2013.

Sweden

Horizontal Measures

Greenhouse gas emissions in 2012 were record-low

According to statistics published by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket) on 18 October 2013, greenhouse gas emissions in Sweden declined by 5 percent between 2011 and 2012 and now amount to 57.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This is the lowest figure since the base year 1990 and emissions have in total decreased by 20 percent from 1990 levels.

The reduction is mainly due to more fuel-efficient cars and the increased proportion of biofuels, weak economic conditions that affect emissions from industry, and abundant rainfall that caused increased hydropower generation, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector.

Read more (in Swedish): http://www.naturvardsverket.se/klimat2012

Renewable Energy

Swedish Energy Agency seeks solution to the conflict between weather radar and wind power plants

Beginning 1 October 2013, the Swedish Energy Agency will support the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (Sveriges meteorologiska och hydrologiska institut – SMHI) project Wind Power Plant + Complementary Radar (VINDRAD + Komplettieringsradar), aiming at the development of a method to reduce the conflict between weather radars and wind power plants. This may then open significant new areas for wind power projects in prime locations across the country, as one of the many obstacles to the establishment of wind plants in favourable situations are the weather radar stations operated by the Armed Forces and the SMHI. Wind turbines affect the measurements of the radars and through the use of a complementary radar system, images from the areas "shadowed" by the wind turbines can be gathered.

The project will run from October 2013 until January 2015. The Energy Agency's support totals 1,995,000 SEK (€ 230,000).


Energy Efficiency

Government introduces new rules on energy performance certificates

On 10 October 2013, the Danish government announced new rules, which require all people involved in energy assessments to be certified by an accredited certification body. Apart from
that, the energy certification will show how much energy a building consumes and what measures building owners can undertake to use energy more efficiently.

The regulatory framework for energy assessments is included in the law on energy certification of buildings (lagen om energideklaration för byggnader), regulation on energy performance of buildings (förordningen om energideklaration för byggnader) and regulations and general guidelines of the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning on energy certification of buildings and on the certification of energy experts. The rules will come into force on 1 January 2014 with a transition period of six months, until June 2014.

Read more (in Swedish): http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/4902/a/226030
United Kingdom

Horizontal Measures

*Climate Change Committee publishes preliminary conclusions on changing carbon budgets*

As a result of the revealed intentions of the chancellor George Osborne to loosen the UK’s carbon budget, on 3 October 2013, the Climate Change Committee (CCC) published preliminary conclusions of the report which examines the domestic and international framework for reducing GHG emissions and which will provide recommendations on whether the carbon targets should remain at current levels. The preliminary conclusions suggest that there are no reasons for changing the carbon reduction targets. According to the chief executive of the CCC, David Kennedy, “[t]he assumptions regarding EU circumstances upon which the fourth carbon budget decision was made have not changed, and therefore there is no legal or economic justification to change the budget in this respect at this time.” The full report is due to be published in December 2013.

These preliminary conclusions are supported by the Environmental Audit Select Committee saying that the current carbon targets represent the minimum reductions needed to keep within international commitments.

The review of the fourth carbon budget covering the period from 2023 to 2027 is due to be published in 2014. Many MPs from the Conservative Party (Tory) wish to disregard the recommendations by CCC and vote for looser carbon targets.

Read more (in English): [http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/oct/03/climate-change-uk-carbon-targets](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/oct/03/climate-change-uk-carbon-targets)
Read more (in English): [http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/oct/08/uk-carbon-targets-mps-government](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/oct/08/uk-carbon-targets-mps-government)

*Consultation on UK government’s proposals for implementing Electricity Market Reform launched*

On 10 October 2013, the UK Government published for consultation its proposals for implementing the Electricity Market Reform (EMR). The UK government seeks views from all interested parties on the key mechanisms of the reform – the Contracts for Difference (CfDs) and the Capacity Market (CM), as well as on the management of potential conflicts of interest for National Grid, the delivering body of EMR. The consultation will be open until 24 December 2013. EMR implementing secondary legislation is expected to become law in summer 2014.


*List of the “projects of common interest” revealed*

On 14 October 2013, EU energy commissioner Günther Oettinger launched the list of “projects of common interest” (PCIs). The list covers the 248 most important energy infrastructure projects with trans-boundary impacts. As they lie in priority corridors identified
in the Trans-European energy networks (TEN-E) infrastructure package, they are to benefit from accelerated approval and permitting procedures. The selected PCIs cover up to 140 electricity transmission and storage projects, about 100 projects in the field of gas transmission, storage and liquefied natural gas (LNG), and some oil projects. Among the smart grid projects in the PCI list, the North Atlantic Green Zone Project, linking Northern Ireland and Ireland, is included. The 3-years project is proposed by ESB networks (Ireland), Eirgrid (Ireland), Northern Ireland Electricity (Northern Ireland) and SONI (Northern Ireland) and aims at lowering wind curtailment.

Application for funding is due to start early next year. However, within two months the list may be scrutinized and opposed by the EU Member States and the Members of European Parliament.


**Energy Generation**

*Agreement on key conditions of investment contract for the construction of the Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant reached*

On 21 October 2013, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) together with the Prime Minister’s Office announced that an agreement between the UK government and the French energy company EDF Group on the key conditions of investment contract for the construction of the Hinkley Point C (HPC) nuclear power station in Somerset has been reached. From 2023 onwards HPC shall provide power to nearly 6 million homes and will start the process of replacing the existing nuclear power stations, most of which shall close in the 2020s.

£16 billion (approx. €18.8 billion) will be invested into the HPC construction by EDF Group and other investors. The new nuclear power plant is expected to create 25,000 new jobs during its construction and 900 permanent jobs over its operational time of 60 years. Moreover, it will annually cut UK’s CO₂ emissions by 9 million tonnes.

However, Ireland’s environmental group An Taisce is taking legal action against the UK government, because it has failed to consult the Irish people on HPC construction, which might have a huge impact on Ireland in case of leaks or accidents as it will be constructed 150 miles from the Irish coast. An Taisce is questioning whether the construction is in line with the Environmental Impact Assessment directive of the EU as well as UK’s own regulations. The environmental group announced to go to the high court in London in December 2013.

Renewable Energy

£3 million funding for small anaerobic digestion plants launched

On 11 October 2013, Environment Secretary Owen Paterson announced a government-funded loan scheme. The scheme will allow farmers to receive up to £400,000 (£469,190) from the AD Loan Fund to set up small anaerobic digestion (AD) plants. Up to 50% of the project costs may be covered from this Fund. The overall budget of the scheme amounts to £3 million (£3.5 million).


The UK Solar PV Roadmap published

On 8 October 2013, DECC published the UK Solar PV Roadmap. The Roadmap takes stock of what has been achieved with regards to solar PV in the UK so far (2.4GW installed capacity as of June 2013 that generated 1.4TWh between July 2012 and June 2013) and indicates actions for the future. Moreover, the document indicates the UK government’s guiding principles which will form the basis of the Solar PV Strategy, due to be published in 2014. For example, one of the principles is that cost-effective solar PV projects shall be supported by the government in order to reduce carbon emissions in the UK in a cost-effective way. In addition, support for solar PV should result in significant carbon reductions that would contribute to the achievement of the UK’s target of 15% renewable energy in the final energy consumption by 2020 and support decarbonisation of the economy in the long run.


£5 million funding for renewable heating technologies in social homes allocated

On 24 October 2013, the Energy and Climate Change Minister Greg Barker announced that £5 million (approx. €5.9 million) funding has been allocated to 57 social landlords in Great Britain to install renewable heating technologies like heat pumps and biomass boilers in social homes (see MPU Issue 2/2013). The funding came from the Renewable Heat Premium Payment (RHPP) Social Landlords competition.

According to the Minister, “renewable heating kit like heat pumps and biomass boilers can help keep homes warm and bills down, so it’s great that social landlords will be getting cash to help get over 2,100 renewable heating technologies into the homes of their tenants”.

Transport

Additional Funding for green busses announced

On 2 October 2013, the Transport Minister Norman Baker announced that additional funding will be available for the purchase of low carbon buses and for retrofitting existing busses to clean up their exhaust gas across England. Thus, £2.4 million (approx. €2.8 million) will be allocated through the Green Bus Fund to bus companies and local authorities in Manchester, Oxfordshire, York and Sunderland, allowing them to acquire new electric, hybrid and biomethane gas-powered buses. Moreover, over £1 million (approx. €1.2 million) will be awarded from the Clean Bus Technology Fund for the modification of local buses resulting in reduced emissions of harmful pollutants and improvement of air quality in parts of Kent, South Yorkshire, the West Midlands, Buckinghamshire and York.

Read more (in English): http://www.airqualitynews.com/2013/10/03/2-4-million-green-bus-funding-announced/