

## Minutes of the Belgian Industry workshop 13th June 2013

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### Requirements to promote the renewable energy development in Belgium. Focus on investment criteria

The Belgian industry workshop aimed to present to the Belgian renewable energy sector, decision-makers, stakeholders and journalists the main interim conclusions of the *Keep on Track!* project. A specific emphasis has to be given on the recommendations for the Belgian decision-makers. This workshop must also give the possibility to the Minister and MPs for any reaction and original proposals. In addition, actors of the sector will discuss the barriers for future renewable investments in Belgium and try to find common solutions.

More than 100 people attended the meeting including the relevant energy minister and parliamentarian, the Belgian main renewable actors, NGOs and other civil servants.

- The overall project coordinator (EREC) presented the aim of *Keep on Track!* and the different tools given by the project in terms of deviation analysis of the renewable development, barriers identification and comparison and scenario development. At the EU level, it can be concluded that several member states are currently not expected to reach their 2020 binding targets although they have reached their 2011 interim targets. ([link to the presentation here...](#))
- Eclareon consulting, work package leader of the *Keep on Track!* project, presented a comprehensive analysis of the main barriers to the renewable development in the different considered member states. This mainly comes from a specific bottom-up investigation. It appears that the main barriers relates to RES strategy and support scheme deficits for any of the three renewable sub-sectors (electricity, heating and cooling and transport). Administrative issues also seem critical for the RES-electricity sector. One of the main recommendation of Eclareon deals with the urgent necessity to enforce more stability and certainty in the legislative framework. Special attention must be given to support schemes. ([link to the presentation here...](#))
- EDORA is the Belgian partner of the *Keep on Track!* project and therefore presented all the relevant Belgian results and recommendations included in the EU tracking roadmap and policy recommendations published after the first year of the project. According to EDORA and although the 2011 interim RES targets have been reached for every main renewable sectors, it is likely that the 2020 mandatory target (13%) will not be reached in Belgium if specific policies are not urgently adopted. Indeed, the last year growth rate would not allow Belgium to reach the 2020 target and the increasing amount of barriers is especially worrying. Thanks to socio-economic models provided by the *Keep on Track!* project, EDORA has developed first draft renewable scenarios towards 2030. Between 22% and 26% of renewable energy could be consumed in Belgium by 2030. Uncertainty in support mechanism with possible retrospective changes has been mentioned as one of the main constraint for the renewable development in every subsector. This is reinforced by policy uncertainty and absence of specific frameworks. In addition, the absence of clear protocols regarding the environmental measures associated to some renewable projects and regarding the installation conditions in the vicinity of radars or airport (for wind energy) further impacts the profitability and feasibility of the renewable projects. EDORA concluded by the necessity for stable regulatory framework and support system. Any legislation must be fostered by ambitious technological targets. EDORA has specifically asked the Minister to develop the relevant proposals in order to tackle these constraints. ([link to the presentation here...](#))

### Minister's speech:

Answering to EDORA, the Energy Minister (Jean-Marc Nollet) has reminded the importance of renewable energy which must be considered as an outsider increasing its share in the energy mix in the future. The Minister has also promised to develop specific frameworks with technology targets in order to boost and ensure more security for the different renewable energy technologies. He will also review the support system and develop specific regulatory initiatives. For instance, the minister promised to launch as soon as possible a bioenergy strategy and to reinforce the wind energy framework by bringing a better juridical certainty.

### Debate with financial representatives:

A public debate between investors and financial institution representatives was then organized in order to further discuss the investment conditions to promote a safe renewable development in Belgium. Their current analysis is a dramatic lack of investor confidence due to increasing uncertainties in the general political framework and retrospective changes. Experts agree on the importance for investment of a sustainable and fair support system. Such support system must also prevent any windfall profits and contribute, together with specific quality criteria, to improve the acceptance of the renewable project among the population. The kind of credits delivered also directly depends on the clarity of the legislative framework.

Concretely, the stakeholders ask for urgent specific framework for each renewable technology and urgent decisions on the support system level for each technology. The investment confidence further needs criteria clarification, constraints removal and improved juridical certainty in order to prevent systematic appeal procedures. These political initiatives must then be integrated in specific legislations and must be developed within an overall energy strategy. This would for instance include clear strategy on stockade or dispatchable technology investments.

The Belgian industry workshop has allowed EDORA to present to the sector and the stakeholders the main conclusions, analyses and proposals arising from its contribution to the *Keep on Track!* project. EDORA has also had the possibility to directly and publicly challenge the relevant minister on the main political recommendations of the renewable energy federation. The Minister has consequently presented some government commitments and had the possibility to improve its analysis after assisting to the debate organized between investors and financial experts on the required investment criteria to further promote the renewable energy sector. This will feed and improve the future demands of the renewable energy federation.

### Programma:

Programme conférence		
14h 15h20	–	<b><i>Développement des énergies renouvelables : la Belgique, quel genre d'élève de la classe européenne ?</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Lucie Tesnière, EREC</b> : La trajectoire des renouvelables d'ici à 2020 - présentation du projet européen « Keep on track »</li><li>- <b>Céline Najdawi, ECLEARON</b> : Analyse comparative des réalités de développement renouvelable dans les Etats membres ?</li><li>- <b>Fawaz Al Bitar, EDORA</b> : analyse des opportunités et barrières au développement renouvelable en Belgique</li></ul>
15h20 15h30	–	Pause-café

**15h30 – Points de vue des financiers sur le cadre d’investissement dans les renouvelables**

**17h30**

Intervention du Ministre wallon de l’Energie, **Jean-Marc Nollet**

Débat modéré par **Michel Helbig**, président d’EDORA

- **Olivier Vanderijst**, Président du Comité Exécutif de la SRIW
- **Jean-Philippe Leduc**, Responsable Risk Management au sein de la Banque Belfius
- **Vincent Wirtz**, Account Manager Renewable Energy chez ING Lease Belgium
- **Jean-François Masure**, Représentant de la coopérative CLEF
- **Christophe Gilain**, Administrateur Délégué de TTR, gestionnaire de Fonds d’investissement en énergie renouvelable

Conclusions par **Noémie Laumont**, d’EDORA : « *Trois conditions pour investir : stabilité – sécurité – visibilité* »

**LINK TO THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY IN FRENCH:**

[HTTP://WWW.EDORA.ORG/2012/AGENDA.PHP?ID\\_AGENDA=43&ID\\_MENU=&YEAR=2013](http://www.edora.org/2012/agenda.php?id_agenda=43&id_menu=&year=2013)

**LINK TO THE PARTICIPANTS’ LIST:**

[HTTP://WWW.EDORA.ORG/2012/DOC/AGENDA\\_43/130613-LISTE-DES-PARTICIPANTS.PDF](http://www.edora.org/2012/doc/agenda_43/130613-liste-des-participants.pdf)