



Guidance document on wind energy developments and Natura 2000

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The EU's climate change and renewable energy package

2020 Renewable Energy (RE) targets (2008):

- Increase the use of RE sources to 20% of Europe's total energy productions by 2020

2030 RE targets (2014)

- New RE target of at least 27% of EUs final consumption by 2030
- June 2018: Political Agreement (Council & EP) – Binding RE target for 2030 of 32% (revision by 2023)

Growth in renewable energy in EU

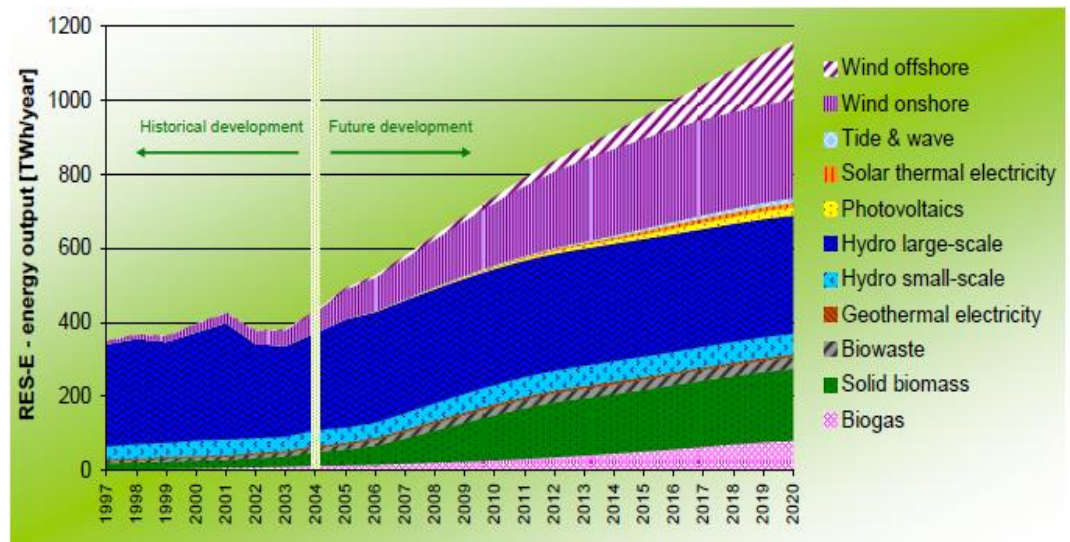
Various forms:

- Solar
- Wind,
- Aerothermal
- Geothermal
- Hydrothermal
- Ocean energy
- Hydropower,
- Biomass
- Biowaste
- Biogasses

Various uses:

- to produce electricity
- for heating and cooling
- for fuel for transport

Projected growth likely to be substantial



Renewables growth: electricity projections by 2020 – from Commission Communication COM(2006) 848 final, 10.1.2007 'Renewable Energy Road Map':

Developing renewable energy in line with EU nature Directives

Important to ensure that its expansion is sustainable and is achieved without significant damage to the natural environment and to Europe's natural heritage:

All plans and projects must be carried out in accordance with

- SEA Directive
- EIA Directive
- Habitats and Birds Directives

Biodiversity and Nature Protection Policy Framework

- **EU Biodiversity Strategy (2011)**
 - **Nature Directives**

1979: The Birds Directive
(consolidated version 2009)

**1992: The Habitats
Directive**

Objective: "to ensure that species and habitat types they protect are maintained and restored to a favourable conservation status throughout their natural range within the EU"

Provisions of EU nature legislation

Two main types of measures required by the EU nature legislation:

- Designation and conservation of Natura 2000 sites (Natura 2000 network)
- Establishment of a species protection regime
 - wild European Bird Species under Birds Directive
 - species of annex IV of Habitats Directive
 - not destroy breeding and resting sites
 - Not disturb species during breeding and immigration



This provision applies to all EU territory in and outside protected areas

Developing renewable energy in line with EU nature Directives

Two aspects of the two EU nature Directives to consider in particular:

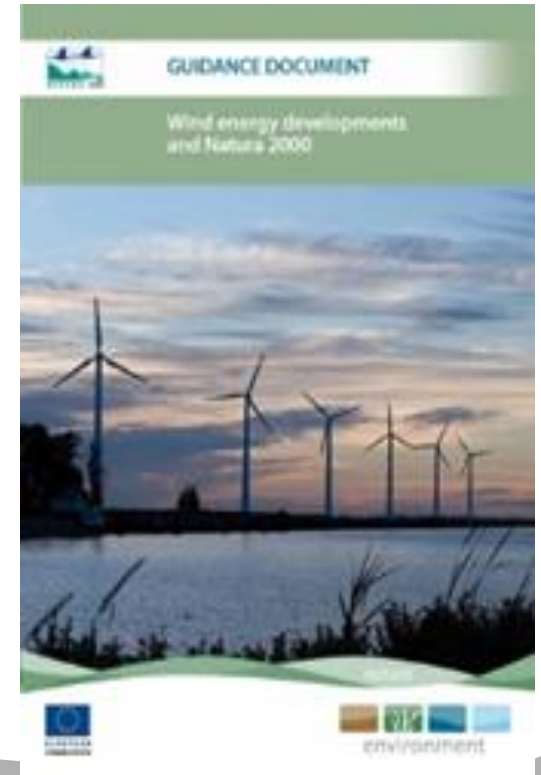
1. Developments that are likely to affect Natura 2000 sites must undergo the step-by-step assessment procedure and introduce necessary safeguards for the species and habitat types of EU importance (Article 6 FFH Directive)

2. the two Directives also require that Member States protect species of EU importance *throughout their natural range within the EU* – ie also outside Natura 2000 sites (article 5 of Birds Directive and Article 12 of Habitats Directive)

EC Guidance on wind energy developments and Natura 2000 (1)

The **overall aim** of the guidance document is to:

- provide guidance on how best to ensure that wind energy developments are compatible with Habitats and Birds Directive provisions
- Promote good practice in relation to location, planning, design, construction and operation of wind farms and their associated infrastructures in order to minimise their impact on biodiversity



EC Guidance on wind energy developments and Natura 2000 (2)

The **target audience is**

- competent authorities in countries planning for wind energy as well as those dealing with protecting natura 2000 sites.
- It should also be relevant to developers in clarifying the relevant EU/international legal and policy context and promoting practice that minimise future conflicts.
- Finally, it should also be of interest to other stakeholders including NGOs

EC Guidance on wind energy developments and Natura 2000 (3)

Six Chapters :

1. Purpose of the guidance document
2. Review of wind energy development in the EU and EU policy framework for development
3. Review of the EU's legislation (EIA, SEA, Birds & Habitats Directives)
4. Review of potential impacts
5. Strategic planning of wind farm developments
6. Step by step guide to the procedures under Article 6 for wind farm developments affecting Natura 2000 sites

Update of guidance document on Wind Energy and Natura 2000

- Obligation under Action 1 of the Action Plan for nature, people and the economy
- EC Project: “Reviewing and mitigating the impacts of renewable energy developments on habitats and species protected under Birds and Habitats Directives”
 - Improve knowledge on possible impacts of RE to protected species and habitats and introduce mitigation measures
 - Toolkit on wildlife sensitivity mapping
- Aim of the update:
 - fill scientific gaps esp. Offshore wind energy
 - cover information on new technology and mitigation measures
 - Adoption by end of 2019