

POLICY BRIEF

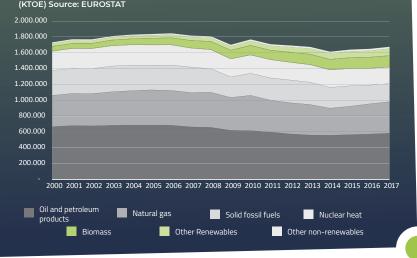
BIOENERGY LANDSCAPE

Supported by Valmet

Bioenergy, major player in a decarbonised energy system

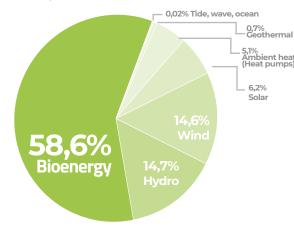
While we discuss intensively the future carbon neutrality of our economy, our energy system still very dependent on imported fossil fuels. Bioenergy use has more than doubled since 2000, and accounts for almost 60% of the EU total renewable energy consumption. Biomass used for energy is mostly locally produced (less than 5% imports), therefore replacing fossil fuels with bioenergy also improves EU's energy security.

EVOLUTION OF THE GROSS INLAND CONSUMPTION BY MAIN FUEL TYPE IN EU28 (KTOE) SOUTCE: EUROSTAT



DISTRIBUTION OF RENEWABLE GROSS FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN THE EU28 IN 2017

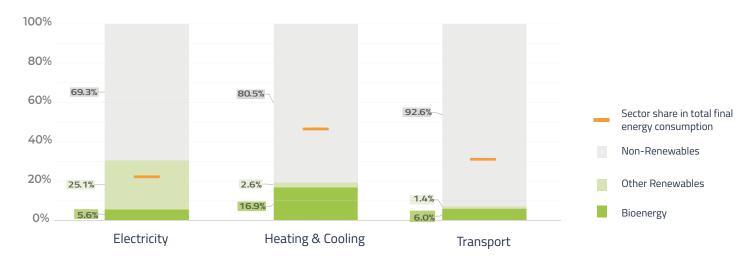
(%) Source: EUROSTAT, SHARES 2017



If the EU is willing to reach climate neutrality in 2050, more efforts are needed to deploy further renewable energies, especially in the heating and transport sectors that are lagging behind in terms of decarbonisation. Bioenergy can provide secure and affordable renewable heat to the residential and industrial sectors. Political support and fair market conditions are needed to support bioenergy development. A carbon price should be introduced in the H&C and transport sectors that falls today outside the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and subsidies to fossil fuels should be phased out by for example, aligning fuel taxation to climate objectives.

FINAL ENERGY USE IN THE EU28 BY SECTOR AND SOURCE

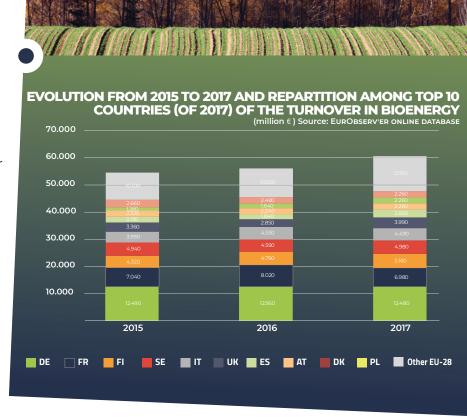
(%) Source: SHARES 2017, EUROSTAT



Creating jobs and economic growth in Europe...

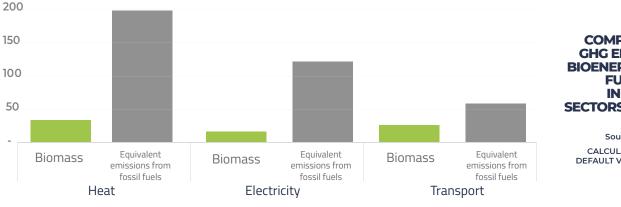
Bioenergy is the largest renewable energy source in terms of direct and indirect employment, accounting for 703.200 jobs in the solid biomass, biofuels, biogas and renewable municipal waste sectors. Its turnover represented 60,6 bn€ in the EU-28 in 2017.

In addition, European bioenergy industry is competitive globally and holds an undisputed leadership in terms of technology developement, manufacturing and fuel production processes. Bioenergy is also an enabler of other sectors decarbonisation such as commercial and industrial energy consumption. For these reasons, it is essential to establish a European industrial strategy recognizing the decarbonisation potential of bioenergy as well as its potential for economic growth and job creation.



...and saving great amounts of emissions

In 2017, bioenergy allowed to save around 7% of the EU28 GHG emissions (303 MtCO₂eq) representing around the annual emissions of Spain. Bioenergy is, with no doubt, a secure ally to a climate neutral energy system.



COMPARISON OF THE GHG EMISSIONS FROM BIOENERGY AND FOSSIL FUEL EQUIVALENT IN THE DIFFERENT SECTORS IN EU28 IN 2017 (MtCO,eq)

Source: BIOENERGY EUROPE

CALCULATIONS; RED II (BIOMASS DEFAULT VALUES AND FOSSIL FUEL COMPARATOR)



Bioenergy is today the main renewable energy in the EU, accounting for about 60% of the European final renewable energy consumption. It is also the only fuel that has mandatory sustainability requirements by law, making it a truly sustainable solution for a decarbonised 2050 energy system.

Decarbonisation of the H&C sector is lagging behind. It should become a priority for EU, national and local authorities that should start with phasing out subsidies to fossil fuels and introducing carbon pricing to foster a switch to renewables.

A European industrial strategy should recognize the decarbonisation potential of bioenergy as well as its potential for economic growth and job creation.

Bioenergy allowed to save around 7% of the EU28 GHG emissions in 2017, making it a secure ally to reduce global emissions by 2050.



