National report from the Slovak Republic on progress towards achieving targets

Report from the Slovak Republic under Article 3(3) of Directive 2001/77/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 September 2001 on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market

Introduction

This report has been drawn up pursuant to Directive 2001/77/EC on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market, Article 3(3) of which requires Member States to publish every two years a report on success in meeting the national indicative targets, taking account of climatic factors likely to affect the achievement of those targets, and which indicates to what extent the measures taken are consistent with the national climate change commitment.

1. Measures to promote greater use of renewable energy sources (RES) to produce electricity

Act No 309/2009 on the promotion of renewable energy sources and high-efficiency cogeneration and amending certain acts (hereinafter 'Act No 309/2009') was adopted in 2009.

It improved the functioning of the market in RES electricity and created a stable business environment. It provided a long-term (15-year) guarantee for purchase prices.

Purchase prices for RES electricity are set by the Network Industries Regulatory Office (ÚRSO) by means of generally binding legislation. When setting prices, account is taken of the type of renewable energy source, the technology used, the date on which the power plant becomes operational and its installed capacity. The prices set in this way apply to electricity producers for a period of 15 years from the year in which they built their plants. The Act also promotes the use of an upgraded type of biogas, namely biomethane. Provided that technical conditions are met, biomethane may be given priority in terms of access to the distribution network and distribution itself. Support is granted to electricity producers who use biomethane to produce electricity in CHP mode.

2. Measures to ensure the reliability of guarantees of origin

Under Act No 309/2009, guarantees of origin for RES electricity are issued by an independent body (i.e. ÚRSO) at the request of producers.

Certificates of origin for RES electricity specify:

a) the identification particulars of the RES electricity producers to whom they are issued,
b) the type of plant and its installed capacity,
c) the date on which the plant became operational or on which the plant's machinery was redesigned or modernised,
d) the renewable energy source from which electricity is produced,
e) the production location and the amount of electricity produced from RES during the period for which they are issued,
f) the amount of investment aid received from the state budget.

ÚRSO issues certificates of origin for RES electricity for the preceding calendar year if electricity was produced from renewable energy sources. The certificate covers the amount of electricity actually produced, adjusted to take account of the amount of electricity for which a certificate has already been issued in respect of the period in question.

3. Electricity production

Table 1 presents RES electricity production by type of RES in the period 2003-2010.

Table 1: Production of electricity from RES

	2003 [GWh]	**2004 [GWh]**	**2005 [GWh]**	**2006 [GWh]**	**2007 [GWh]**	**2008 [GWh]**	**2009 [GWh]**	**2010 [GWh]**
Hydropower	3 480	4 100	4 638	4 399	4 451	4 039	4 368	5 255
Geothermal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Wind	2	6	6	6	8	7	6	6
Biomass	98	18	27	368	463	502	515	636
Biogas	2	2	5	8	11	15	22	32
Total	**3 582**	**4 126**	**4 676**	**4 781**	**4 933**	**4 563**	**4 905**	**5 940**
Share of total electricity consumption	12.4%	14.4%	16.4%	16.1%	16.6%	15.3%	17.9%	20.6%

Source: Ministry of the Economy of the Slovak Republic

Electricity produced using RES accounted for 20.6% of total electricity consumption in 2010. Since 2006, there has been significant growth in electricity produced using biomass by means of co-incineration in restructured plants and an increase in production at existing and new plants.

During 2010, installed photovoltaic energy capacity increased from a few dozen kW to 186 MW. This dramatic increase was due to advantageous sale prices and a fall in the price of technology. This increase in installed capacity has continued and culminated in late June 2011 with a total installed capacity of 480 MW. The increase in electricity production from photovoltaic power will be reflected in the statistics for 2011 and 2012.

Following the approval of Act No 309/2009, construction has begun on biofuel stations and in 2010, 15 biofuel energy stations began operating. This was reflected in the increase in electricity produced using biogas in 2010.

Conclusion

The proportion of RES-produced electricity of total electricity produced increased from 12.4% in 2003 to 20.6% in 2010. The total amount of electricity produced using hydropower during this period has been affected by climatic conditions. Taking into account climatic conditions in hydropower through standardisation over a 15-year period, in 2010 18% of all electricity produced was produced using RES. There was a significant increase in electricity produced using biomass as a result of new plants becoming operational and also due to increased production at existing plants. 2010 saw a boom in the construction of photovoltaic power plants, but this will become apparent in 2011. There is steady growth in the amount of electricity being produced by biogas power plants.