

Infringement decisions of 27/09/2012

Renewables: Legislation in Austria and Bulgaria still not in line with EU rules

Austria and Bulgaria have not informed the Commission of all the necessary transposition measures for fully transposing the Directive into their national legislation. Therefore, the Commission has decided on 27 September 2012 to send Reasoned Opinions to these Member States. If the Member States do not comply with their legal obligation within two months, the Commission may decide to refer them to the Court of Justice.

Background

The Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) had to be implemented by Member States by 5 December 2010. Its timely transposition is a priority for the Commission since unnecessary delays in implementation may jeopardize the achievement of the EU renewable energy objective.

The EU has committed itself to reach a 20% share of renewable energy in final energy consumption and a 10% share of renewable energy in transport. The regulatory framework laid down by the Renewable Energy Directive is a key element for reaching these objectives.

According to the Directive, every Member State has to reach individual targets for the overall share of renewable energy in energy consumption. To this end, Member States have to lay down rules, for example for improving the grid access for electricity from renewable energy, the administrative and planning procedures, information and training of installers. In addition, where biofuels are used to achieve the transport target, these must meet a set of sustainability requirements, which also need to be included in national legislation.

Ongoing procedures involve Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Luxembourg and Hungary.

Further information

Text of the Renewable Energy Directive here.

Web page on renewable energy:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infringements/proceedings/renewables_en.htm

Current figures on infringements in general:

http://ec.europa.eu/eu_law/infringements/infringements_en.htm