

Energy security and energy efficiency: local and regional perspectives on EU policy

Kadri Tillemann

Keila Rural Municipality/Committee of the Regions



CoR positions

- CoR is calling for an ambitious **EU climate policy objective for 2030**: to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent** compared to the 1990 baseline. Local and regional sustainable energy investment is key to the achievement of this objective.
- CoR has called for a **better urban-rural balance** in sustainable energy policies across the EU and stresses the need to tap the potential of rural areas for the achievement of the Europe 2020 energy efficiency objectives.

CoR positions

- **small scale renewable energy production** should be more resolutely encouraged by all levels of governance, since it provides **better security of supply** and potentially **cheaper access** for citizens than imported fossil energy, given that the **social and ecological** costs of fossil energy outweigh the cost of renewable energy. Local and regional best practice has clearly shown that it is **possible to develop renewable energy locally** in a cost-effective way so that it does not contradict the requirements of affordability

CoR positions

- It is important to achieve the best possible **balance** in the EU spending between **large scale infrastructure and decentralised energy production**, insisting on the availability of support schemes also to small scale renewable energy producers

CoR positons

- Energy poverty - calls on the EU to make efforts to ensure that all market-led initiatives potentially entailing exploitation of **vulnerable energy consumers** are flanked by local, regional and national social policy measures, keeping taxes, surcharges and fees and therefore energy prices to a minimum throughout the value chain from energy producers to end users.

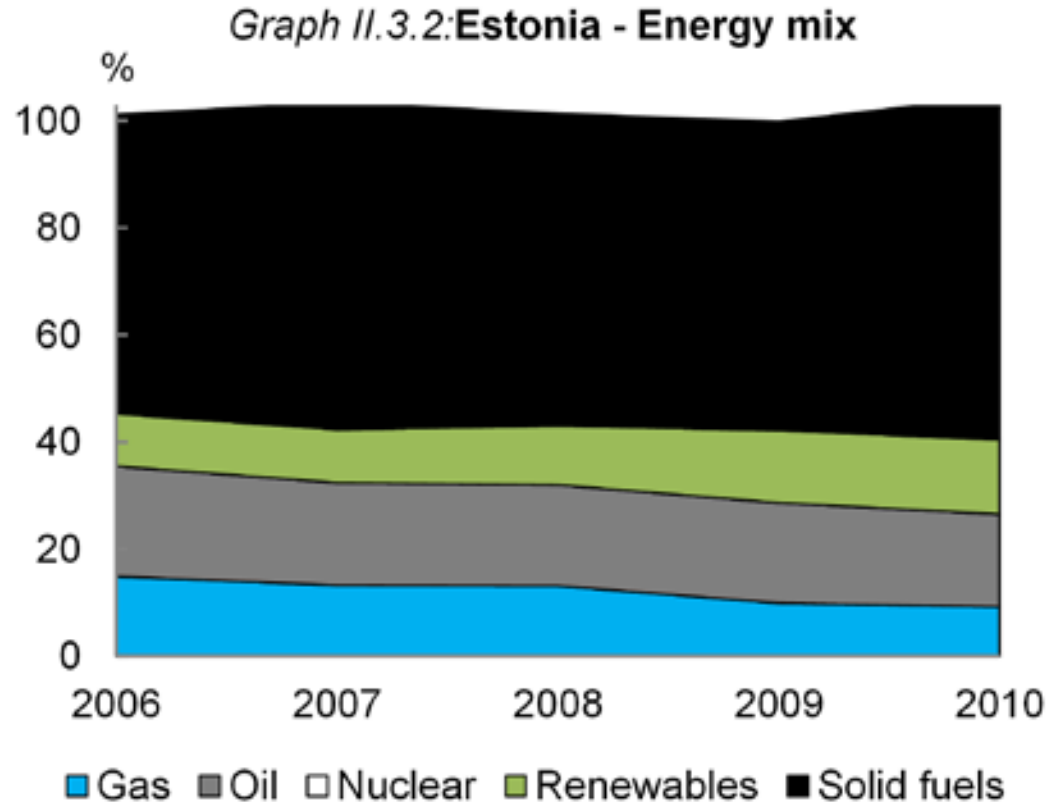
CoR positions

- special care should be taken to provide opportunities for households from vulnerable consumer groups to **access dedicated energy renovation programmes**
- CoR has welcomed the fact that the **energy-related renovation** of social housing and work to improve housing conditions for marginalised groups were eligible for **support from the European Union structural funds** and called for this to be maintained beyond 2014. The CoR has felt that the European Investment Bank (EIB) needed to increase its investment in this sector considerably, as high-quality, energy-efficient and affordable housing is a form of infrastructure for local economic development

Estonian facts

- The **very limited import dependency** of Estonia acts as a mitigating factor to security of supply risks. However, the country appears as **one of the most vulnerable Member States** (BG, EE, RO) for this dimension because it relies almost exclusively on solid fuels (oil shale) in its energy and electricity mix. In addition, gas, one of the main alternative sources to solid fuels, is essentially imported through one supplier outside the EEA area, Russia (Member States' Energy Dependence: An Indicator-Based Assessment, EC 2103)

Estonian facts



Source: Eurostat

Note: Non-renewable waste and electricity are excluded

Estonian facts

- Estonia is one of the worst performing countries in the EU in terms of energy and carbon intensity
- Estonia is one of the best performers in the EU in terms of the trade balance for energy products. The situation significantly improved between 2007 and 2011.
- The good record is the result of an improved current account balance and of a good performance of the oil trade which has led to a significant reduction of the total energy trade deficit.

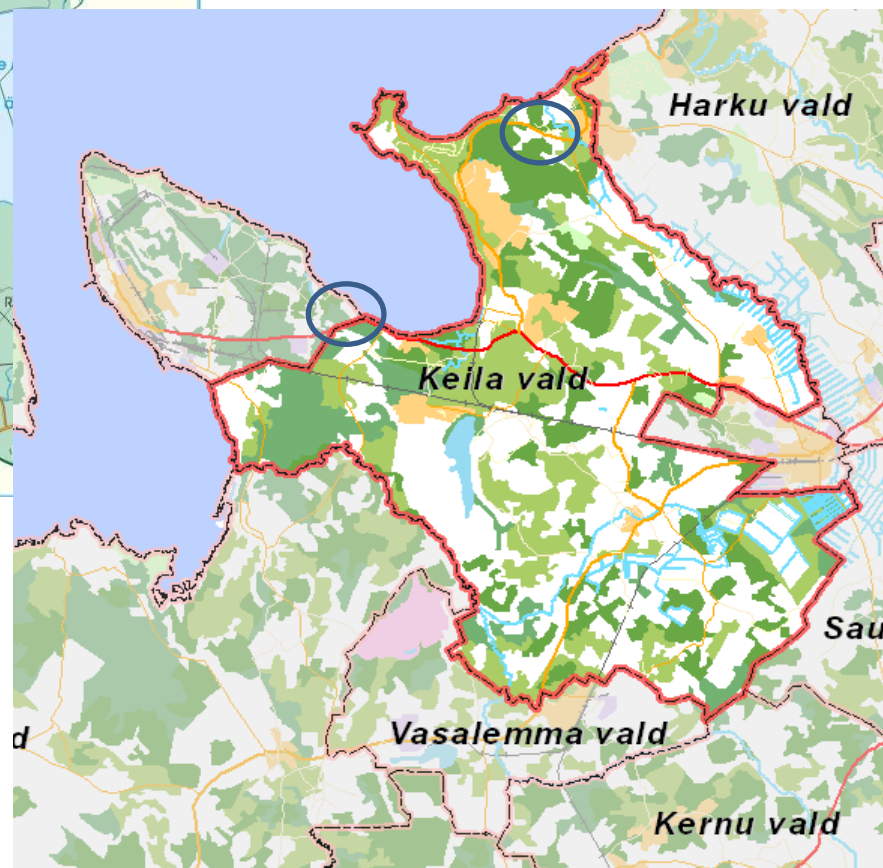
Estonian facts

- The carbon intensity of the transport sector has increased between 2006 and 2010 and is among the highest in the EU.
- In 2003, Estonia started to support the refurbishment of apartment buildings built before 1990. The energy efficiency certificates for buildings are issued since January 2009.

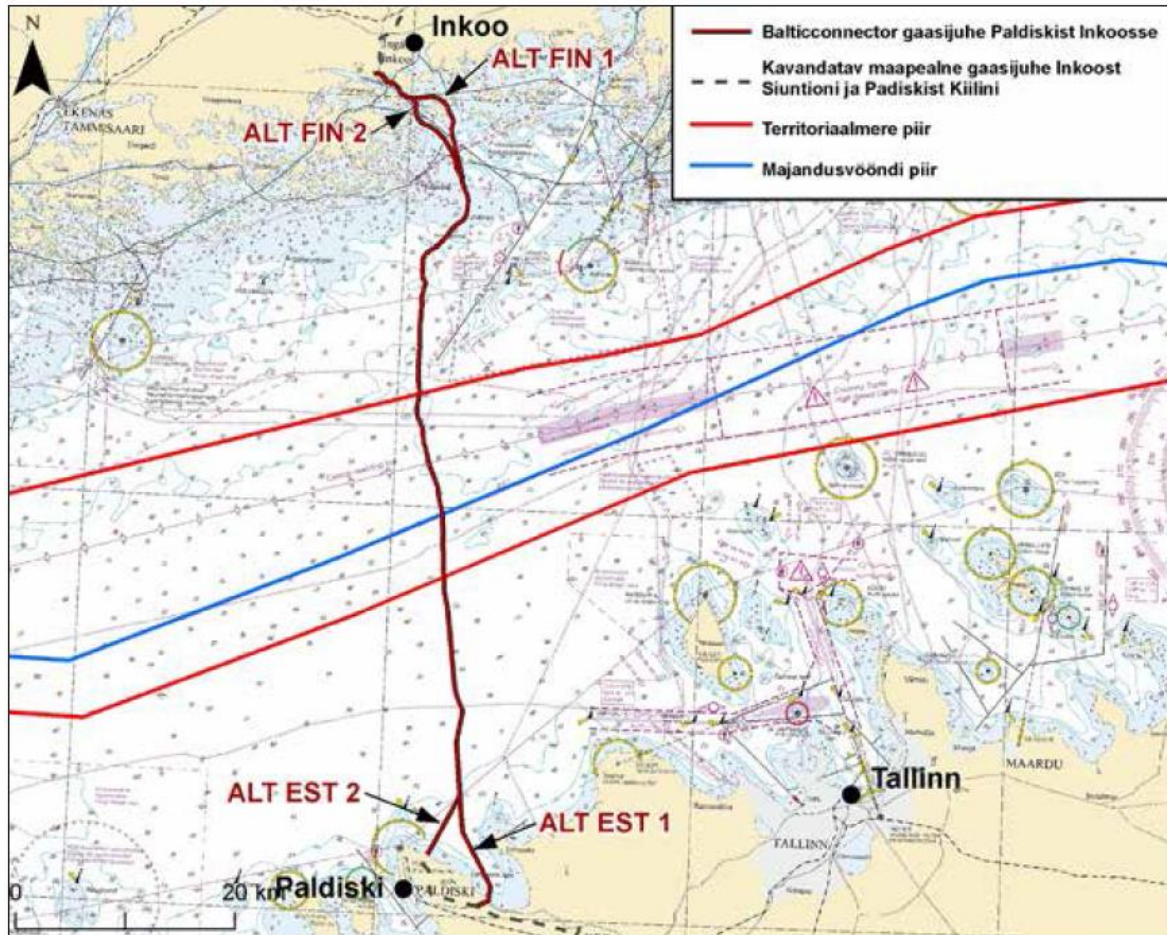
Estonian Facts

- Starting from the end of 2010, Estonia has successfully sold a great amount of AAUs (Kyoto Protocol assigned amount units). The revenues from the sales are used according to the relevant Green Investment Scheme (GIS).

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Balticconnector



- Natural gas pipeline+ compression stations+LNG terminal (tbc)
- Trans-European energy infrastructure (TEN-E) project. Project of common interest (EC PCI)
- Project started in 2006, ongoing environmental studies (EIA), implementation 2016-2017



Thank you!

Kadri Tillemann

kadri.tillemann@keilavald.ee