Towards an Energy Union...

This factsheet is a summary of full version contained in the 3rd Energy Union Report (November 2017)

The main energy sources in the United Kingdom are oil and gas, which represent together two thirds of its energy mix. The UK’s import dependency is below the EU average, but is increasing due to declining domestic gas production. Additional use of renewable energy would have a positive effect on the British energy situation.

To ensure access to cheap and secure energy for all consumers in Europe the EU is investing in energy infrastructure to allow energy to be traded freely between and within EU countries. The UK’s energy interconnectivity is currently 5.9%, below the EU target of 10%. However, 11 interconnectivity projects are under way, and those that will be completed by 2020 will double the British interconnection capacity.

The UK has decreased its energy consumption notably since 2005. The energy intensity of the British economy has been falling by 3% annually, above the EU average of 2%. The UK should continue its efforts to moderate demand, fully making use of the potential for energy savings to ensure that future economic growth can happen without raising energy consumption and failing to meet the national energy efficiency target.

Until 2016 the UK has had lower greenhouse gas emissions than its annual targets for emissions not covered by the EU emissions trading system. This national target covers notably emissions from transport, buildings, agriculture and waste. The UK is expected to reach its 2020 target, which is to decrease emissions by 16 % from 2005 levels. With 8.2 % renewable energy in 2015, further efforts are needed to reach the 2020 target of 15.0 %.

The UK has committed to doubling public funding in clean energy research and innovation between now and 2020, supporting in particular innovative renewables and smart energy system technologies. Under the Horizon 2020 energy programme participants form the UK have received 13% of EU funds for research into secure, clean and efficient energy, including €7.5 million for the LEILAC project on CO2 emissions reduction in the lime and cement industry.