

Workshop Programme

The role of EU policies in renewable energy transitions in European countries

Oslo, Litteraturhuset
June 21, 2016

Workshop Objectives

Some key developments challenge renewable energy policy mixes applied so far in Europe – in particular: the financial crisis, which has put pressure on public green energy financing; growing energy system challenges created by larger shares of intermittent renewable electricity generation; and the deterioration in Europe's relationship with Russia as a result of the Ukraine crisis. Moreover, the EU is now in the process of adopting regulations to implement the 2030 climate and energy policy package, and future EU state-aid rulings will influence renewable energy growth rates, the balance between intermittent and stable base-load energy production, and the energy security situation of most EU and EEA countries. This workshop will address these challenges to renewable energy development in Europe.

On the one hand, EU's climate and energy policy package for 2030 and the new EU state-aid guidelines indicate a revision of the EU policy mix more dominated by emissions trading and other market measures. On the other hand, opposition to very ambitious climate policies from heavyweight EU countries, the emergence of multiple national capacity mechanism regulations, and a European Court of Justice ruling on state aid indicate that national regulations may become increasingly dominated by technical criteria and detailed political regulation of energy technologies. Workshop participants will examine factors that have shaped and will shape the balance between market measures and more direct technical regulations, and how they influence renewable energy policy development in some European countries. Market measures and direct technical regulations may be seen as opposing forces, but there may also be synergistic effects, with for instance state aid policy dismantling subsidy schemes disliked by market proponents. We pay particular attention to the following EU policy and policy processes: the climate and energy targets, the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), energy governance mechanisms (Commission proposals), revision of the 2009 renewable energy directive, and EU state aid. We focus on key countries (UK, Germany, Norway) to explore how the EU policy mix influences policies that affect the economics of renewables investments: renewable energy support schemes and capacity mechanisms.

The workshop will discuss the following questions: Which factors shape the development of the EU policy mix? Which factors shape the national policy portfolios? What is the development and functioning of national renewable energy support schemes and capacity market regulations in countries that play leading (and, from a Nordic perspective, particularly relevant) roles in the development of European energy policy? To what extent and how have national renewables policy portfolios been shaped by the EU policy mix?

Workshop Programme

9.00 **Welcome**

EU State Aid Policies – the crucial relevance for renewable energy transitions

Chair: **Guri Bang, CICERO**

9.00 - 9.20 **Elin Lerum Boasson**, CICERO and University of Oslo
State aid and renewables. Why have the EU strengthened its grip on national renewables policy through state aid regulations?

9.20 – 9.40 **Cathrine Banet**, University of Oslo
A legal perspective on EU state aid regulations. What is the legal status of EU state aid guidelines? How will the practice of the European Court of justice influence future EU state aid rulings?

9.40 – 10.00 **Kerstin Tews**, Freie Universität Berlin
Europeanization of Energy and Climate Policy: The Struggle between Competing Ideas of Coordinating Energy Transitions

10.00 – 10.40 *discussion*

10.40 – 11.00 *coffee break*

Implementing change

Chair: **Sibyl Steuwer, Freie Universität Berlin**

11.00 – 11.20 **Miranda A. Schreurs**, Freie Universität Berlin:
The Politics of Coal in an Age of Renewables: Dealing with Obstacles to Change

11.20 – 11.40 **Jørgen Wettestad**, Fridtjof Nansens Institute:
Further tightening of EU emissions trading? Options and political feasibility

11.40 – 12.00 **Sebastian Oberthür**, Free University Brussels:
The EU's 2030 Framework for Renewable Energy: A Case of (negative) Policy Feedback?

12.00 – 12.45 *Panel discussion: Miranda Schreurs, Jørgen Wettestad, Sebastian Oberthür*

12.45 – 13.45 *Lunch break*

Case studies – How does EU policies influence countries' policy mixes?

Chair:	<i>Miranda A. Schreurs, Freie Universität Berlin</i>
13.45 – 14.10	Merethe Leiren, CICERO: Renewable energy policies in the UK: An unstable path towards complexity
14.10 – 14.30	Dörte Ohlhorst, Freie Universität Berlin Germany's interaction with the EU: How did Germany influence European renewable energy policy – and vice versa?
14.30 – 14.50	Elin Lerum Boasson, CICERO and University of Oslo Norway's renewable energy policy: Why will Norway abolish the Green Certificate Scheme?
14.50 – 15.10	Guri Bang, CICERO: A deviant case: California's interaction with the U.S. federal level - Can California be a role model for federal U.S. climate policy?
15.10 – 16.00	<i>concluding discussion</i>
16.00	<i>end of workshop</i>