



## National Renewable Energy Action Plans: EBA's evaluation of the Biogas contribution

### Introduction

Article 4 of the renewable energy Directive (2009/28/EC) requires Member States to submit National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs) by 30 June 2010. These plans, to be prepared in accordance with the template published by the Commission, provide detailed roadmaps of how each Member State expects to reach its 2020 target for the share of renewable energy in their final energy consumption. EU sets an ambitious goal to source 20% of its energy from renewable and 10% share of 'green fuels' in transport by 2020.

### Biomass Potential

According to **G.Öttinger**, Commissioner for Energy, the National Renewable Energy Action plans confirm that biomass consumption in the EU will double by 2020. Biomass and wind energy are the two key technologies Member States will rely on to reach their national renewable energy targets. This will mean more jobs and improved economic and social development in European regions. In the EU around 5% of final energy consumption today comes from bio-energy. Most of this potential can be realized through the sustainable use of local biomass. The European Environment Agency has estimated that around 235 Mtoe of biomass could be made available in the EU by 2020 without harming the environment. AEBIOM estimates over 170 Mtoe of biomass available in the EU by 2020.

EBA has analyzed the 21 NREAPs that were submitted to the European Commission by September 30, 2010, i.e. all EU Member States except Belgium, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia. The survey provides information on the development of the biogas production in the EU Member States and includes detailed information about the biogas share in electricity, heating and cooling and transport production. It also includes feed backs of the national member associations on the NREAPs of their own countries.

The NREAPs are available on the transparency platform (more information on NREAPs: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/transparency\\_platform/action\\_plan\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/transparency_platform/action_plan_en.htm)).

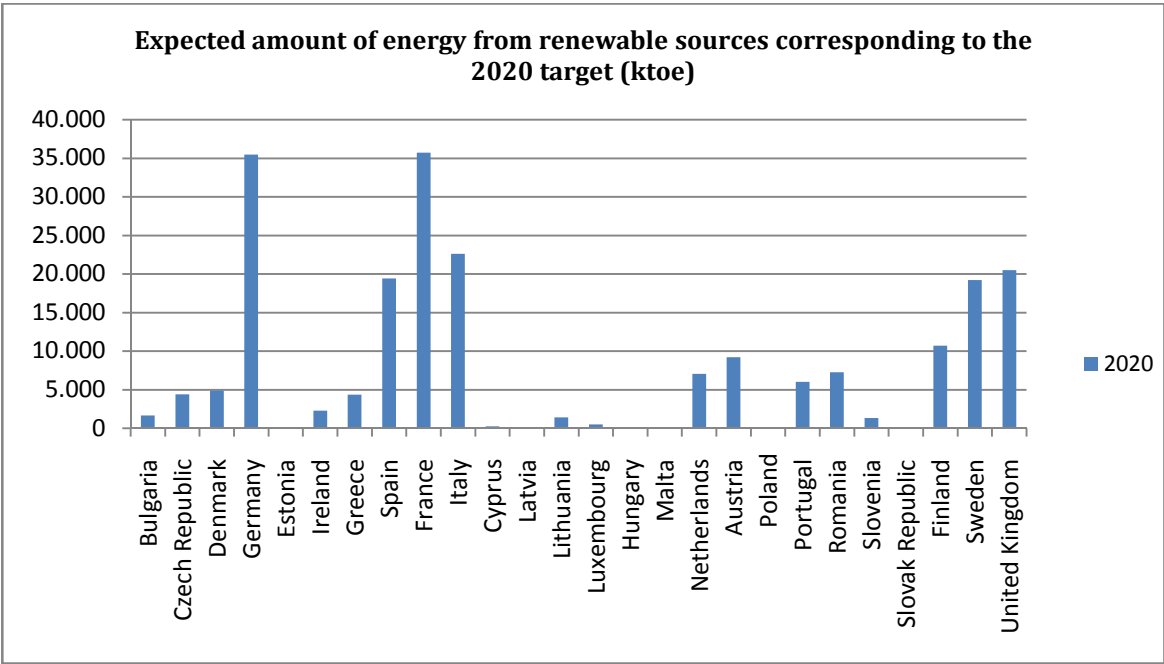
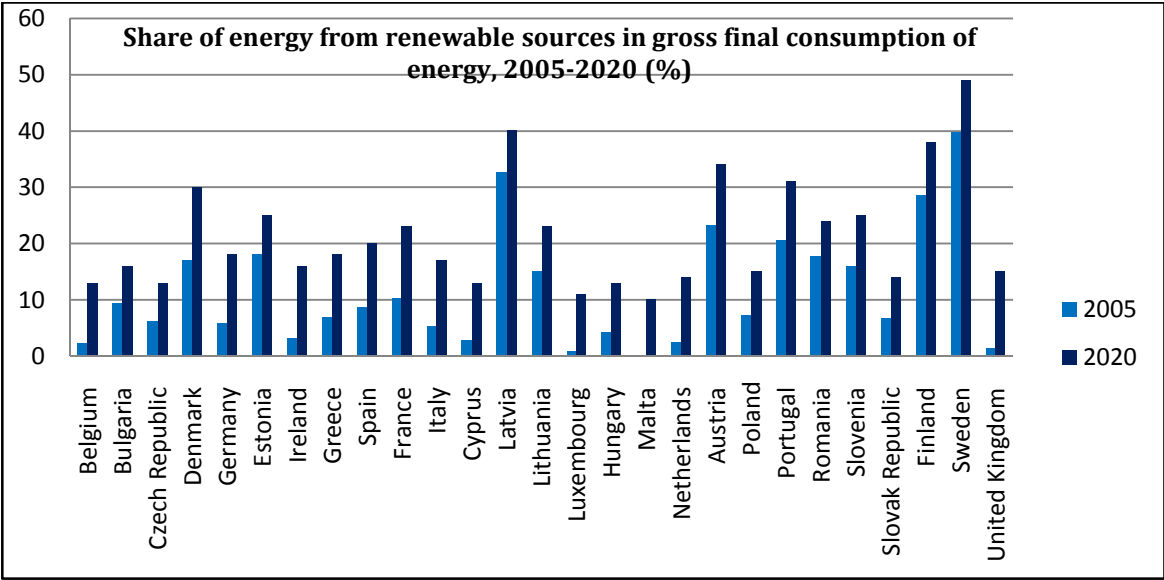
National Plans are politically important as they demonstrate common efforts towards a low-carbon economy. They also create a degree of certainty for all those investing in renewables in Europe and clearly indicate renewable energy sources as a priority on the political agenda of the governments. "Europe needs to move away from thinking about developing renewables in terms of sovereignty and realize that it is just plain and simple

self-interest” said **P.Lowe**, European Commission Director General for Energy during the lunch debate on National Renewable Energy Action Plans, June 30, 2010.

Although NREAPs are a reliable source of information on the renewables and contribute to creating better policies and sharing best practises, in comparison to the Renewable Energy Policy Country Profiles prepared within the Intelligent Energy Europe project in 2009, a vast potential of the energy was untapped.

**Overall targets, Directive 2009/28/EC**

The tables indicate national overall targets for the share of energy from **renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy in 2020** and **expected amount of energy from renewable sources corresponding to the 2020 target**.



According to the NREAPs Germany, France, Italy, United Kingdom and Sweden are expected to produce the highest share of energy from renewable sources in 2020 (France and Germany – up to 35 000 ktoe). Some countries like Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, United Kingdom will have to increase the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy remarkably.

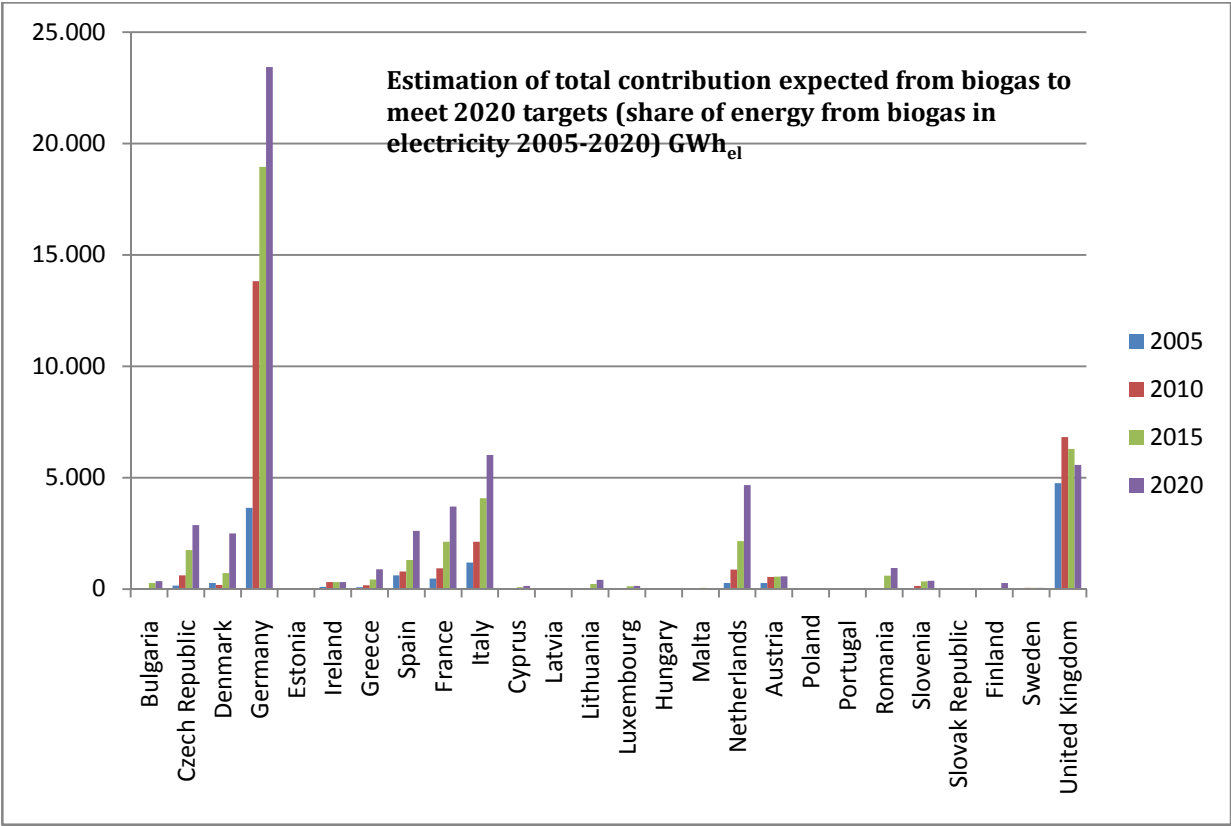
**Biogas perspective**

**Comments on NREAPs**

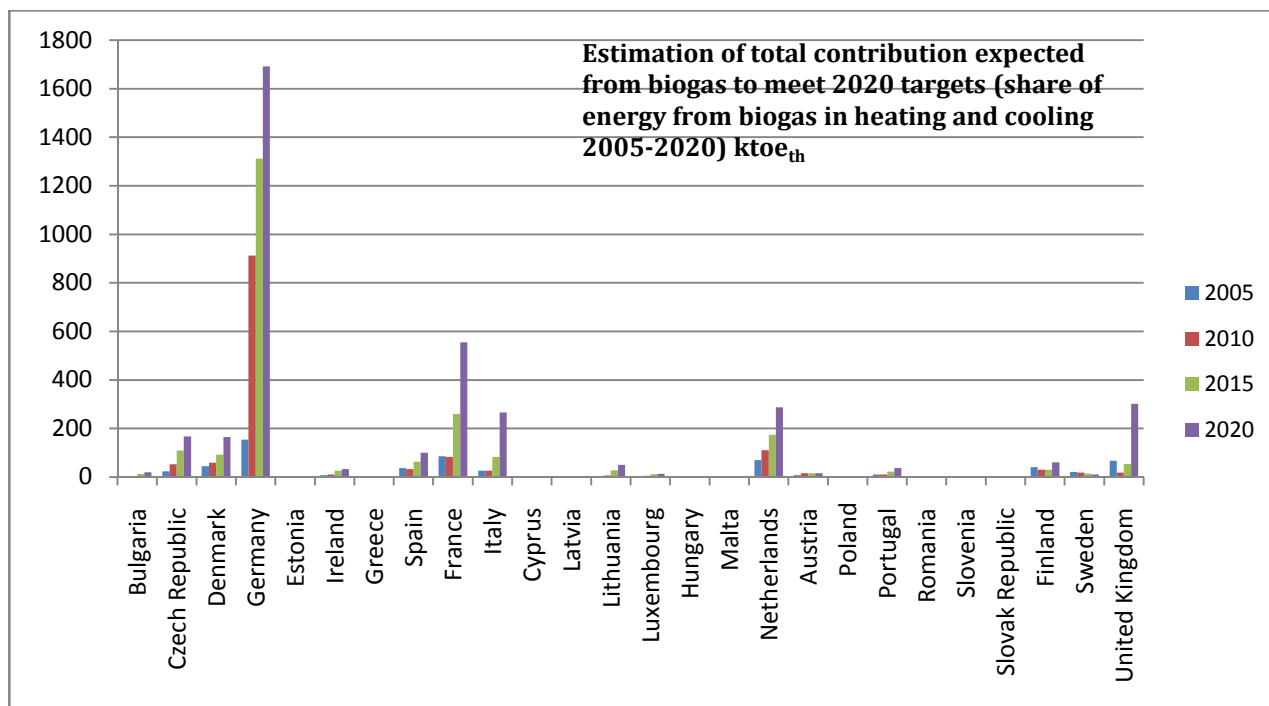
EBA has received 10 comments on NREAPs from the National Associations: Estonia, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Czech Republic, Austria and Italy.

Data on the biogas in NREAPs is provided in 3 tables and leads to a conclusion that average increase of biogas share in renewable energy mix is under the average increase of other renewable energy sources.

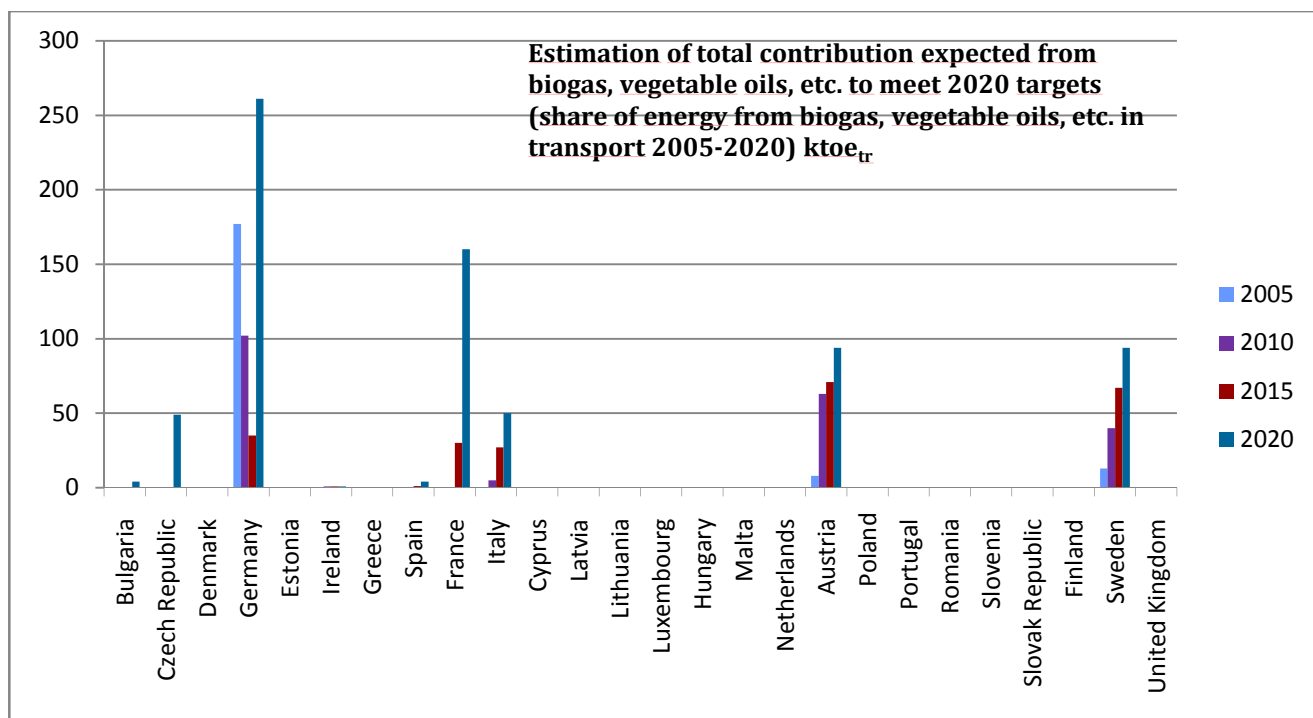
- **Table 10.b** – Estimation of total contribution (installed capacity, gross electricity generation) expected from each renewable energy technology in [Member State] to meet the binding 2020 targets and the indicative interim trajectory for the shares of energy from renewable resources in electricity 2010 -2020 (GWh<sub>el</sub>)



- **Table 11** - Estimation of total contribution (final energy consumption expected from each renewable energy technology in [Member State] to meet the binding 2020 targets and the indicative interim trajectory for the shares of energy from renewable resources in heating and cooling 2010-2020 (ktoe<sub>th</sub>)



- **Table 12** - Estimation of total contribution expected from each renewable energy technology in [Member State] to meet the binding 2020 targets and the indicative interim trajectory for the shares of energy from renewable resources in the transport sector 2010-2020 (ktOE<sub>tr</sub>)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> NREAPs indicate biogas in the line 'Others (as biogas, vegetable oils, etc.) - please specify'. Sweden specifies 'Others' - 'The line "other" only includes biogas and all biogas is assumed to come after prioritized raw materials.