

Transforming Europe's Electricity Supply - An Infrastructure Strategy for a Reliable, Renewable and Secure Power System

European Academies Science Advisory Council, EASAC policy report 11

Overhauled and fully connected EU grid needed to deliver on renewables promise

The EU's renewable energy targets cannot be reached without completely overhauling, upgrading and fully connecting the electricity grids spanning the whole of Europe, states a report by EASAC (the European Academies Science Advisory Council) published today (11th June 2009). The European Union has set a target of a 20% share of energy coming from renewables by 2020.

The report* explains that the current systems are poorly integrated and coordinated, and very limited in their ability to transfer energy from renewable power generators over large distances and across national borders to the locations where the energy is needed.

Dr John Holmes, one of the authors of the report, said: "The electrical demands of the European Union are complex and the targets for renewable energy use are challenging. We must make major changes to the current delivery systems in the EU and become more coordinated if we are to meet these targets. This report gives the EU Directorate General a blueprint for a brighter, greener future in Europe."

The report, produced by the national science academies of the European Union, details how a future European electricity grid should be developed and managed.

Dr Holmes added, "In addition to improving the EU's ability to make the most of our renewable resources, the enhanced European electricity grid will be very beneficial to consumers, as the system will be more efficient and will introduce more competition to the marketplace, reducing energy costs. Given that fuel poverty affects many citizens in the EU, this can only be good news."

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For further information contact: the EASAC Secretariat at easac@royalsociety.org or see its website at <http://www.easac.org>.