

LAW AND POLITICS

European Union adopted a binding 20% target for renewable energy

On 8-9th March 2007, a European Union Summit was held in Brussels, during which leaders of 27 Member States discussed i.a. about energy and actions aiming to prevent further climate change.

The European Council reaffirmed the Community's long-term commitment to the EU-wide development of renewable energies beyond 2010 and endorsed a binding target of a 20% share of renewable energies in overall EU energy consumption by 2020.

More at www.pwea.pl

Source: <http://consilium.europa.eu>

New Secretary of State in Ministry of Economy

On 2nd March 2007, the Prime Minister, Mr. Jarosław Kaczyński appointed Mr. Krzysztof Tchórzewski to a post of Secretary of State in Ministry of Economy.

The new Vice-minister will be dealing with i.a. matters concerning power industry in the extent of negotiations over "Strategy of coal mining activity in Poland in years 2007-2015".

Source: www.mg.gov.pl

Indicative list of key and large projects for Operational Programme "Infrastructure and Environment"

On 27th February 2007, the Council of Ministers adopted an indicative list of individual key projects, including large ones, within National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 for the Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment.

Key projects are investment enterprises which realization is essential as far as reaching strategic development targets for a particular economy sector or region are concerned. Large projects are investments with a value over 25 million Euro in case of environment protection sector, and 50 million Euro in other economy sectors.

The indicative list of key projects, together with large ones, includes 516 projects with a total cost of 49,35 milliard Euro. The list has an indicative character (exemplary) and does not settle the issue of support for investments included in it.

Source: www.mrr.gov.pl

LAW AND POLITICS	2
MARKETS.....	6
TECHNOLOGY.....	8
EVENTS.....	9
CURRENT ACTIVITY OF PWEA	10
MEMBERS.....	10

newsletter



New areas of habitat protection within Nature 2000 net

Ministry of Environment prepared a draft list of new special habitat protection areas within Nature 2000 net.

The list of submitted areas in the continental and alpine region, forwarded to inter-resort settlements, can be found at websites of Ministry of Environment.

Source: www.mos.gov.pl

System of emission trade in Poland

Since January 2008, Poland will be obliged to 2001/80/EC Directive on reduction of emission of some air pollutants from large combustion plants (LCP). The Directive contains regulations for combustion plants with a nominal heat power equal or larger than 50 MW and concerns plants producing energy, above all power plants, heating plants and combined heat and power plants. According to the Directive reduction of emission can be reached throughout imposing individual emission standards on all plants or introduction of a National Emissions Reduction Plan.

More at www.psew.pl

Source: www.mos.gov.pl

Meeting of the EU Environment Council

Meeting of the Environment Council took place on 20th February, 2007 in Brussels. Professor Jan Szyszko, Minister of the Environment, participated in debates, the major topic of which was EU targets in the extent of solutions of global climate after 2012.

Union ministers approved the European Commission's proposal to reduce CO₂ emission by 20% in 2020.

The Polish Delegation clearly supported the activities aiming at the further limitation of greenhouse gas emission, and as a result of its activities, it was agreed particular Member States' contributions to implementation of the future reduction target will be differentiated, which means that 1988 will be recognized as the base year for calculation of the reductions.

Source: www.mos.gov.pl

Implementation system of EU funds 2007-13

5 managing institutions, 32 institutions mediating in management and 56 implementing institutions are expected to be created within the national system of operational programmes realization. Management of regional programmes will belong to governments of voivodeships. In majority of regions creation of intermediary institutions is not expected, and proper units in marshal offices will be responsible for all actions in respect of management.

According to union regulations, all institutions participating in realization of the programmes have to acquire a certificate of compatibility with union requirements, that is why Ministry of Finance is currently running a pre-audit of institutions, which results must be presented within 12 months since the moment of accepting the programme by the European Commission. If one of the institutions engaged in realization of the programme does not acquire the certificate, the Commission has the right to withhold the refund of resources for the whole priority, however, when two institutions do not acquire the certificate, refunds for the whole operational programme can be withheld.

Moreover, in years 2007-13 implementation system of funds will be regulated by horizontal guidelines – common for all operational programmes and guidelines for particular operational programmes concerning e.g. choice of project, qualifying expenses or monitoring. At present, the first guidelines on conducting negotiations with the European Commission are already binding, and Ministry of Regional Development is planning to prepare all other guidelines concerning operation of the whole system, by the end of August.

Source: www.mrr.gov.pl

Position on releasing companies producing energy in renewable energy sources from the duty of presenting information on incomes from activity under concession

According to the Energy Law companies producing energy in renewable energy sources are obliged to obtain concession and have to fulfill a number of conditions that adapt their activity to rules mentioned in the Act and rules of market economy. The conditions concern i.a. reporting and giving information by companies and also obligate concessionaires to present to the President of the Energy Regulatory Office till 1st of March each year, information on size and incomes from activity under concession, reached in the previous year.

More at www.psew.pl

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Steering Group for implementation of „Programme for electrical power engineering”

Works of the Steering Group for implementation of „Programme for electrical power engineering” are continued. During successive meetings it was i.a. agreed that boards of consolidated companies are obliged to inform the public about the approved methods of consolidation and progress of works at the level of companies.

The object of public consultations is: course of issuing shares of consolidated companies to the employees, way of choosing distribution system operators and realization of hitherto concluded social contracts. Further meetings with the public and consolidated companies at the level of groups are expected, also with Minister of Economy attending them.

The Steering Group has also agreed that abodes of consolidated groups of energy companies will be: Lublin – for PGE Group; Poznań – Center Group; Katowice – South Group and Gdańsk – North Group. Furthermore, in the nearest future the way of choosing distribution system operators will be presented to proper organs of the companies, that will perform appointment according to the law.

Source: www.mgip.gov.pl

II anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol

On 16th February 2006, it has been two years since implementation of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Protocol was signed in Kyoto on 11th December 1997, but it was implemented on 16th February 2005, when Russia had ratified it, and the document gained an adequate number of signatories – 141 countries. Altogether the Protocol has already been ratified by 169 countries from all over the world.

More at www.psew.pl

Renewable energy effective in fight against climate change

Renewable energy proves also to be an efficient tool in preventing further climate change. Weather anomalies, changes like increase in sea level or melting of glaciers, being result of greenhouse effect, advance at dramatic pace. Burning of fossil fuels is most often mentioned as a reason for negative climatic changes. In 2006 CO₂ emission in the world energy sector amounted to 27 milliard tones.

More at www.psew.pl

European Policy Workshop on Offshore Wind Power Deployment

On 22-23 February 2007, in Berlin, around 100 representatives from European governments, the European Commission, the wind power industry and the scientific community from 12 EU Member States took part in a two day policy workshop "European Policy Workshop on Offshore Wind Power Deployment" dedicated to the deployment of offshore wind in Europe.

Participants of the meeting called to initiate a policy for offshore wind power, in the form of an Action Plan, which integral part should be creation of a European 'super-grid' allowing connection of large amounts of offshore wind power. Moreover, the attendees welcomed the EU Energy Package, but stressed that the package is not specific enough to promote offshore wind power in Europe.

Support was also given to the initiative of designating a European coordinator on grids for northern European offshore wind power plants. Among other calls, the participants are also encouraging the Commission to consider a project to identify risks and barriers to the large scale development of offshore wind power in Europe.

Source: www.ewea.org

Meeting of the National Association Network

On 28th February, 2007, 10th meeting of the National Association Network – NAN, was held in Brussels. The following topics were discussed during the meeting: current EU policy on wind energy, Green Paper "Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas" and energy package proposed by the European Commission in January this year. The Polish Wind Energy Association was represented by the President, Mr. Jarosław Mroczek.

More at www.psew.pl

Renewable sources can meet 100% of energy demand

At present, share of renewable energies in energy production in Germany amounts to 12% and it is expected that in 2030 this level will increase to about 30%. In the meantime, looking at the example Denmark, it can be said that renewable sources can meet 100% of energy demand. However, the condition is to open up the grid and restructure it for connection of new capacities.

The issue of possibility to connect to the grid is essential, as its lack of can be a serious barrier to development of the renewable energy sector. It is currently known, that wind energy does not disturb operation of the grid, but on the contrary. The best example is the blackout, that took place on 4th November 2006, when wind farms contributed to stabilization of the power system.

Source: www.unendlich-viel-energie.de

MARKETS

UK becomes 7th country in world to install over 2 GW of wind energy

UK has become the 7th country in world to install over 2 GW of wind energy. These 2 GW of wind power in the UK will generate sufficient electricity to meet the needs of 4% of UK homes i.e. 1,1 million households.

Development of onshore wind is quite rapid in the UK. In June 2005, 14 years after construction of the UK's first commercial wind farm - Delabole in Cornwall, the British achieved the 1 GW milestone. Only 20 months later, the UK has 2 GW with a total of 137 projects.

In 2010 the UK is to reach the government's target of 10% of electricity supplies from renewables. Projects with a total capacity of 771 MW are already under construction, but a potential 7,8 GW of UK electricity supplies is still caught in the planning system from onshore wind projects alone, an issue that needs to be resolved rapidly if the country is to reach 3 GW.

Source: www.bwea.com

The biggest wind farm in Sweden on its way

In Lillgrund, in Sund Strait, Vattenfal company has finished construction of foundations for the biggest wind farm in Sweden.

Construction of the park will be completed at the end of 2007, and energy produced in Lillgrund will meet the demand of over 60000 households.

Source: www.ekologika.pl

Arctic Research station powered un 98% from renewable sources

A research station equipped with 8 wind turbines that will substitute diesel generators being currently its main power source, will be built during the next two years at Antarctica. Apart from wind turbines, energy for the station will be generated by systems gathering sunlight, and altogether renewable sources will meet 98% of energy demand of the station.

The station will be equipped with turbines with a capacity of 6 kW, that were especially designed to operate in extreme weather conditions. The turbines possess one of the best efficiency indicators, that annually allows to produce from 6 to 12 MWh of energy.

Up till now wind parks have not been taken into consideration as equipment of research stations at south pole, as they were not adopted to operation in conditions where average wind speed amounts to 85 km/h (in gusts even to 320 km/h) and exploitation is additionally hindered by temperature dropping even to -60 degrees Celsius.

Source: www.energetyka.xtech.pl

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Wind farm Suffolk has a building permit

Offshore wind farm with capacity of 500 MW will be built 25 km offshore Suffolk. Investment of Airtricity and American company Fluor will comprise of 140 turbines located at the area of 150 square kilometers, that will deliver energy to over 415000 households. Energy generated by the turbines will allow to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 1,5 million tones annually. Investment cost is 1,2 milliard pounds, and 2009 is the expected time when the farm will be ready for exploitation.

Capacity of all offshore wind farms that are to be built by the British will be 10 GW. Such investments are necessary if Great Britain is to fulfill the target of reducing carbon dioxide emission by 60% in 2050.

Source: www.energetyka.xtech.pl

Wind farms safe for birds

According to recent research of Danish scientists offshore wind farms are no threat to birds, because birds omit wind turbines. Monitoring was conducted with a video camera installed at an offshore turbine in Denmark. The appliance, developed by a Danish research institution - National Environmental Research Institute, with a special system the so called Thermal Animal Detection System (TADS) reacting to heat, is able to register any bird hitting a turbine.

First results of the research show that sea birds avoid offshore installations. During 2400 hours of recording, carried out in Autumn last year, at a turbine located at one of the most popular migratory routes at the Baltic Sea, only 15 birds and bats were registered near the appliance, including one collision of a small bird or a bat with a turbine.

Thanks to use of the radar and visual monitoring, scientists have observed that majority of birds avoids not only single turbines but also the whole wind farms. In the location under research, birds usually flied beyond reach of the blades, in a wide for half a kilometer belt between turbines.

Source: www.energetyka.xtech.pl

One of the biggest wind farms in the world to be built in Canada

A wind farm with a capacity of 3000 MW will be built in Canada at northern-west coast of British Columbia. Turbines with a total capacity of 700 MW will be set during the first stage of the investment. It is planned that they will be ready for exploitation at the beginning of 2009. Total cost of the investment amounts to 4 milliard euro.

Wind conditions in the region where the investment will be realized are one of the best in the world and comparable to those in offshore areas.

Source: www.energetyka.xtech.pl

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China to become the world leader in wind energy

According to the 2006 Annual Report on China's New Energy Industry China is expected to overtake Germany and the United States to become the world's largest wind power producer by 2020.

Recently, the Chinese wind energy market have seen a rapid development. The average annual increase of installed capacity amounted to 30%, rising from 350 MW in 2000 to 1260 MW in 2005. Moreover, the report says that China possesses wind power resources of 3200 GW.

China has set up more than sixty wind power farms around the country. According to China's national development plan, the total installed capacity of wind power will reach 5000 MW by 2010 and 30 GW by 2020. During the 11th Five-Year Plan period (2006-2010), China will set up about 30 large wind power projects of 100 MW.

Source: GWEC

Spanish wind energy market

As of January 1, 2007, the installed wind power in Spain stood at 11615 MW. The 1587 MW installed during 2006 represent an annual growth of 15,8%.

These figures seem to confirm a tendency toward an annual growth of around 1550 MW, which according to Spanish Wind Energy Association (AEE) and Spanish Renewable Energy Association (APPA), is insufficient to reach the target of 20155 MW installed by the end of 2010.

During 2006 wind power plants in Spain generated 22198,67 GWh, which is 6,48% more than in 2005, and provides for 9% of the demand.

Source: GWEC

TECHNOLOGY

New construction of wind turbine blades

A new shape of wind turbine blades adopted to operate at smaller wind speed, has been developed in Sandia National Laboratories in cooperation with producer of wind turbines blades, company Knight & Carter.

The new construction, named STAR (Sweet Twist Adaptive Rotor), should significantly lower the unit cost of energy produced by wind turbines operating at low wind speed.

New wind turbine blade has a better tolerance for strong wind gusts, which allowed to lengthen it to 27,1 meters, which is almost 3 meters more than classic blades installed at the same rotor like the new construction. The blade is currently at test stage that check its operation in natural conditions against computer simulation.

Source: www.energetyka.xtech.pl

EVENTS

The European Offshore Wind Conference

On 4-6 December 2007, the first European conference dedicated to offshore wind energy, which will then rotate between markets with significant offshore potential, will be held in Berlin.

During the conference, issues of major importance for offshore markets, in the areas of technology, grids, development, installation, operation and maintenance will be discussed.

The event is aimed at initiating an international exchange of experience on policy, planning, finance and technical developments.

Source: www.eow2007.info

EXPOPOWER 2007 – Energy fairs in Poznań

On 22-24 May 2007, first edition of International Energy Fairs EXPOPOWER will be held in Poznań, Poland. Leading companies representing energy and energy-technical sector are among exhibitors.

Patronage over EXPOPOWER fairs is held by: Energy and Environment Protection Economic Chamber, Polish Association for Energy Transmission and Distribution, Association of Polish Electrical Engineers SEP and Polish Chamber of Appliances and Services for Railway. EXPOPOWER fairs will also be held under auspices of Minister of Economy.

A few conferences and seminars on the latest technological solutions in the extent of power engineering will be organized during the fairs.

Source: www.expopower.pl

newsletter

CURRENT ACTIVITY OF PWEA

Our activity in February and March:

On 15th February 2007, a General Meeting of PWEA Members was held, during which i.a: Report from Activities in 2006 and Financial Statement for year 2006 were approved, Action Plan and Financial Plan for 2007 were presented and approved, preparations to the conference "Wind Energy Market in Poland" were discussed and a supplementary election to the Association Authorities were carried out. Representatives of companies Vattenfall Poland sp. z o.o., E-ON Energy Projects GmbH, Electrabel Zielona Energia sp. z o.o. and Gamesa Wind GmbH were chosen vice-presidents.

PWEA submitted a letter to the Prime Minister, Mr. Jarosław Kaczyński and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Anna Fotyga, Minister of Economy, Mr. Piotr Grzegorz Woźniak and Minister of Environment, Mr. Jan Szyszko, in which the Association asks to support introduction of a bidding target for the European Union in the extent of share of energy from renewable sources in 2020.

Representative of PWEA will take part in Works of the TPWind Steering Committee

On 19th October 2006, the European Wind Energy Technology Platform – TPWind has been launched. TPWind will deal with i.a. policy regulating operation of the wind energy market, technology in the extent of wind energy and pathways for development of the sector. The Platform consists of companies operating at wind energy market, representatives of government administration of EU member countries, research institutes and financial institutions. Representative of the Association in works of the Platform will be Mr. Grzegorz Skarżyński, Vice-president of PWEA.

More at www.psew.pl

MEMBERS

We inform that new members have joined PWEA:

1. Electrabel Zielona Energia sp. z o.o. – sponsor supporting member.
2. E.ON Energy Projects GmbH – sponsor supporting member.
3. ExxonMobil Poland Sp. z o.o. – ordinary supporting member.
4. Mr. Andrzej Jastrząb – ordinary member (representative of Electrabel Zielona Energia sp. z o.o.), delegated to work in the PWEA Board.
5. Mr. Marian Kokoschka - ordinary member (representative of E.ON Energy Projects GmbH), delegated to work in the PWEA Board.

Currently 31 ordinary members and 25 supporting members including 12 sponsors and 13 ordinary supporting members belong to PWEA.