

# EREF

European Renewable Energies Federation  
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## **Europe too shy in using the power of Renewables to heal and recover its economies**

- Economic crisis, Rescue Packages in EU 27 and Renewable Energy

EREF publishes today a report and overview on the current rescue efforts by EU Member States and the European Union in relation to renewable energies and technologies.

Facing severe economic downturn in consequence of the financing and banking crisis most European countries took specific measures to slow the unfold of a drama and to increase confidence. Hoping to stem financial meltdown and avoid a deep recession they heavily invest public money into their different banks and for key industrial sectors. The objective is to give short-term stimulus in the classical way of recession abatement policies, meaning the states actively interfere and try to create markets and conditions for stimulating confidence and spending. In view of the clear delivery by the renewable energy sector during the past decade to create impressive quality jobs in Europe it seems adequate that Member States would use especially spending to trigger this industry further.

This overview tries to analyse the plans of the various Member States from publicly available data and to show if and how much is done in this respect.

There is certainly some positive opening towards renewable industry as one key factor for recovery in many European countries especially also in the old Member States, but often the classic infrastructure projects remain at the forefront. Italy seems to give up on any increased renewable and efficiency policy or the potential of these industries to deliver, for the time being. The new Member States from Central and Eastern Europe show the least courageous and a divided picture with Slovenia, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary providing no opening towards renewable industry stimulus and Czech Republic at least mentioning energy efficiency, Poland and Romania opening towards more Renewable stimulus and Bulgaria, Estonia and Romania tabling support to concrete Renewable Energy projects. The big overall green energetic push in Europe is still lacking.

The European Commission so far only proposed a very wooden stimulus package in energy with clear favouring of Carbon Sequestration and only proposing offshore wind as beneficiary RES technology application, restricted to those offshore projects belonging in their majority to the incumbent big utilities.