

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS IN THE SPHERE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES DEVELOPMENT

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The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union adopted in 2009 Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources.

In accordance with Directive 2009/28/EC mandatory national targets were established for all Members of the European Union in the sphere of renewable energy sources development.

Firstly, it is necessary for the European Union to produce at least 20% of energy from renewable energy sources in gross final consumption by 2020. According to the Directive the Community 20 % target is to be transformed into individual targets for each Member State. Taking into account that every Member State has its own starting point and energy potential, the individual targets will be different.

Secondly, Member States are to promote 10% of energy from renewable energy sources in transport sector in gross final consumption by 2020. The same targets are established for each Member State in order to ensure consistency in transport fuel availability. It is important that 10 % mandatory target for transport should include energy from renewable energy sources as a whole, and not from biofuels alone.

Member States have different renewable energy potentials and operate various schemes of support for energy from renewable sources at the national level. Given that it is difficult for some Member States to reach the necessary targets, the Directive permits them to import electricity produced from renewable energy sources outside the Community and count it towards binding goals.

The Directive envisages that such imports are to be tracked and accounted for in a reliable way. Secondly, it is appropriate that such joint projects should relate only to newly constructed installations or to installations with newly increased capacity. Finally, the third countries should provide domestic use of part of the production of electricity by the installations covered by the joint project.

In this context, it is reasonable for the Republic of Belarus to develop bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the Member States in the sphere of renewable energy sources development. In particular, it will be useful for both parties to organize cross-border trade of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. The Republic of Belarus is sure to benefit from the process financially. In their turn Member States will be able to reach the needed targets much faster.

The most important and difficult step in this process is to conclude proper mutually beneficial international agreements.