

Conclusions

The current report tries to portray, in abridged form, the challenge of sustainability for the Portuguese energy system. It is clear from what has been reported that the Portuguese energy system, far from being sustainable, has in fact, diverged from sustainable patterns over the period researched. Energy intensity increased (almost uniquely in the OECD), per capita emissions grew at unprecedented pace, and the switch to more sustainable forms of energy production, to put it simply, did not take place. Current developments, while encouraging, have certainly not changed the overall picture as reflected in these eight indicators. This picture, far from being an environmental, marginal concern, should be at the core of every policy in Portugal in the coming years. It is now clear that consumption patterns in Portugal, in particular, the transport sector and the services sector must somehow face up to the challenge of sustainability.