

## Introduction

This is the first Sustainable Energy Watch report for the European Union as a distinct regional group. It was prepared in a collaborative effort between HELIO International and Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, a Brussels based non-profit organisation that works on European and international climate politics, with a focus on sustainable energy issues.

The main parts of the report were produced by Matthias Duwe, policy researcher with CAN Europe. Specific input on EU energy policy and general feedback was provided by other CAN Europe staff, notably energy specialists Jason Anderson and Rob Bradley. The section on specific developments in EU Member States was based on three national SEW reports (France, Germany and Portugal) and targeted input from CAN Europe member organisations from Belgium, Ireland and the UK. Vital support was also received from Anke Herold at the Berlin section of the German Eco-Institute and Benoit Lebot at the International Energy Agency. Naturally, the production of this report would not have taken place without the determination and support of Helene Connor at HELIO International in Paris.

Due to the constraints regarding time and finances under which this report was produced, not the full set of SEW indicators could be evaluated. Data on energy investment was not available in time, preventing the calculation of indicators 4 and 6. For indicator 3 on the access of households to electricity no separate statistics could be found. It is generally assumed that close to all households in the EU have access to electricity and the lack of statistics seems to support this assumption. It is no longer regarded as a relevant issue for EU countries. Due to the time it takes until concise and updated annual data collection are published, most of the indicators refer to 1999 data as the most current value, two indicators refer to 1998. Where available, more up-to-date information was inserted to comment on possible developments within the last two or three years.

Despite these limitations, the results have proven to CAN Europe and HELIO International that the first SEW regional report on the European Union was a worthwhile exercise, which should be repeated in the future.

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