

# D9: EED implementation in Germany

06 February 2014

In addition to the German annual reports and National Energy Efficiency Action Plans according to Article 24 of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), this summary report provides brief information on the current status of the ongoing implementation of the EED in Germany and thereby meets the commitment of the CA EED participants to update the Commission on this issue. Also, the national energy efficiency policy framework outlined in this summary report demonstrates and underlines Germany's commitment to energy efficiency policy in general and the national implementation of the EED in particular.

Germany has a long tradition in the field of energy efficiency, starting with the oil crisis back in the 1970s. Within the last decades, the legal, economic and political context of energy efficiency in Germany has been strongly developed on a national level, taking into account the framework conditions set on European level.

In general, Germany has a long tradition of pursuing a market-based approach to increase and further enhance energy efficiency. This has led to the development of a large and well established market for energy efficiency. However, a further development of this still rapidly growing market with high additional economic potentials for energy efficiency increases offers potential to further trigger private investments in energy efficiency and to strengthen public support for energy efficiency.

This general approach is strategically complemented and supported by a broad mix of policy instruments across all relevant sectors of the economy, including for example sectoral administrative regulations, taxation, promotional programmes, information measures or sectoral voluntary agreements (for further information, see Germany's National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2011). These policy measures are well established, but they are also subject to constant further improvement and targeted supplementation, where deemed necessary and beneficial. In combination with the implementation of EU regulation, this forms a strong and successful framework for increasing energy efficiency. In 2011, for example, Germany has reduced its absolute level of both primary and end-use energy consumption by about 10% compared to 2006, although its GDP increased by 6 % in the same period of

time. Furthermore, Germany has increased its overall and sectoral energy productivity significantly over the last decades.

A further long-term commitment to and improvement of energy efficiency is one of the key elements of the Federal Government's Energy Concept (Energiekonzept), adopted on 28 September 2010 and complemented by additional decisions taken by the Federal Government on 6 June 2011. With the Energy Concept, the Federal Government has laid the ground for an environmental friendly, reliable and affordable energy supply. In order to achieve these goals, the Energy Concept provides guidelines for the development of a long term, until 2050 reaching, integrated overall strategy.

In the field of energy efficiency, this includes for example, that the high energy saving potentials of measures focusing on the increase of energy efficiency in the building sector should be exploited as far as possible, however, always under consideration of their technical feasibility and cost effectiveness.

The Federal Government has developed the Energy Concept on the background of the results of several scientifically-based energy scenarios and on the basis of its climate protection goals. The Energy Concept shows what has to be done in all important areas of activity, in order to ensure an efficient, safe and environmentally friendly energy supply for enterprises and private consumers.

Simultaneously, the Energy Concept contains a roadmap for the achievement of the climate protection goals which provides guidance for all relevant stakeholders. Therefore, enterprises and consumers receive orientation for the planned development and can rely on a clear and reliable framework.

Furthermore, the roadmap presented in the Energy Concept provides general and sector specific information about objectives. This can help to assess whether or not the accomplishment of the targets, during the observed and empirically examined time of development, is on track or in case it is not, if there is need for the readjustment of policies.

Also, the Federal Government decided on 6 June 2011 on an accelerated phasing out of nuclear energy in Germany. The result of this decision is the need for further and speeded up efforts in the fundamental conversion of the German energy system and the acceleration and increase of energy efficiency in Germany, as it already was pointed out in the Energy Concept.

Against this background, the new German Government elected in September 2013 is currently working on the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive under the lead of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi). Deadline for the implementation of the provisions of the EED is 5 June 2014.

In many areas, existing policies and regulations in Germany are already in place, that fully or at least to a large extent fulfil the provisions established on a European level by the EED and therefore contribute to the implementation of the EED in Germany. Examples include energy efficiency as part of regulations on public procurement or in the field of metering and billing as well as specific provisions and instruments to enhance the development of energy efficiency markets. These examples also underline the strong commitment and concrete action that Germany has taken in the field of energy efficiency at a very early point in time.

Nonetheless, the various and challenging provisions of the EED – especially in combination with tight time limits for their implementation – still pose significant remaining challenges for the implementation of the EED in Germany. In particular, this applies to the implementation of the provisions of Articles 5 (“Exemplary role of public bodies’ buildings”), 7 (“Energy efficiency obligation schemes”), 8 (“Energy audits and energy management systems”) and 14 (“Promotion of efficiency in heating and cooling”), although Germany has already taken action in all of these different policy areas ahead of the entering into force of the EED. One main challenge for the implementation of these EED provisions will therefore be to adjust and complement the already existing provisions and instruments on a national level in order to both fulfil the EED provisions and to establish an added value for the support of final energy consumers across all sectors of the economy.

Further information on the status of the implementation of the EED in Germany ahead of the implementation deadline in June 2014 will be submitted to the European Commission by the Federal Government in the first National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, which is due on 30 April 2014 according to Article 24 EED.