

Comments on the EU 2020 Renewable Energy Directive

Pete West

Sustainable Energy Project Manager,
Severn Wye Energy Agency

Member of the Management Board, INFORSE- Europe

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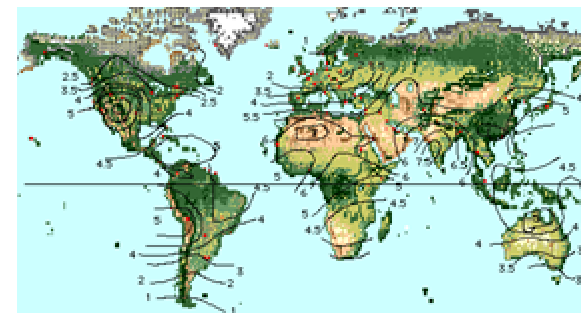
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SEVERN WYE ENERGY AGENCY

- Not- for- profit company and registered environmental charity
- Established in 1997 as a European SAVE II Energy Agency in with 3 staff
- Currently employs 25 full time staff in Gloucestershire, South-West England
- Winner of the UK National Ashden Award for Energy Efficiency, January 2006
- Currently partners in 7 Intelligent Energy Europe sustainable energy projects

INFORSE- Europe

- Co-ordinators of a global network of sustainable energy NGO's
- Currently 68 NGO member organisations in Europe with representatives in all member states



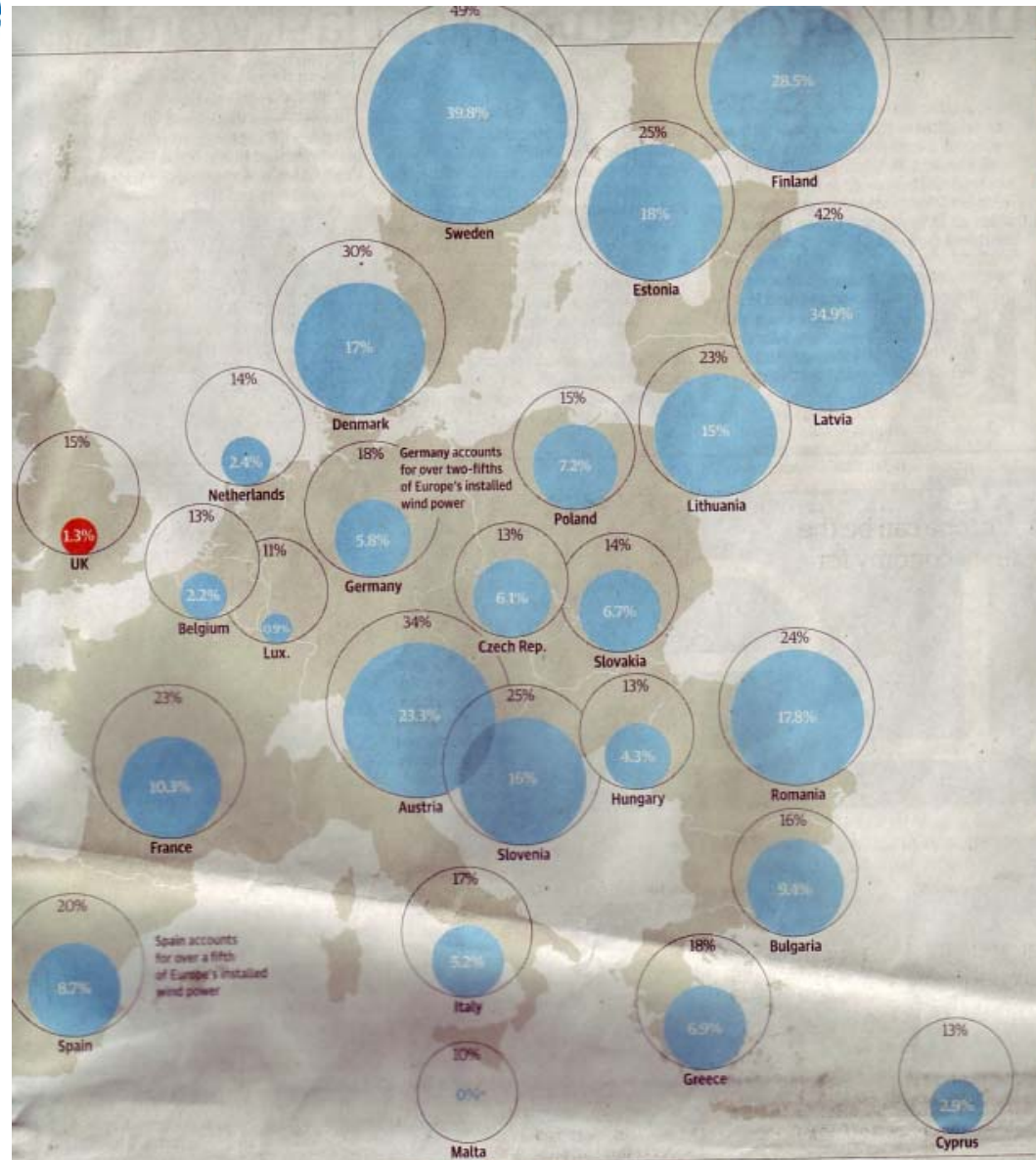


Cost of reducing CO₂ emissions 60% by 2050 will be approximately 1% of GDP per year for developed economies.

- Failure to reduce CO₂ emissions will cost between 5% and 20% of GDP per year by 2050
- In perspective, 1% of UK GDP represents an investment of €18 billion per year.
- EC Jan 2008- The EU Energy and Climate Change targets will cost 0.58% of EU GDP or €91 billion pa in 2020
- The EU will save €50 billion p.a. in oil imports if oil is \$61 a barrel in 2020 and €270 billion per annum if oil is \$100 barrel in 2020



Europe has shown exceptional leadership in tackling climate change, both within the EU and internationally, and much of the world is following Europe's lead. If Europe continues to build its record of success and at the same time uses its political weight to influence climate and energy policy around the world, the global impact will be profound. If it does not, it is difficult to imagine the world can stop global warming at anywhere near the two degree Celsius mark that avoids the worst impact.



**2005 baseline
percentage of
primary energy
from
renewables in
EU27 and
proposed 2020
renewable
energy targets**

BBC News 19th November 2007

PM outlines climate action plan



Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said there will be a "green hotline" to advise people on what they can do to cut their impact on the environment.

Mr Brown, who said the UK's emission target of a 60% cut by 2050 could be increased to 80%, said he would also seek the end of one-use plastic bags.

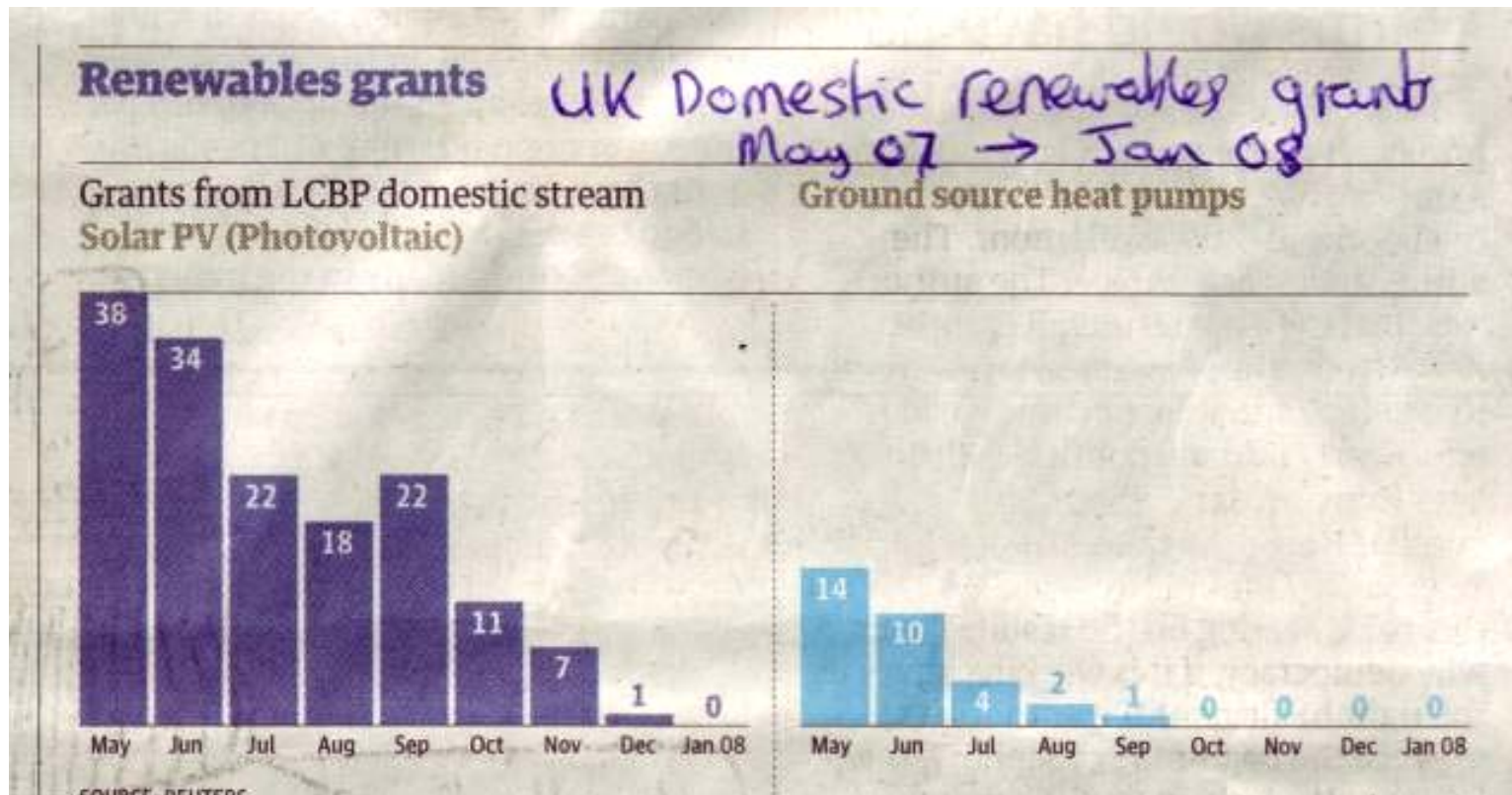
He committed Britain to meeting EU targets on boosting renewable energy.

There would be "hard choices and tough decisions" but he said a new low carbon economy could bring thousands of jobs.

The new Green Homes Service - a telephone line, website and advice centres - aims to provide a single point of contact for people who want a "home energy audit".

Liberal Democrat environment spokesman Chris Huhne said he wanted to see whether Mr Brown was prepared to meet promises on renewable energy without counting nuclear power.

"Boasts of a new green home service seem shallow when recent cuts to the Low Carbon Buildings Programme grants will dissuade many homeowners from installing renewable energy measures in their homes."



There were less than 160 domestic PV systems installed in the UK in the last 9 months of 2007 due to the low level of government support. The simple payback in England after financial support is 45 years. Germany installed sufficient PV to generate 1 billion kWh of electricity per year in the same period

The Times 10th Dec 2007
Offshore Wind Farms Could
Light up Britain



Enough electricity to light every home in Britain may be generated by plans to open up the seas to wind farms.

Up to 7,000 turbines could be installed around the coast to bring about a massive increase in wind energy by 2020. The proposals, announced by John Hutton, the Energy Secretary, were described by the wind industry and environmentalists as “a quantum leap” in government thinking.

Mr Hutton will today launch a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the seas around Britain. He hopes the initiative will allow the offshore wind industry to increase its capacity from 8 gigawatts to 33gw by 2020. Such expansion would be a “major contribution” to the EU meeting its pledge of one fifth of energy coming from renewable sources by 2020.



BBC News 23rd January 2008 UK 'to ignore' EU pollution plea

Big polluters in the UK currently have their carbon emissions capped

The government will ignore a plea from the EU to create a clean technology fund from a levy on pollution, BBC News has learned.

Instead the UK wants to divert the proceeds of the auction of EU Emissions Trading Scheme certificates, which could stretch to £1bn a year - into general Treasury funds.

It will mean that all UK energy users, including households, will pay part of their energy bills to the Treasury.

The Guardian newspaper reported on 24th January 2008:

" John Hutton, the business secretary, said the UK remained committed to meeting the EU renewable energy target share but insisted that other low-carbon technologies-including nuclear power- had to be part of the mix.

Battles are likely to develop among the 27 governments over the inclusion of nuclear energy."

Nuclear is UK's new North Sea oil – minister

Guardian 26th March 2008

Hutton claims expansion could be worth £20bn and bring 100,000 jobs

**Andrew Sparrow
Patrick Wintour**

A government minister will call today for a huge expansion of Britain's nuclear power in what he predicts could be a £20bn economic bonanza that will create 100,000 new jobs and benefit the economy as much as North Sea oil.

In an ambitious speech that will alarm the anti-nuclear lobby, John Hutton, the business secretary, will argue that the UK's nuclear programme should go beyond replacing the existing stock of 23 reactors, which provide 20% of the country's energy. Instead nuclear should contribute "a significantly higher proportion" of the nation's energy needs in the years ahead, and Britain should aim to become a world leader in the development of nuclear power technology.

He will argue that replacing the existing reactors will be equivalent to investment "three times the size of the project to build Terminal 5 at Heathrow", but that the economic benefits could be far greater if Britain went further.

the energy sector, Hutton will attempt to focus attention on the potential economic gains to be achieved from the replacement of Britain's nuclear reactors.

"Just replacing our existing capacity alone will equate to three times the size of the project to build Terminal 5 at Heathrow. It could represent around £20bn worth of business for UK companies," he will say.

"And with no artificial cap to constrain the potential of new build in the UK, there is every reason to believe that the industry could be contributing a significantly higher proportion of the UK in the decades ahead. Creating thousands of long-term highly skilled jobs directly within the energy industry and throughout the supply chain, the prize could be massive."

The prime minister, Gordon Brown, and the French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, are due to agree a deal on the construction of a new generation of power stations and the export of nuclear technology around the world at tomorrow's so-called Arsenal summit at the Emirates football stadium in north London.

In his speech, Hutton will argue that

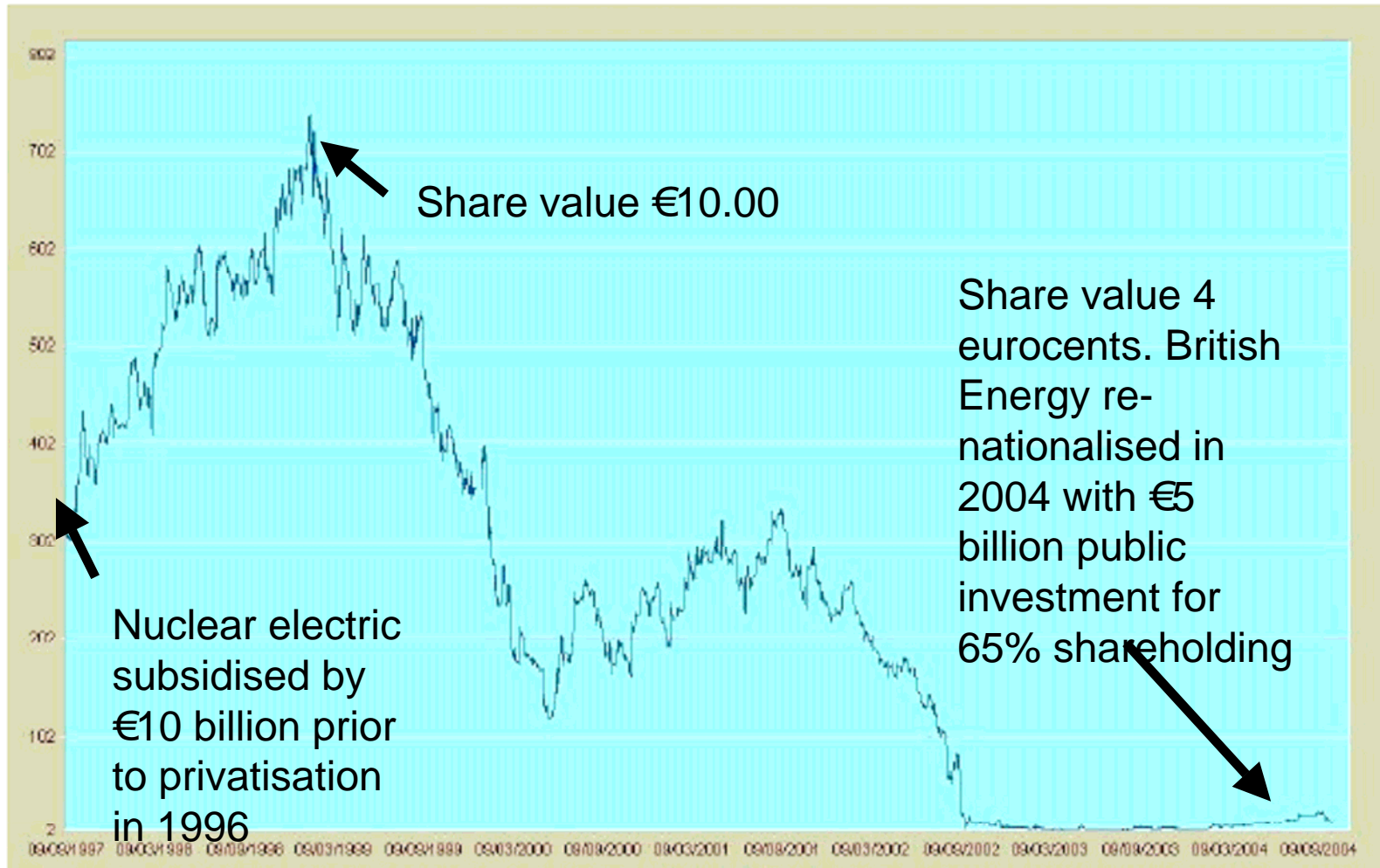
INFORSE-EUROPE

International Network for Sustainable Energy - Europe



A short recent history of the UK nuclear industry

Current public sector cost of nuclear waste management in the UK is currently €3 billion per year- the total cost is estimated at more than €100 billion.



British Energy Share Price 1997-2004

Britain seeks loophole in EU green energy targets

Guardian 25th March 2008

Government wants clean power projects abroad to count towards UK quota

John Vidal
Environment editor

Britain is seeking to change the rules governing renewable energy targets to make it easier for the UK to fulfil its commitment to promote clean energy, the Guardian has learned.

At present, only 3% of the UK's power comes from renewable energy, but ministers have agreed to increase this fivefold within 12 years. To help reach this goal, the government has started lobbying the EU over the way the target is calculated.

At a closed session of the energy council of ministers this month, the business minister, Lady Vadera, proposed that British investments in renewable energy anywhere in the world should count as part of UK's effort.

In a speech that astonished European renewable energy companies, environment groups and other EU energy ministers, she said: "It is imperative that cost-efficiency is at the heart of our approach. ... Demand for renewable energy projects outside the EU should be considered [part of the renewable target]."

She also appealed to Europe to allow all EU countries to count carbon "saved" from coal-fired stations fitted with equipment that captures harmful greenhouse gas emissions. The electricity generated by this "clean coal" would then count as renewable energy and go towards UK

Last night renewable energy companies and environment groups reacted with alarm. "This would kill renewable energy in Britain," said Dale Vince, chief executive of Ecotricity, Britain's biggest windfarm company. "It makes a mockery of any attempts to address climate change. The idea that we can build wind farms or other renewable energy projects [abroad] and then offset them against the UK target is outrageous. If it were possible to build projects anywhere in the world where planning is lax, nothing would be done in the UK."

John Sauven, director of Greenpeace, added: "This would allow a UK minister to lay the foundation stone of a power station in China and say it counts as our contribution to European renewable energy targets."

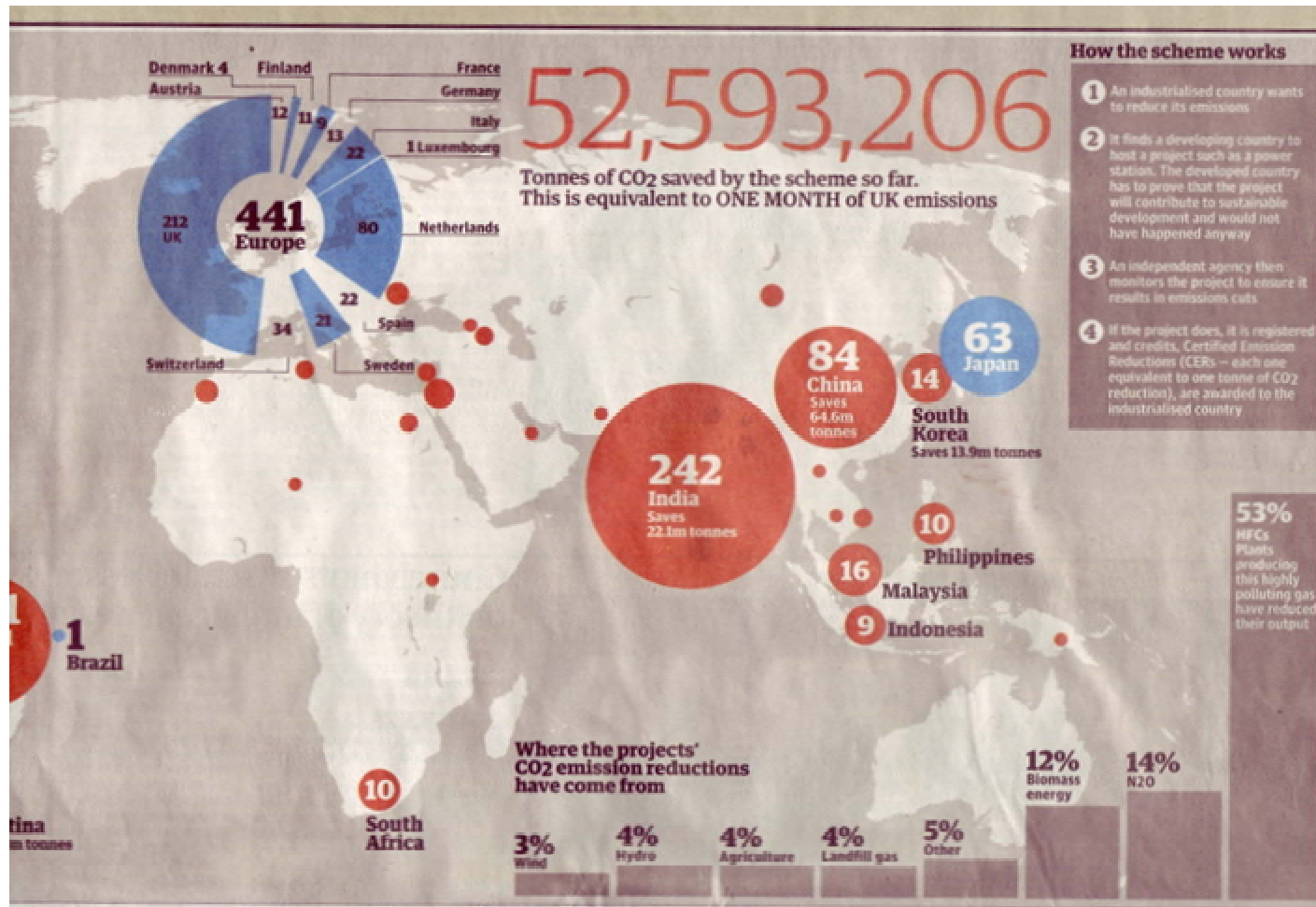
"Yet again Britain is found trying to evade its environmental responsibilities," said a spokesman for the environment group WWF.

The proposals to the EU have heightened concern among the groups that the UK is on a course for a massive nuclear power programme. The energy secretary, John Hutton, argued this week that Britain should not just replace existing nuclear plants but greatly expand the nuclear and coal industries.

This week's state visit by President Sarkozy confirmed that the powerful French nuclear industry will be encouraged to develop at least four but possibly



A report by Open Europe in August 2007 claims 97% of emissions reductions required in EU ETS Phase 2 will be purchased outside Europe through Kyoto mechanisms



The Times 3rd April 2008

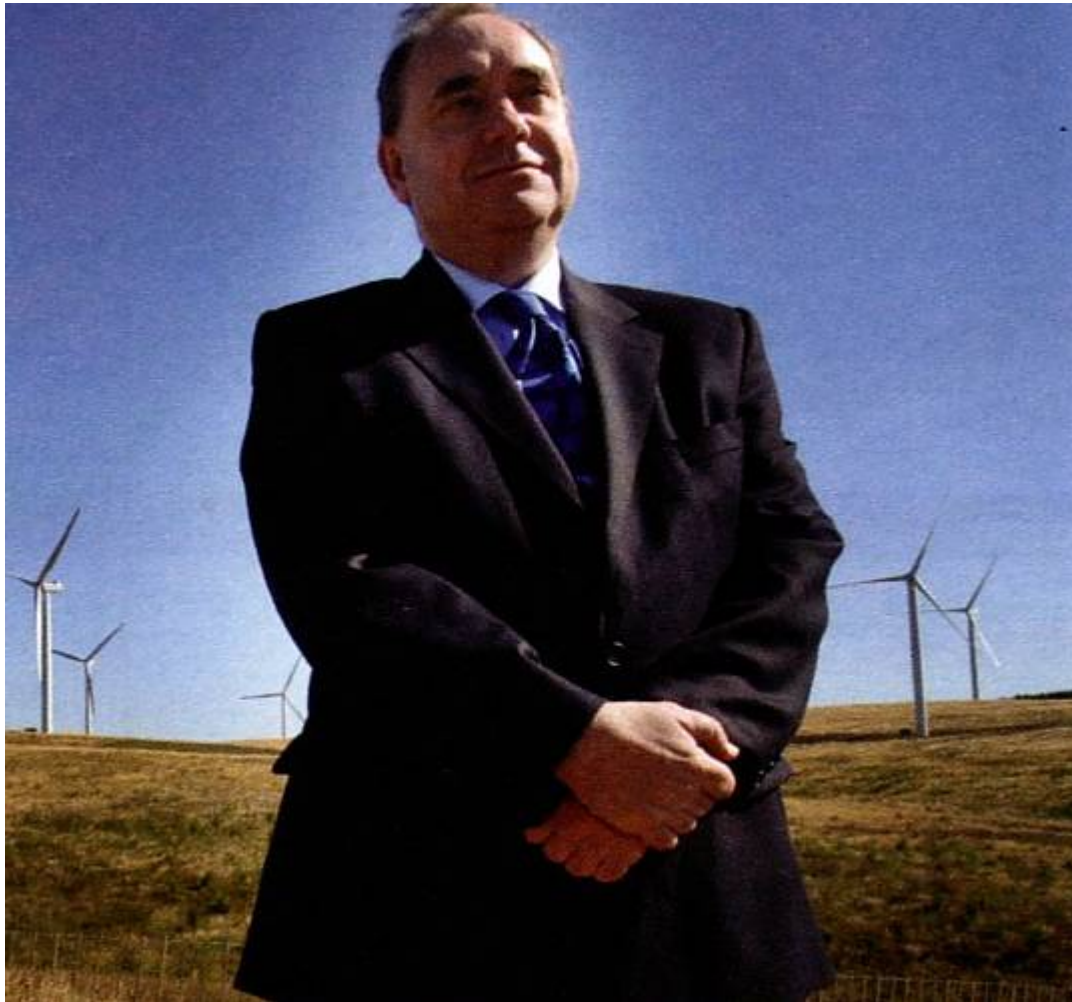
Why are we going back to coal?

It is extraordinary that the Government is trying to rush through a new generation of coal-fired power stations. Coal produces almost three times as much carbon dioxide per unit of electricity as gas. The shift from coal to gas in the 1980s accounts for almost all the progress Britain has made on reducing emissions. But John Hutton, the Energy Minister, has been bending over backwards to help the energy company E.ON to build a new plant at Kingsnorth, Kent, which now has planning permission.



Memos leaked to Greenpeace show that Mr Hutton's servile officials have pretty much let E.ON write the contract for what will be the first coal plant for 24 years. The contract does not require that E.ON should make Kingsnorth Britain's first demonstration project for carbon capture and storage technology (CCS). Yet that would be the only possible justification for building it.

A positive future



Alex Salmond, Scotland's First Minister

Some countries are voluntarily setting higher targets for renewables

The Scottish Government intends to establish a statutory target to reduce Scottish emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. By 2011, Scotland will also meet at least 31 per cent of electricity demand from renewables by 2011, and at least 50 per cent by 2020.

www.scotland.gov.uk

Thank you for your attention

pete@swea.co.uk

+44 1594 545366

http://www.inforse.org/europe/seminar08_BXL.htm