

## **Driving forces and barriers of the Hungarian renewable energy policy development**

Abstract for the Session: Energy and Climate

With the EU Eastern enlargement process, Hungary - as a new EU member state - had to undergo a complete political and economic transformation from a centrally planned to a market economy and a substantial re-orientation of the economic ties away from the former Eastern Block towards the EU. Various radical processes took place in the energy sector, such as the privatisation and liberalisation of the energy sector, and the EU energy directives are largely implemented. However the EU enlargement signalizes the culminating event, the transformation process has not finished yet. Nevertheless, the energy sector still faces serious challenges in order to reach a more sustainable society.

The purpose of the paper is to analyse the development of the renewable energy branch behind the general transition process of the energy sector in Hungary. The aim is to highlight the institutional, social and political factors – besides the technical and economic ones that presently receive most attention – in the dynamics of the Hungarian renewable energy policy. What are the driving forces and what are the barriers for deployment of the renewable energy production technologies in Hungary? What can other transition countries learn from the Hungarian development?

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