

News from our members

21 April – 27 April

Austria	1
Belgium	1
Cyprus	1
Estonia	1
France	1
Germany	1
Greece	2
Ireland	2
Italy	2
Latvia	2
Lithuania	2
Norway	2
Poland	2
Romania	3
Slovakia	3
Slovenia	3
Spain	3
Sweden	3
United Kingdom	3

Austria

Oesterreichs energie notes that works on refurbishment projects have resumed and are conducted in accordance with strict health and safety measures. Refurbishment projects were on standstill, due to unclear governmental guidelines and closed borders with Italy and Germany, which triggered delays in the delivery of supplies. [Read more](#)

Belgium

The average day-ahead electricity price reached 15.7 €/ MWh in April, a 60% decrease from the average price of April 2019. During the first quarter prices hit the 10 years lows, due to high clean energy generation and a sinking demand. These low prices in the short term market are also reflected on consumers' bills. Creg, the federal regulator, estimated that fixed contracts for electricity were down 13% in April compared with 2019. The decline is 18% for variable contracts.

Cyprus

Network expansion plans and the deployment of renewables installations are impacted by confinement measures and contractors' limited availability. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, the government announced a plan to increase the share of renewable installed capacity to 20% (357 MW) of the total capacity. A significant amount of projects, especially those consisting of private PV installations, are now suspended.

Estonia

Mining is temporally suspended, after several miners tested positive for COVID19. The interruption of mining operations is expected to take between 2 and 14 days. During this period, the approximately 800 miners will receive at least 70% of their salary. Discussions with trade unions and the government are also being conducted in order to introduce additional support measures.

France

Air pollution diminished as a result of confinement, highlights a study published by Atmo France. NOx concentrations, mainly from road traffic, have dropped substantially in major cities. Paris leads the way with a 70% decrease between March 2019 and March 2020. However, the levels of fine particles remain very high, being linked to ammonia emissions from agriculture and residential heating.

Germany

A Wartsila [report](#) shows that the share of renewables reached 60% (up 12%), while coal generation fell 44%. This resulted in a 30% decrease of the carbon intensity of the German electricity mix. The installed solar capacity is going to further increase as works for the Ganzlin project, Germany's largest solar plants so far, will be finalised in May.

Greece

Greek power demand slides down for the seventh month in a row, as a result of mild winter complemented by the lockdown measures announced in March. Before the COVID19 outbreak, the two-month demand was already 4% down on the year and it continued to fall in March, decreasing 6% on year. Lignite-fired generation dropped 65% on year, as a result of high carbon process, aging infrastructure and government objective to phase it out by 2028.

Ireland

The Electricity association of Ireland flags the need to enable COVID19 testing for critical workers in the power sector, to ensure their ability to carry out their roles. Current restrictions have brought construction projects to a standstill and caused delays in the delivery of new clean energy installations. Read [more](#)

Italy

Data from Entso-E shows that the power demand dropped 28% beginning of April, compared with a year earlier. Italy's stark drop is followed by France, down 26%, and Spain, down 25%. Peak power demand also continued to fall, the Italian network operator observing a 4.2% decrease compared with the previous week. Read more from [Elettricità Futura](#)

Latvia

Latvenergo notes that the construction of new power plants or the modernisation of existing ones are affected by travel restrictions, followed by imposed self-isolation, applied to foreign contractors. In addition to border crossing restrictions, the shutdown of Italian and French factories triggered delays in the production and delivery of components and equipment.

Lithuania

Lithuania celebrates 128 years since the opening of its first power plant. Since the confinement measures do not allow for a physical visit, "Ignitis gamyba" offers a virtual tour of the Kaunas hydroelectric power plant, which has also celebrated its 60th anniversary on April 18, 1960. Take the virtual tour [here](#).

Norway

Nord Pool data shows that reservoirs across Norway, Sweden and Finland continue to be well stocked, holding around 9 TWh more than in April 2019. In Norway, whose hydro stocks account for three quarters of the Nordic total, the spot power price reached the 4.11 €/MWh, a 20-year historic low.

Poland

Mid-April, the baseload day-ahead prices on the Polish Power Exchange dropped 5%. Spot prices reached 156.69 Zloty/MWh on 16 April versus, 165.07 Zloty /MWh the previous week. A spike in wind generation, coupled with low but stable demand, drove the decline of spot

prices. Also, during the same week, it pushed the reduction of Poland's electricity imports from Germany, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Romania

Distribution operators have remediated over 125 deficiencies that affected the power supply of isolated or quarantined people. The interventions are coordinated and supervised by the health authorities. Special equipment is provided, in order to avoid any potential contamination. Read [more](#)

Slovakia

Slovenské elektrárne cautions about the risk of significant supply chain disruptions, triggered by a domino effect of plant and factories closures, coupled with supply shortages. In the short term, supply chain could continue due to difficulties in re-launching the production. Among them: delayed workforce return, lack of means of transport for personnel, traffic restrictions. Read [more](#)

Slovenia

The Slovenian Energy Agency introduced an extraordinary measure to change the network tariff and reduce the electricity bills. Between 1 March and 31 May 2020, small business and household consumers will not be charged a tariff for capacity. Also network charges for these users will be 33% lower. This measure is likely to affect the revenues of the electricity distribution companies.

Spain

Spanish power demand plunged 19% below the 2019 levels, as lockdown measures steered the decline of electricity consumption in seven out of 10 major sectors of the economy. Industrial demand fell 7.6% in March, while the consumption from the automotive sector declined 31% year on year.

Sweden

The Swedish Government announced additional measures to support the companies hit by the coronavirus outbreak. First, it will temporarily alleviate the employer's contribution through a monthly reduction of 500 € per employee. Secondly, it will cover the first day of sick leave, which was previously supported by companies. A third measure consists of covering a bigger portion of the salary for employees that are temporarily laid off.

United Kingdom

Day-ahead electricity prices hit a record on Monday amid a sinking demand and strong solar and wind output, Platts reports show. At 11:00, the day-ahead base was down by over 42% on the day, reaching GBP10/MWh, while the peak load was at GBP8.50/MWh, a 54% decline on the day.