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## Renewable energy towards 2030: markets vs subsidies?

Dr. Ute Collier Senior Programme Leader International Energy Agency

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#### Globally, renewable electricity has International Energy Agency grown rapidly over the past decade Secure • Sustainable • Together

12 000 **Historical** Forecast Scenario 10 000 analysis 2DS targets 8 0 0 0 Generation (TWh) (IEA ETP 2015) 6 0 0 0 4 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 2005200620072008200920102011201220132014201520162017201820192020 2025 Hydropower Bioenergy Onshore wind Offshore wind Solar PV Geothermal STE Ocean

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Most of this growth due to renewable support policies (FiTs, obligations etc), not competitive markets.



### But there is a long way to go

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#### EU power generation in WEO 450 Scenario

#### EU capacity mix in 2040 WEO 450 Scenario



### Renewable power capacity in the EU needs to double by 2040



# Rapid cost reductions mean high levels of incentives are no longer needed for solar PV and onshore wind

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#### Indexed generation costs



#### **Competitive procurement can reduce policy Energy Agency** cost and stimulate further cost reductions

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### But still need policy support





- Fewer countries have renewable heat targets and support policies than for electricity
- Challenge of current low heating oil price & high capital costs ۲
- Similar picture for transport •



#### Solar thermal – 18 largest markets



- Several countries falls despite availability of incentives
- Some useful lessons from the Nordic and Baltic countries



## **Challenges still exist for renewables**

• Lack of level playing field

- > No or low carbon price
- Fossil fuel subsidies
- Current low fossil fuel prices
- Capital-intensive investments (especially power sector), including infrastructure
  - Cost structure doesn't fit short-run marginal pricing
  - Difficult to finance without long-term contracts
- Variable generation
- Distributed renewables
- Multiple non-economic barriers (e.g. heat)

Competitive markets can play a role but only within a strong regulatory and policy framework



Sound policies needed at all stages, including some financial support



Achieving climate goals will require financing a portfolio of technologies which stand at various levels of maturity



# Conclusions



- Acceleration of renewables deployment needs a different approach.
- It's not about markets versus subsidies.
- Markets and CO<sub>2</sub> price are part of the solution but a lot more is needed.
- Complex market/regulatory framework is required + some financial incentives, depending on the technology.
- No one size fits all.



### Aitäh – thank you

RENEWABLE E Medium-Term Market Report Market Analysis and Forecasts to 2020 International **Energy Agency** Secure Sustainable Tog Together



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