

NEWS

Another power strike in France this week

France's largest trade unions, the CGT and FO, have called further industrial action in the energy sector this week, to keep pressure on the government to withdraw a proposed labour law reform.

The strike will run from 16:00 CEST (14:00 GMT) on 22 June until 21:00 CEST on 23 June, grid operator RTE said. This will be the 13th strike since November and the CGT has already called on its members to participate in further industrial action on 28 June.

The new action could curtail electricity generation, although the two most recent strikes had a limited impact on the power sector – cutting less 1GW of nuclear generation on 9 June and around 2GW on 14 June. France's installed nuclear capacity in is 63.13GW.

But temperatures in Paris are forecast to increase gradually over the next few days, reaching daytime highs of around 27°C on 22 June, which could trigger some air conditioning demand and support spot prices. Peak French power consumption is expected to reach 55GW on 22 June, up from 53.2GW on Monday, RTE forecasts showed.

Italy to add 1.3GW of non-PV renewables in three years

Italy will add 1.3GW of renewable energies other than solar photovoltaic (PV) over the next three years under a new incentive scheme, according to analysts at Milan-based renewable energy research firm Elemens.

The new incentive regime aims to rationalise economic resources from the current incentive cap of €5.8bn per year, senior energy analyst Tommaso Barbetti said.

The new regime will recover funds that had already been allocated but were never actually spent.

Elemens estimates that a total of around €350mn can be recovered from projects that did not proceed for legal, regulatory or technical reasons, and from projects whose incentives are close to expiration.

Around 60pc of the total capacity will be allocated to onshore wind, Barbetti said. Installations of over 5MW will

be awarded incentives from descending auctions with a base price of €110/MWh. Elemens expects that the auctions will take place by the end of August or September.

The new way of calculating incentive costs will contribute to keeping them under the cap set at €5.8bn/year, renewable energy association Anie Rinnovabili said. It is confident that the scheme will be approved this week, as announced by the newly appointed energy and economic minister Carlo Calenda.

The scheme must be signed by the industry ministry after consultation with the agriculture and environment ministries before being published.

The scheme had been scheduled to come into force by 2015. The lengthy approval process is the result of domestic delays and the European Commission investigation into whether the regime complied with EU rules on state aid. The commission approved the scheme at the end of April.

Energy management agency GSE data show that incentives for renewable energy sources other than PV reached €5.6bn/yr on 30 April against the cap of €5.8bn/year.

Italian wind developer to add 92MW by 2017

Italian renewable energy developer PLT Energia will bring two wind farms in southern Italy with a combined capacity of 92MW on line in the first months of 2017, it said.

The company has secured a €74.1m (\$84mn) financial loan from a pool of banks to complete a 60MW wind farm located in the districts of Tursi and Colobraro in Basilicata. The farm will consist of 30 wind turbines with a capacity of 2MW each, and should generate 150 GWh/yr, the company said.

It is the largest wind farm being developed in Italy, PLT Energia chief executive Pierluigi Tortora said.

PLT Energia is also building a 32MW wind farm in the district of Simeri Cricchi in Calabria, which should come on line in 2017.

In addition to these two farms, the company plans to build another 35.4MW of wind capacity in the coming years.