
International Law and Support for Renewable Energies

Project

Duration

Sep 2012 - Mar 2014

[Final Report](#)

As renewable energy sources are more widely used and corresponding support systems expanded, the economic significance of the sector is also growing. This, in turn, also leads to a growing potential for trade disputes involving renewable energy production. In this project on renewable energy law, the Ecologic Institute together with the Institute for Economic Law of the University Halle-Wittenberg provides scientific advice to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety. The project focuses on the international legal framework relevant to support systems for renewable energy. The study (in German) is available for download.

Many countries in the world have adopted measures aiming at supporting the use and expansion of renewable energy. Typical measures are feed-in-tariffs or loans at particularly favorable conditions. The reasons given for such measures include the mitigation of climate change, but also the creation of domestic industries and the creation of “green” jobs. In this context, some countries have included in their national legislation rules that directly aim at the development of their domestic technology sector. A prominent example are so called local content requirements, which make support for renewable energies contingent on the use of a certain share of local technologies and services. Foreign competitors often criticize such rules; moreover, local content requirements can make renewable energy more expensive. Another trigger for international trade disputes involving renewable energy is the prize policy of some companies and countries such as China, which is criticized as dumping by other countries of which some have taken counter-measures.

Such trade controversies are not only relevant from a climate policy viewpoint, but also have an international legal dimension. Against this backdrop, the project investigates existing systems for renewable energy support that contain rules restricting competition and their compatibility with international law.

Funding

[Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety](#) (BMU), Germany

Partner

[Ecologic Institute](#), Germany

Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, [Institut für Wirtschaftsrecht](#), Germany

Team

Dr. Christiane Gerstetter
[Dr. Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf](#)
[Dr. Ralph Bodle, LL.M](#)
Andrew Eberle
Gesa Homann LL.M
Gibran Watfe

Duration

Sep 2012 - Mar 2014

Project ID

[2396](#)

Keywords

[Climate](#)
[Energy](#)
[Trade](#)
WTO, renewable energy, anti-dumping, subsidies, international law
global

Source URL: <https://www.ecologic.eu/7736>