



# Renewable Energy Support Policies in Europe

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# Definitions

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**Bonus:** an additional remuneration for meeting certain pre-defined criteria such as the use of highly efficient or innovative technology, power plant installation in isolated areas, social and employment benefits, use of systems made in Europe, etc.

**Capacity cap:** a ceiling on the amount of newly added generating capacity above which the support scheme will no longer be available.

**Combined-Heat & Power (CHP)** or cogeneration: CHP facilities produce both heat and power.

**Concentrating Photovoltaic (CPV):** a technology that uses mirrors or lenses to focus and concentrate sunlight onto a relatively small area of photovoltaic cells that generate electricity.

**Concentrated Solar Power (CSP):** a technology that uses mirrors to focus sunlight into an intense solar beam that heats a working fluid in a solar receiver, which then drives a turbine or heat engine/generator to produce electricity. Concentrating Solar Thermal Power technologies introduce the possibility to make thermal energy storage.

**Feed-in tariff (FiT):** a policy that sets a fixed and guaranteed price over a stated fixed-term period during which renewable power can be sold and fed into the electricity network. FiT is independent of the electricity market developments and does not expose the RES plant producer to market price volatility.

**Feed-in-Premium (FiP):** a policy that provides premiums payments on top of the remuneration obtained from selling the electricity on the spot wholesale market. Unlike FiT, RES project's income streams fluctuate with the electricity market prices, leading to expose the RES producer to full risk of future market price variations.

FiP can either be fixed (i.e. at a constant level irrespective of market prices) or sliding (i.e. variable depending on the evolution of market prices):

**Fixed Feed-in-Premium (Fixed FiP):** RES producers receive a fixed support payment on top of the remuneration from selling electricity on the spot wholesale market. There is a risk of overcompensation when market prices are high and undercompensation when market prices are low.

**Sliding Feed-in-Premium (Sliding FiP):** RES producers receive variable support payments on top the remuneration from selling electricity on the spot wholesale market. Sliding FiPs are calculated on a continuous basis as the difference between the market price (often averaged over a certain period of time) and a predefined reference tariff level. Depending on the country, this predefined reference tariff level is called *strike price* (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France), *reference price* (Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland), *Contract for Difference* (UK).

Then, Sliding FiP can either be one-sided or two-sided, meaning:

- **One-sided sliding Feed-in-Premium:** when the market price is higher than the reference tariff level, then the RES producer does not have to pay back the difference.