

1 EFGP 3rd Congress, Berlin – Draft Resolution

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4 *Introduced by Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (Germany)*

5 6 7 **Introduction of Renewable Energies in the Electricity Sector with the aid of minimum price** 8 **regulations**

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10 The European Green Parties are called upon to promote the introduction of renewable energy sources
11 for electricity generation by proposing minimum price regulations to their national governments and
12 implementing them where possible.

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14 Any such minimum price regulations imposed by statute should meet the following criteria:

- 15 • Grid operators should be obliged to accept electricity supplied from renewable sources.
- 16 • The tariff levels for the electricity supplied should be fixed so as to ensure that, in principle, it is
17 possible for the generation of electricity and the operation of a grid connection to be economically
18 profitable. This involves setting an appropriate period during which the fixed tariffs have to be paid.
- 19 • The minimum prices should be differentiated to take account of the economic requirements of the
20 individual renewable energies: solar radiation, wind power, small-scale hydro, biomass,
21 geothermal energy and ocean energies.

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23 Grounds:

24 The introduction of renewable energy sources in the electricity sector has particular significance: they
25 can and must replace nuclear power and fossil electricity generation in future. Sections of the heating
26 and cooling market can also be supplied from renewable sources by means of cogeneration,
27 particularly using biomass, geothermal energy and solar radiation.

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29 Minimum price regulations, such as those applied in Germany and Spain, are by far the most
30 successful instrument for the market introduction of electricity from renewable sources. For example,
31 the German Act Giving Priority to Renewable Energy Sources has stimulated high growth rates.

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33 In Denmark too, the motherland of wind energy, minimum price regulations succeeded in driving
34 strong industrial development in the wind power sector. However, the Danish internal market for
35 electricity generation from renewable sources has almost come to a standstill due to the abolition of
36 feed-in tariffs in Denmark.

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38 None of the countries that wanted to achieve the introduction of renewable energies with other
39 methods, for example quota regulations, tendering systems or certificate trading, can point to notable
40 successes. France, the UK and Ireland have far less significant wind power installations than
41 Germany, for example, even though they enjoy much better wind conditions.

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43 In a widely noted judgement, the European Court of Justice has recognised that minimum price
44 regulations are compatible with EU law. As minimum price regulations are not subsidies under EU law,
45 they do not constitute a burden on public budgets and are not subject to EU competition legislation.
46 The EU's Directive on the Promotion of Electricity from Renewable Energy Sources expressly
47 provides for minimum price regulations. It also demands the marked development of electricity
48 generation from renewable sources.