

VISION OR DIVISION?

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What do National Energy and Climate Plans tell us about the EU power sector in 2030?



Belgium: Falling Behind in the Electricity Transition

EU-wide analysis of National Climate and Energy Plans reveals that Belgium is one of seven EU countries falling furthest behind in decarbonising its electricity by 2030.

Why is Belgium falling behind?

- In 2030, Belgium will have one of the dirtiest electricity grids in the EU due to a high reliance on fossil fuels, primarily fossil gas.
- Between 2018 and 2030, Belgium is one of only two countries in the EU where emissions from the power sector are *rising*.
- Between 2018 and 2030, Belgium plans the largest increase in electricity generation from fossil gas in the EU.
- Belgium's share of renewable electricity by 2030 will be significantly below the EU average. Wind and solar deployment to 2030 is relatively modest.
- Belgium is planning to close its remaining nuclear reactors by the end of 2025.



Charles Moore, Ember's European Programme Lead, said:

“Belgium is being left behind in the EU electricity transition. Despite sitting at the heart of EU policy making, it is one of just two EU countries where power sector emissions will *rise* this decade. With renewables deployment insufficient to meet the gap left by falling nuclear power, Belgium will become more dependent on fossil gas generation in the next decade. As its EU neighbours leave fossil fuels behind, Belgium is on track for one of the dirtiest electricity grids by 2030 if it fails to increase investment in renewables.”

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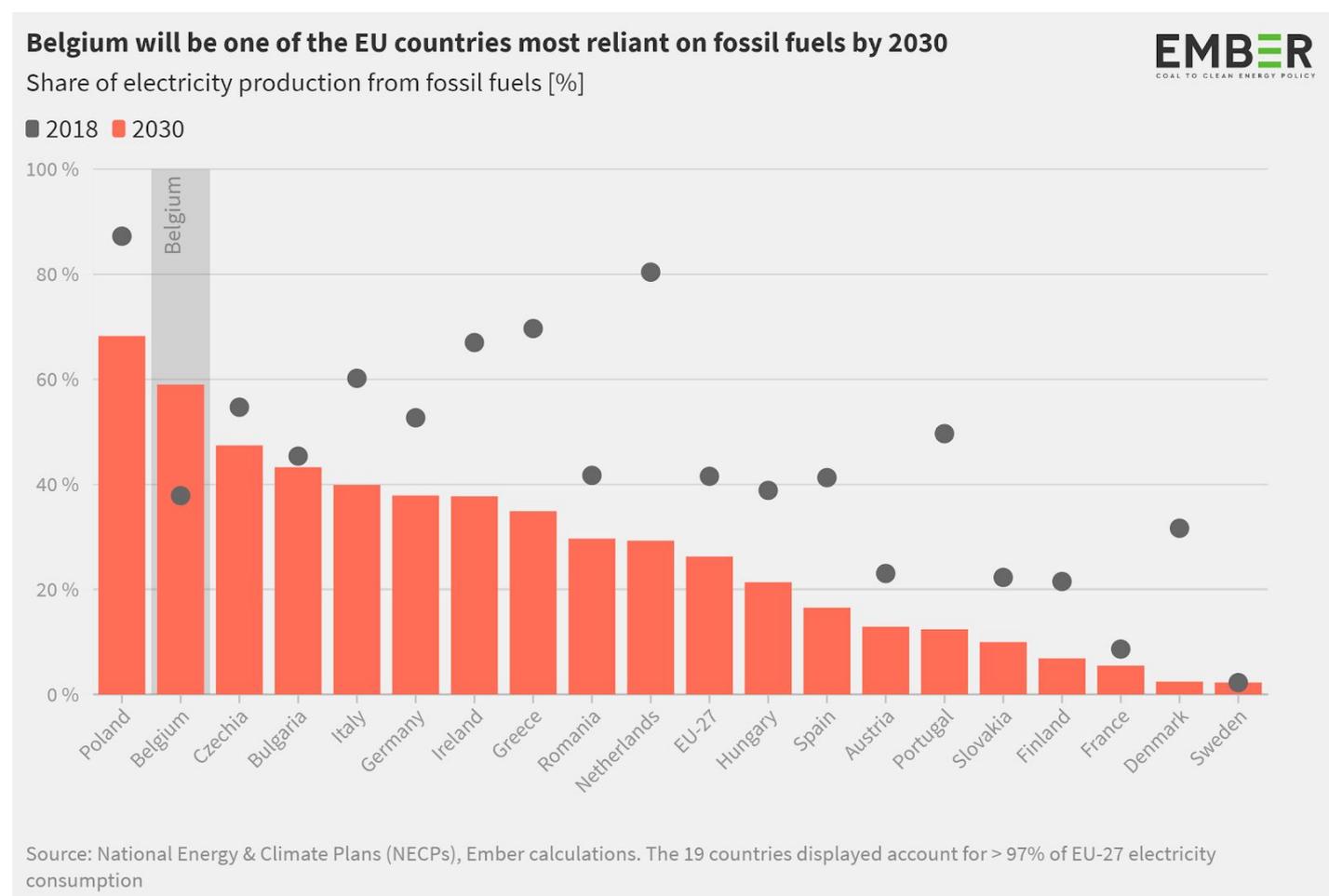
Methodology

Ember published a [report](#) analysing the National Energy and Climate Plans of all EU countries. This analysis revealed seven countries that are falling behind in decarbonising the electricity sector: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Italy, Romania and Poland.

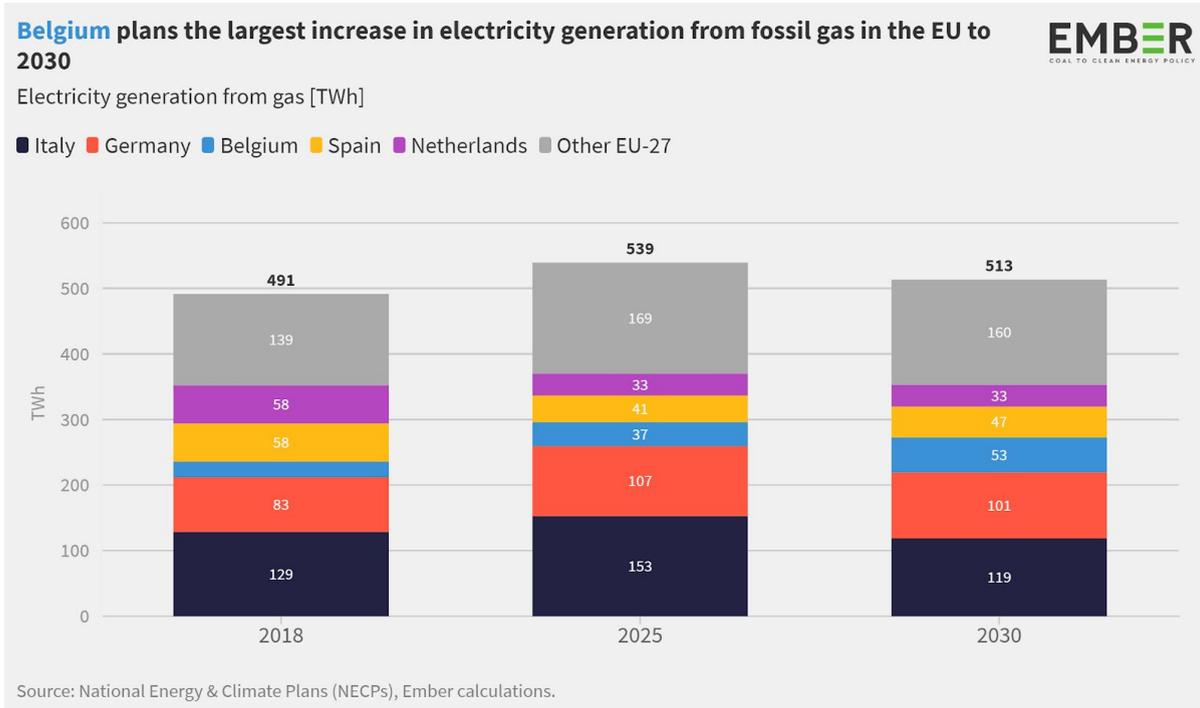
Key findings in Belgium

Fossil fuels

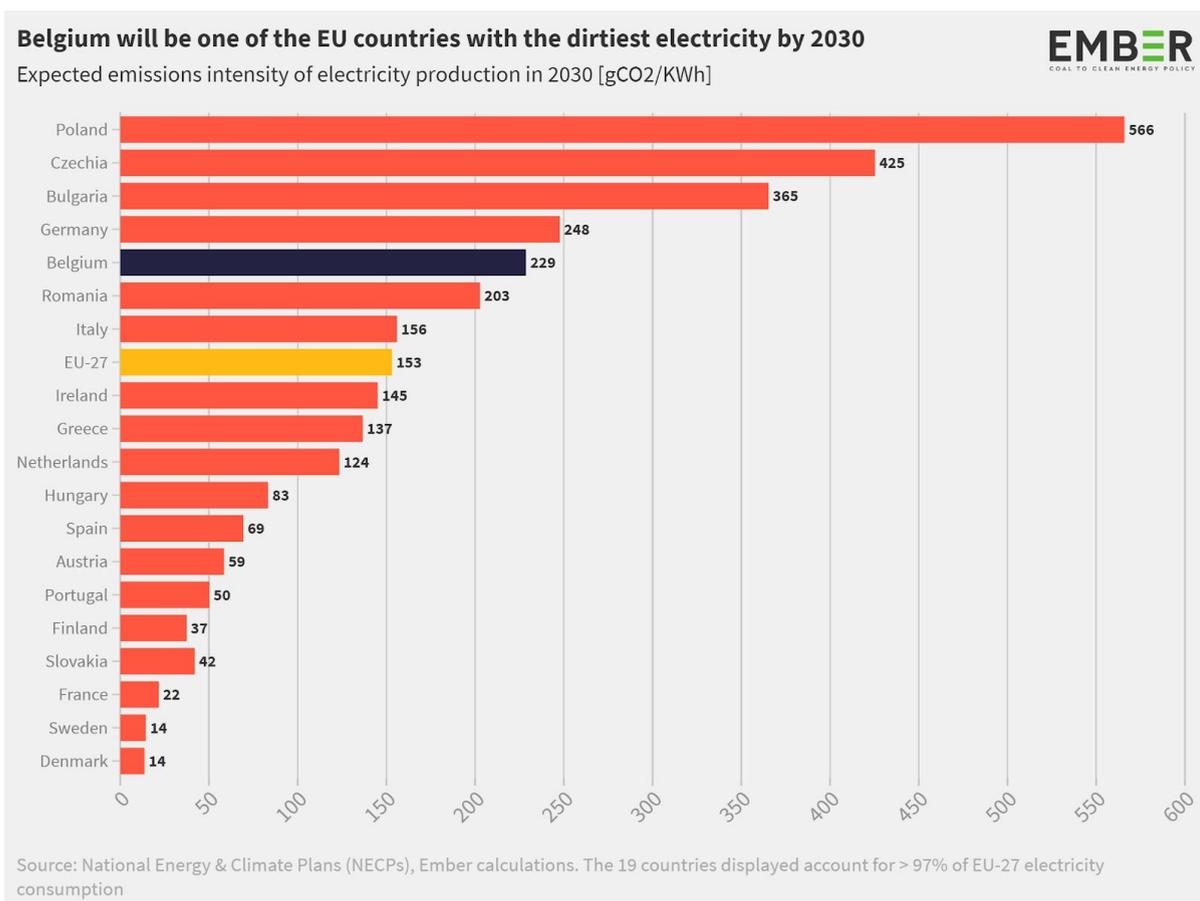
By 2030, Belgium will be one of the EU countries most reliant on fossil fuels for electricity production. Between 2018 and 2030, Belgium is the only country in the EU where the reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation is actually rising.



Between 2018 and 2030, Belgium plans the largest increase in electricity generation from fossil gas in the EU. This is the result of a phase-out of nuclear power which has not been offset by sufficient renewable electricity deployment or energy efficiency measures.

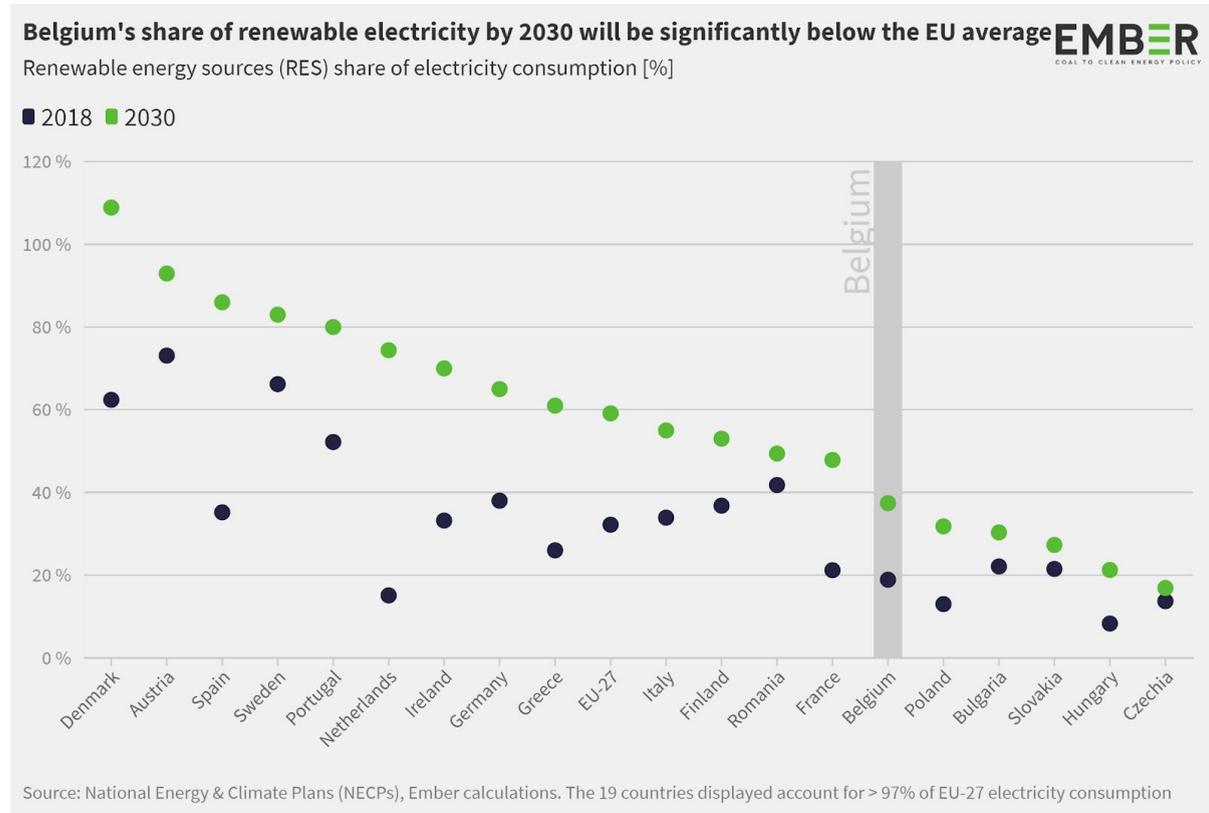


As a result, by 2030, Belgium will be one of the EU countries with the dirtiest electricity grids.

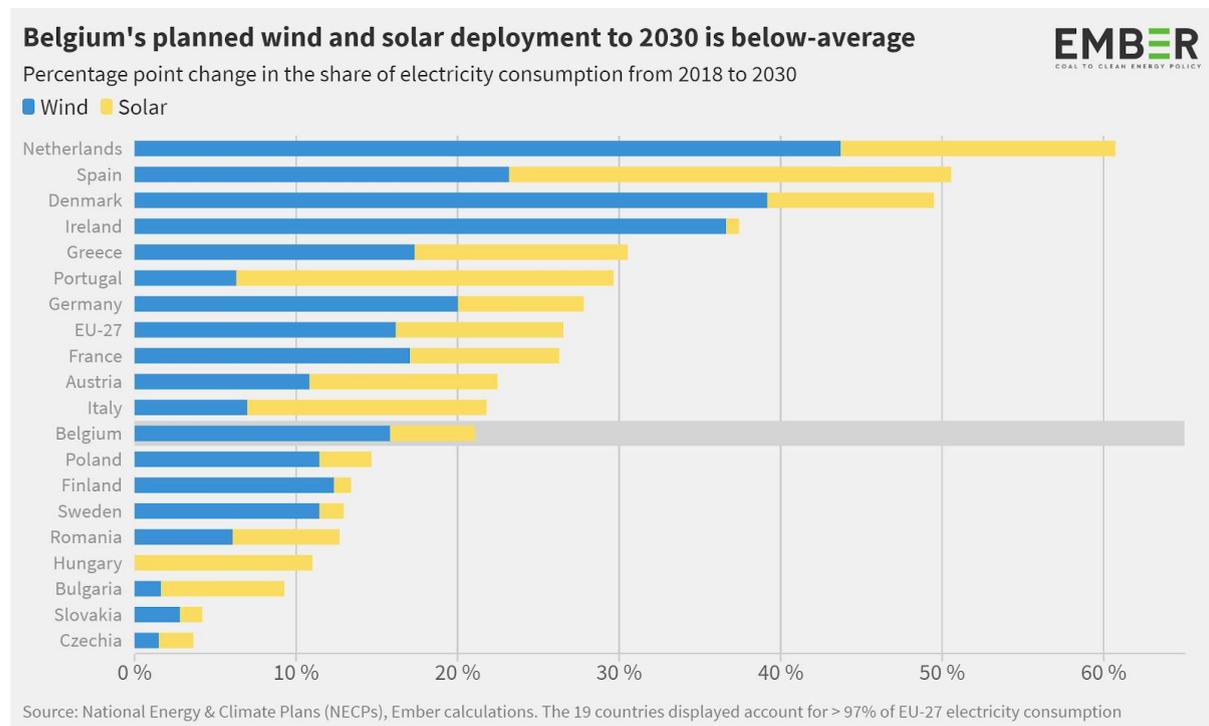


Renewables

All renewables: Belgium's share of renewable electricity by 2030 will be significantly below the EU average. New renewable electricity deployment in the coming decade is also below average.



Wind and solar: Belgium's planned deployment of wind and solar power over the next decade is below-average - and insufficient to offset the loss of nuclear power.



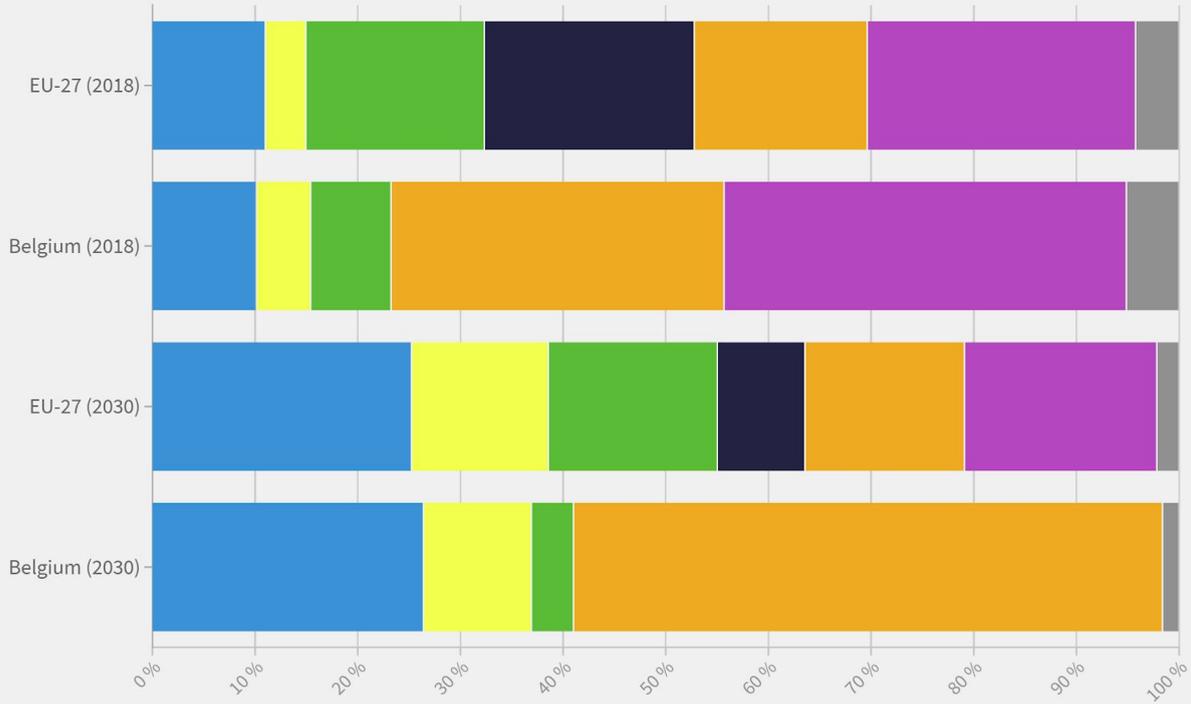
Electricity Mix

Comparing Belgium's electricity mix to the EU-27 average, 2018 & 2030



Percentage share of gross electricity production

Wind Solar Other RES-E Coal Gas Nuclear Other Fossil



Source: Eurostat, Ember analysis of National Energy & Climate Plans