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



Bulgaria: Falling Behind in the Electricity Transition

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

Why is Bulgaria falling behind?

- In 2030, Bulgaria will have one of the dirtiest electricity grids in the EU, due to a high reliance on fossil fuels - especially coal.
- In 2030, Bulgaria will be one of only three countries with shares of coal - the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel - above a third of the electricity mix.
- Bulgaria's reliance on fossil fuels for electricity barely changes between 2018 and 2030 - some of the slowest progress in the EU.
- Bulgaria is planning one of the lowest deployment rates of renewable electricity in the EU over the coming decade.
- Bulgaria is one of only 4 countries in the EU where the planned deployment of renewable electricity is slower in the coming decade than in the previous decade - despite huge cost reductions in wind and solar.
- In 2030, the Bulgarian electricity mix will have one of the lowest shares of wind and solar in the EU.
- Bulgaria's planned new nuclear reactors will not start in the coming decade and so will make no contribution to electricity decarbonisation in the 2020s.

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



“Bulgaria is being left behind in the EU electricity transition. It is one of the few remaining EU countries without a coal phase-out plan and where renewables deployment is **slowing** this decade compared to last, in spite of rapidly reducing costs. Despite Prime Minister Borisov’s pleas for help from the European Commission to phase-out coal, he has failed to create a supportive market for renewables and even to set a coal phase-out date. Betting on new nuclear in the 2030s to reduce emissions is a risky strategy and will not deliver the cuts required this decade. As its EU neighbours leave fossil fuels behind, Bulgaria is on track for one of the dirtiest electricity grids by 2030 if it fails to invest 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 Bulgaria

Fossil fuels

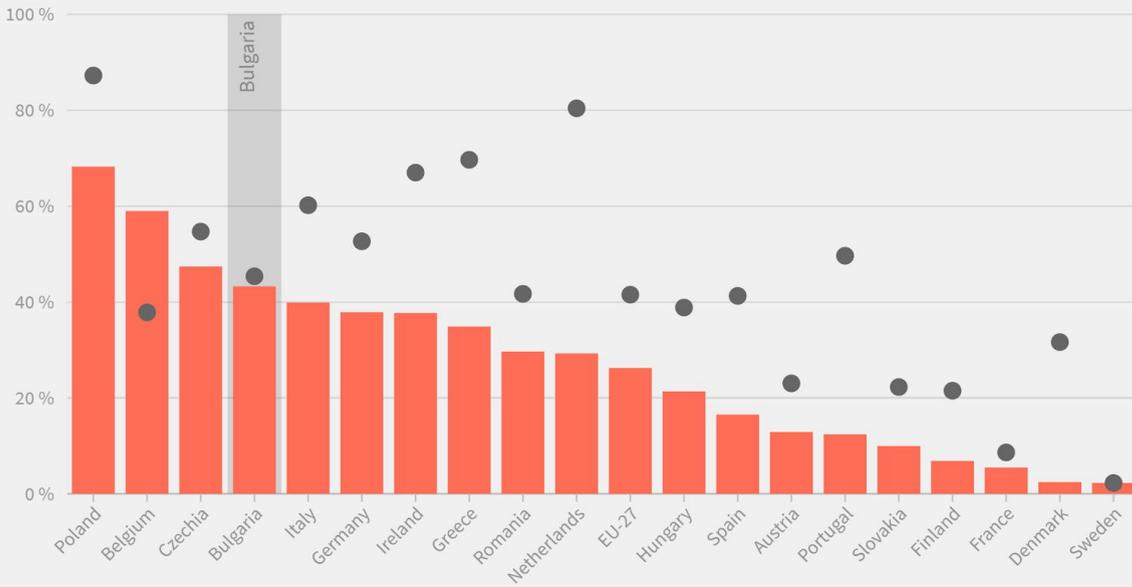
By 2030, Bulgaria will be one of the EU countries most reliant on fossil fuels - especially coal - for electricity production. Bulgaria’s reliance on fossil fuels for electricity barely changes between 2018 and 2030 - some of the slowest progress in the EU.

Bulgaria will be one of the EU countries most reliant on fossil fuels by 2030, minor progress since 2018



Share of electricity production from fossil fuels [%]

■ 2018 ■ 2030



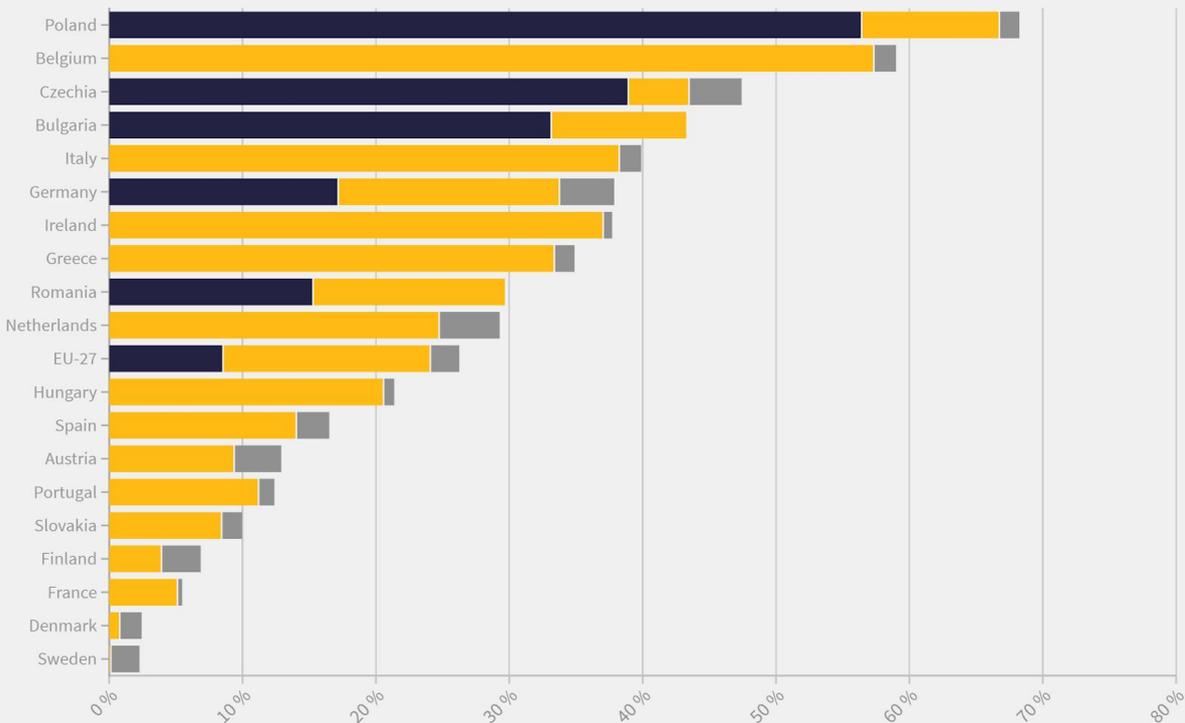
Source: National Energy & Climate Plans (NECPs), Ember calculations. The 19 countries displayed account for > 97% of EU-27 electricity consumption

Bulgaria will be one of the EU countries most reliant on coal by 2030



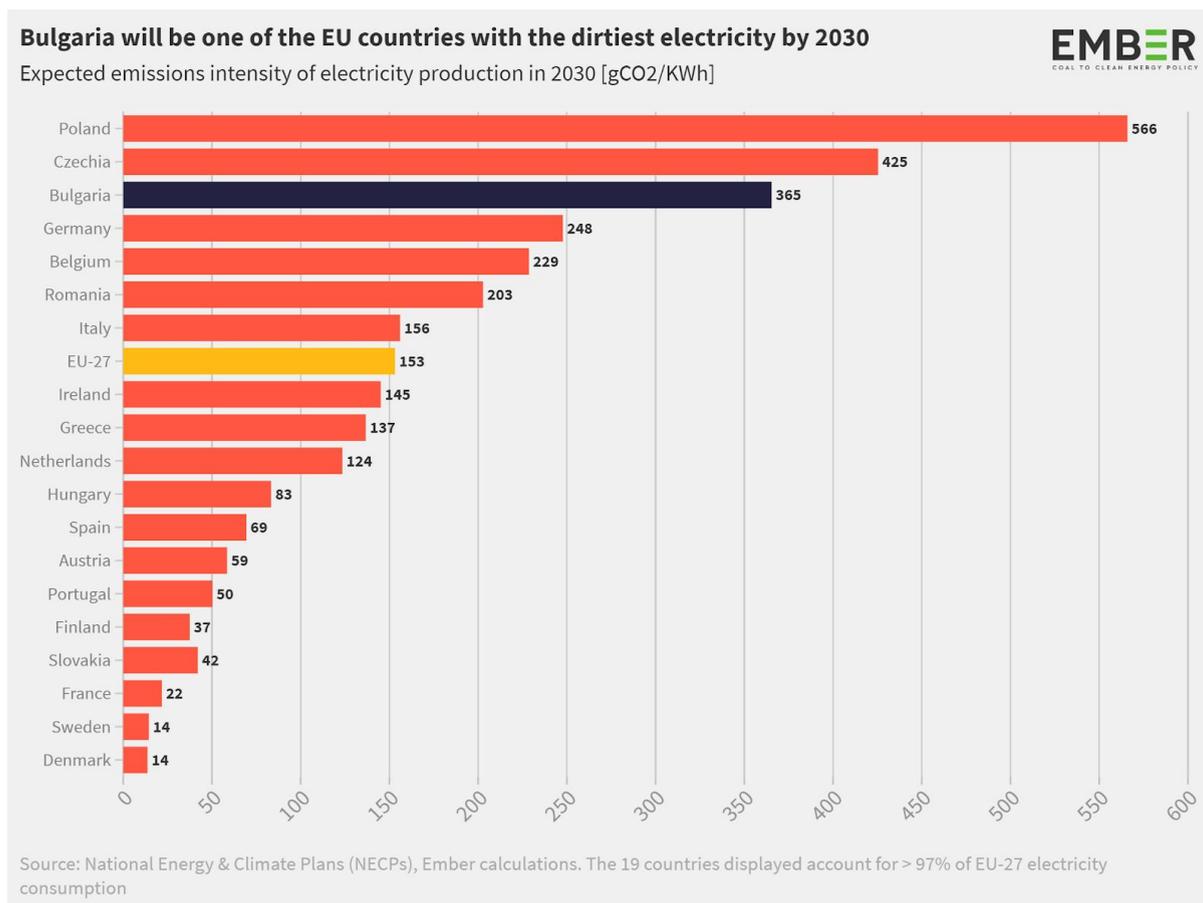
Share of electricity production from fossil fuels [%]

■ Coal ■ Gas ■ Other Fossil



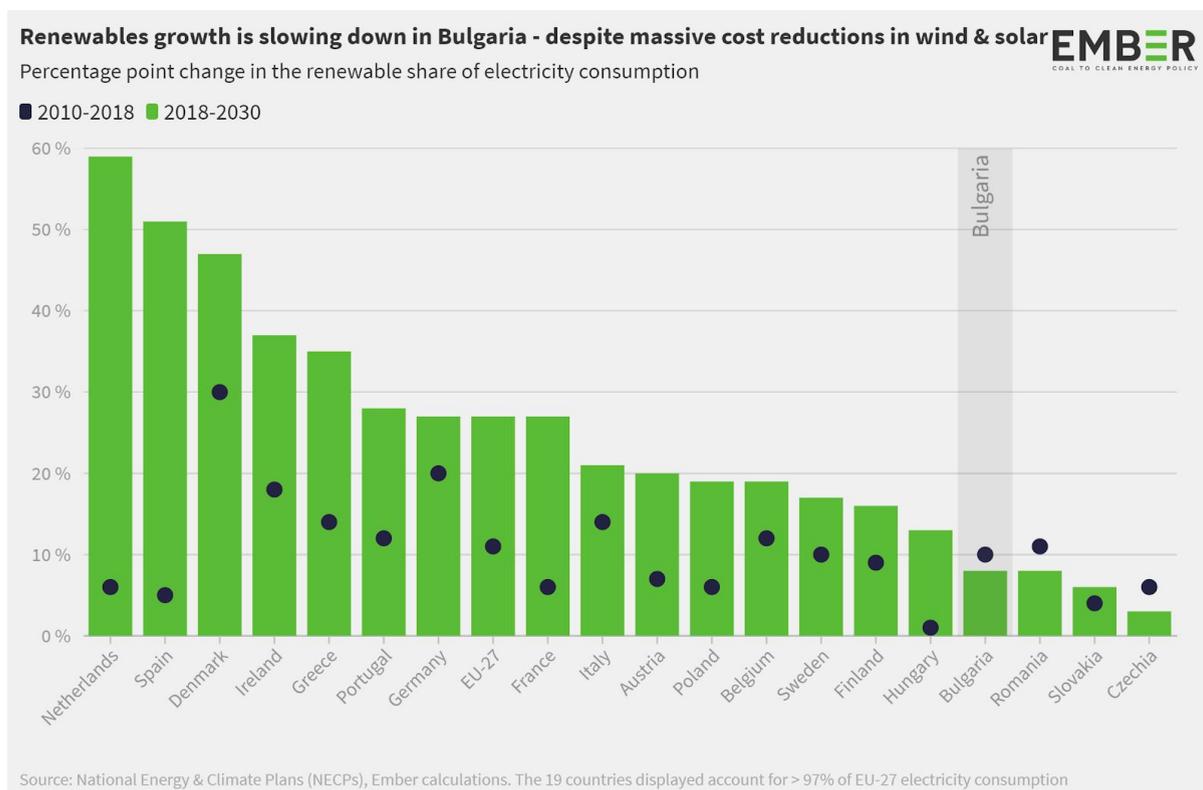
Source: National Energy & Climate Plans (NECPs), Ember calculations. The 19 countries displayed account for > 97% of EU-27 electricity consumption

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

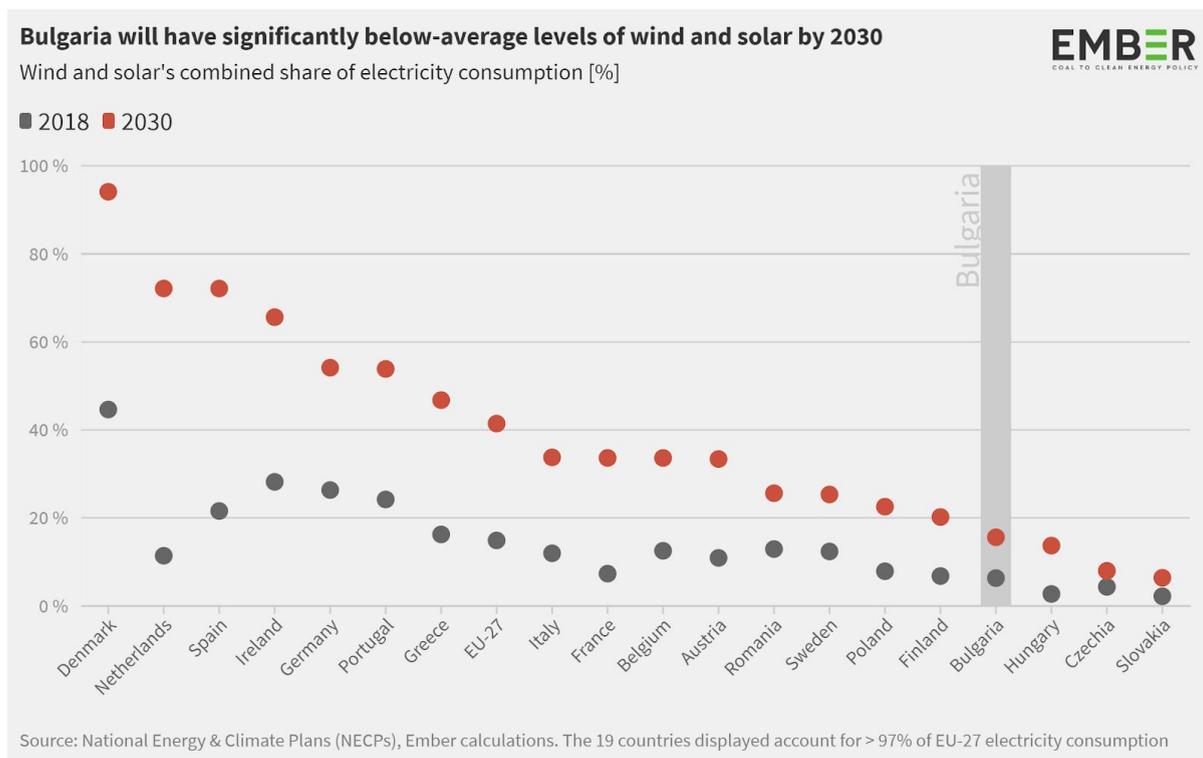


Renewables

All renewables: by 2030 Bulgaria will still have significantly below-average levels of renewable electricity. New renewable electricity deployment between 2018 and 2030 is near the lowest in the EU. Bulgaria is one of only 4 countries in the EU where the planned deployment of renewable electricity is slower in the coming decade than in the previous decade - despite huge cost reductions in wind and solar.



Wind & Solar: by 2030 Bulgaria will still have one of the lowest shares of wind and solar in the EU. New wind and solar deployment between 2018 and 2030 is near the lowest in the EU.



Electricity Mix

