VISION OR DIVISION?

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

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Italy: Falling Behind in the Electricity Transition

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

Why is Italy falling behind?

- In 2030, Italy will be one of the EU countries most reliant on fossil fuels for electricity.
- Between 2018 and 2025, Italy is planning the largest expansion of fossil gas use in the electricity sector in the EU, primarily driven by a switch from coal to fossil gas-fired electricity as coal power plants are closed.
- Italy's deployment of renewable electricity between 2018 and 2030 is below the EU-27 average and is insufficient to make significant progress on its current high share of fossil fuels in the electricity mix.
- By 2030 Italy will be responsible for around 10% of the EU-27's power sector emissions and will be the third biggest power sector emitter.

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

"Italy is blocking the EU electricity transition. Government plans show the largest increase in fossil gas in the whole of the EU in the next five years, together with below-average levels of renewables deployment. By 2030 Italy will be the EU's third biggest power sector emitter. As the EU increases its 2030 emissions reduction target to 55%, Italy urgently needs to change course by unblocking the renewables development pipeline to avoid being locked-in to new fossil gas infrastructure in the next five years."

Contents

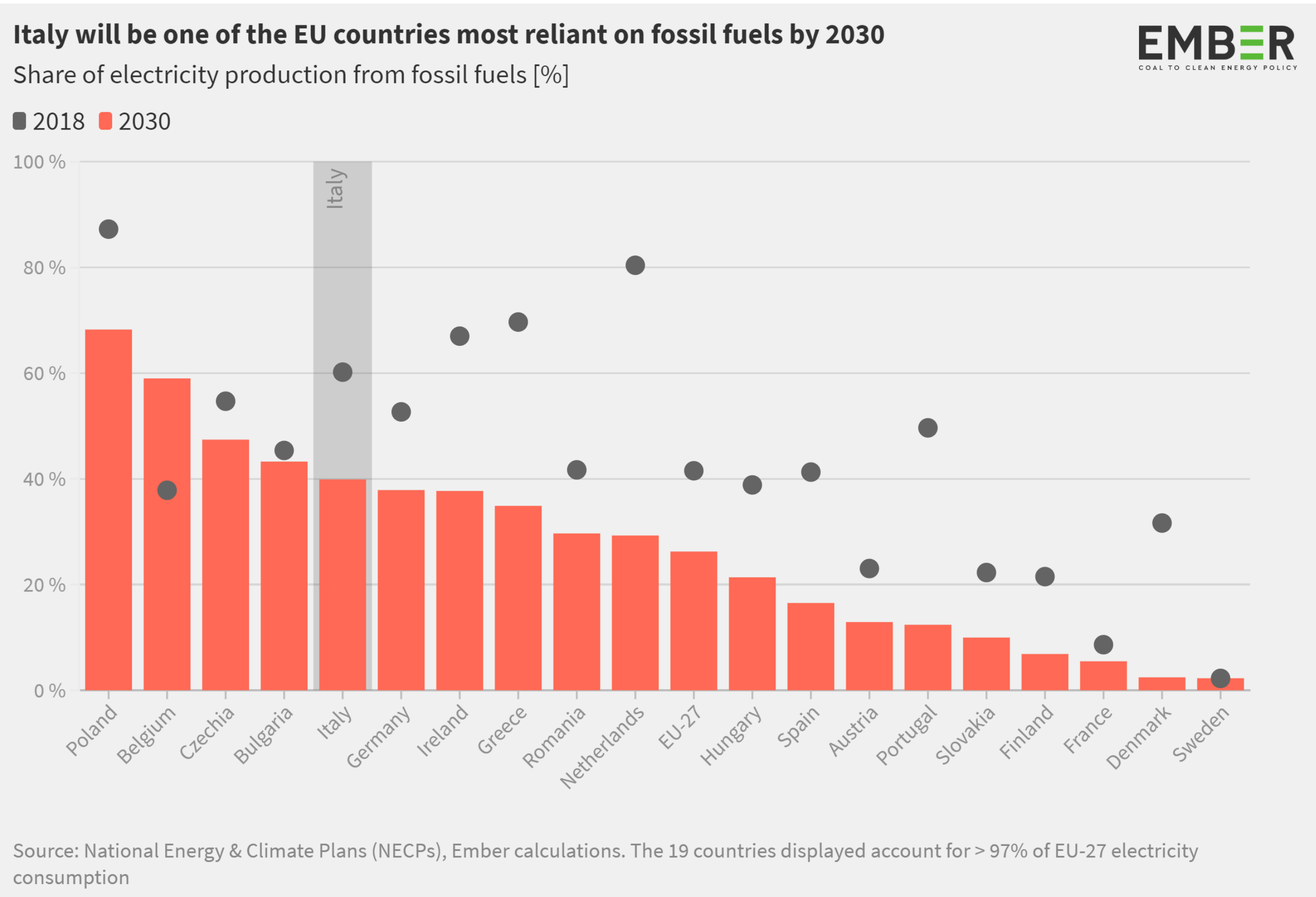
Methodology

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.

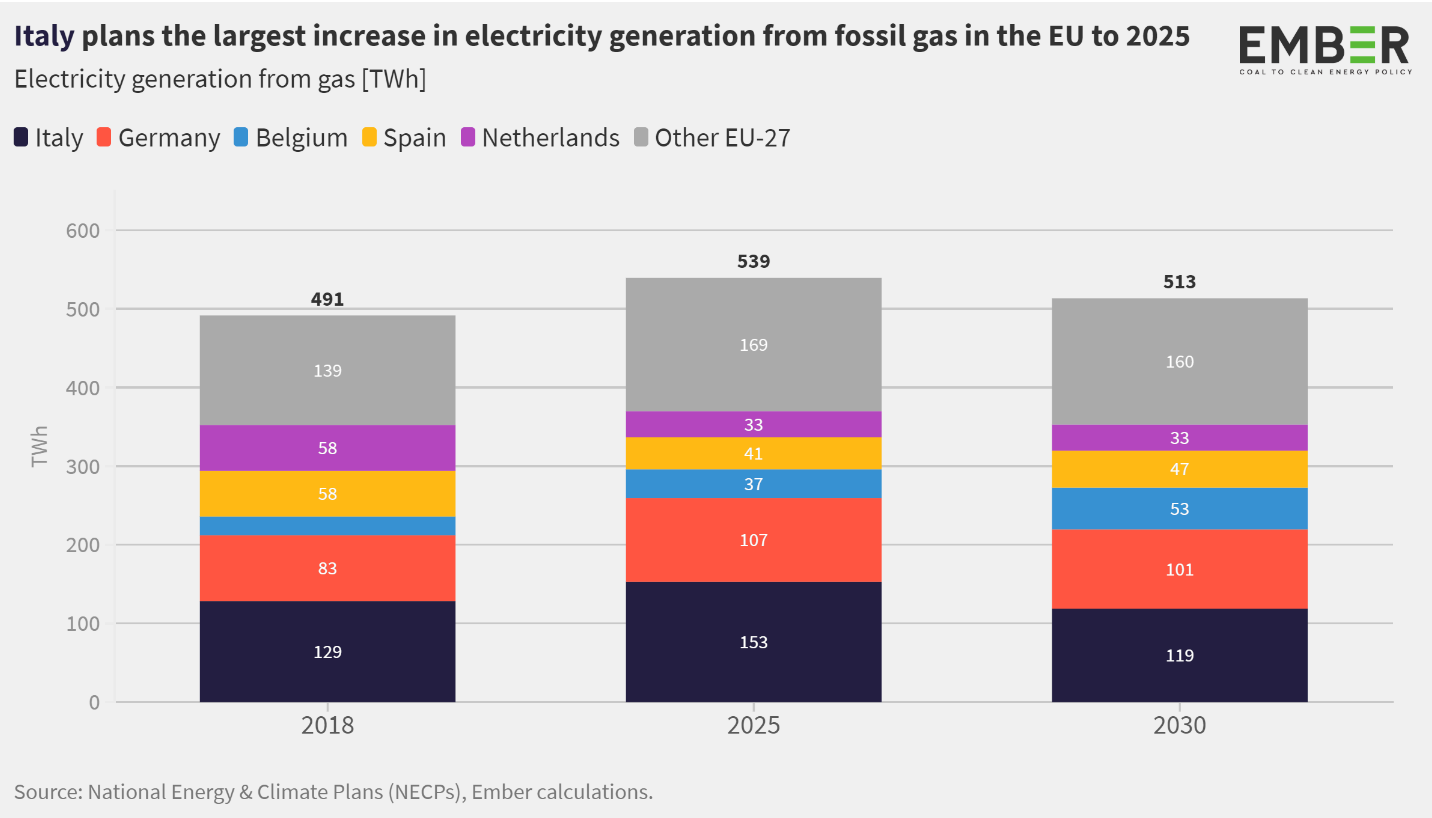
Key findings in Italy

Fossil fuels

By 2030, Italy will be one of the EU countries most reliant on fossil fuels for electricity production. Italy's share of fossil fuels will be ~ 40% vs. an EU-27 average of about 25%.

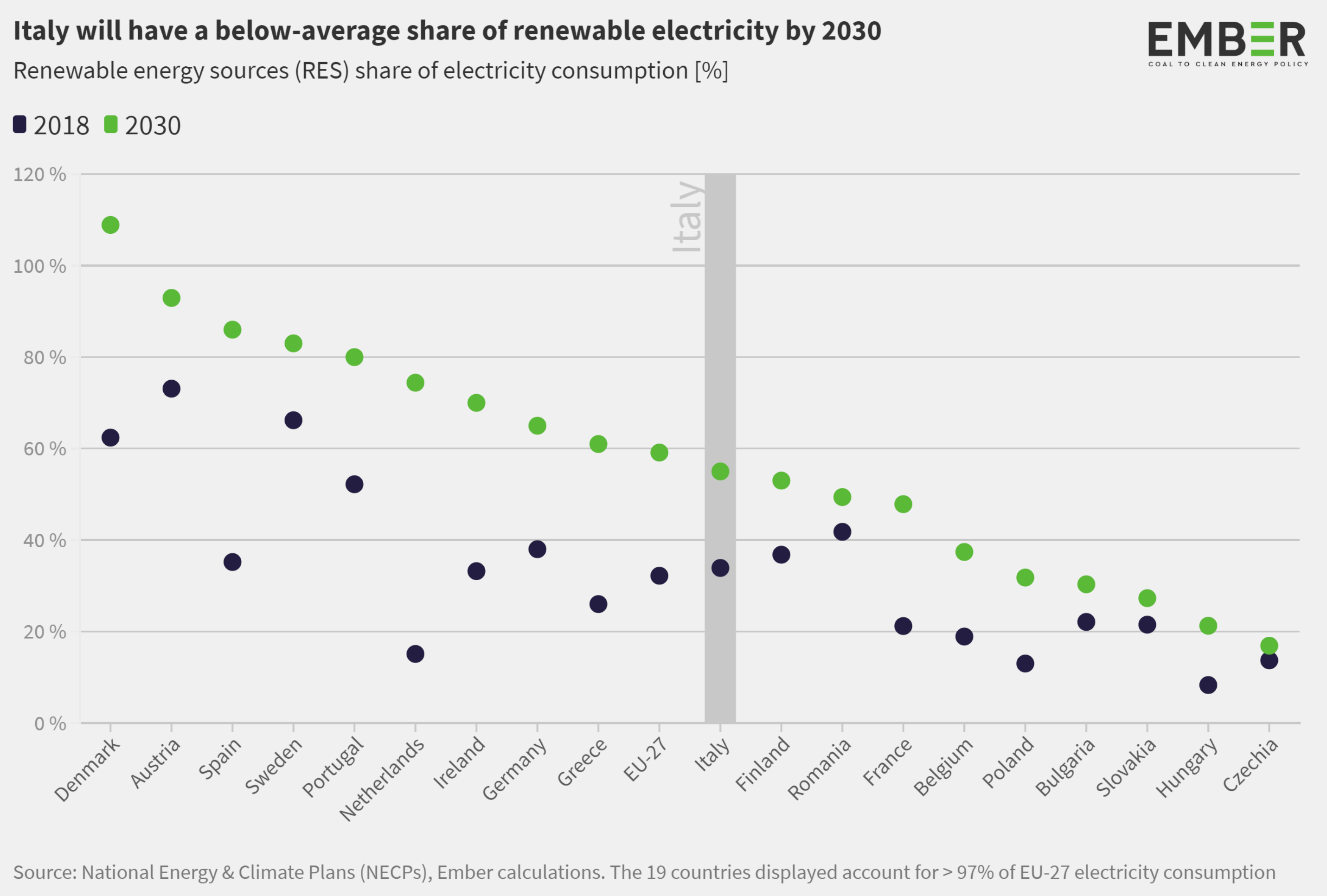


Italy plans the largest increase in electricity generation from fossil gas in the EU between 2018 and 2025. This is primarily driven by a switch from coal to gas-fired power stations as coal is phased-out in Italy. The reduction in fossil gas between 2025 and 2030 is reliant on the successful delivery of a planned expansion of renewable electricity - especially solar.



Renewables

By 2030 Italy will have approximately average levels of renewable electricity. New renewable electricity deployment between 2018 and 2030 is below average and significantly below that of Germany, Spain and the Netherlands.


Italy will have a below-average share of renewable electricity by 2030
Renewable energy sources (RES) share of electricity consumption [%]
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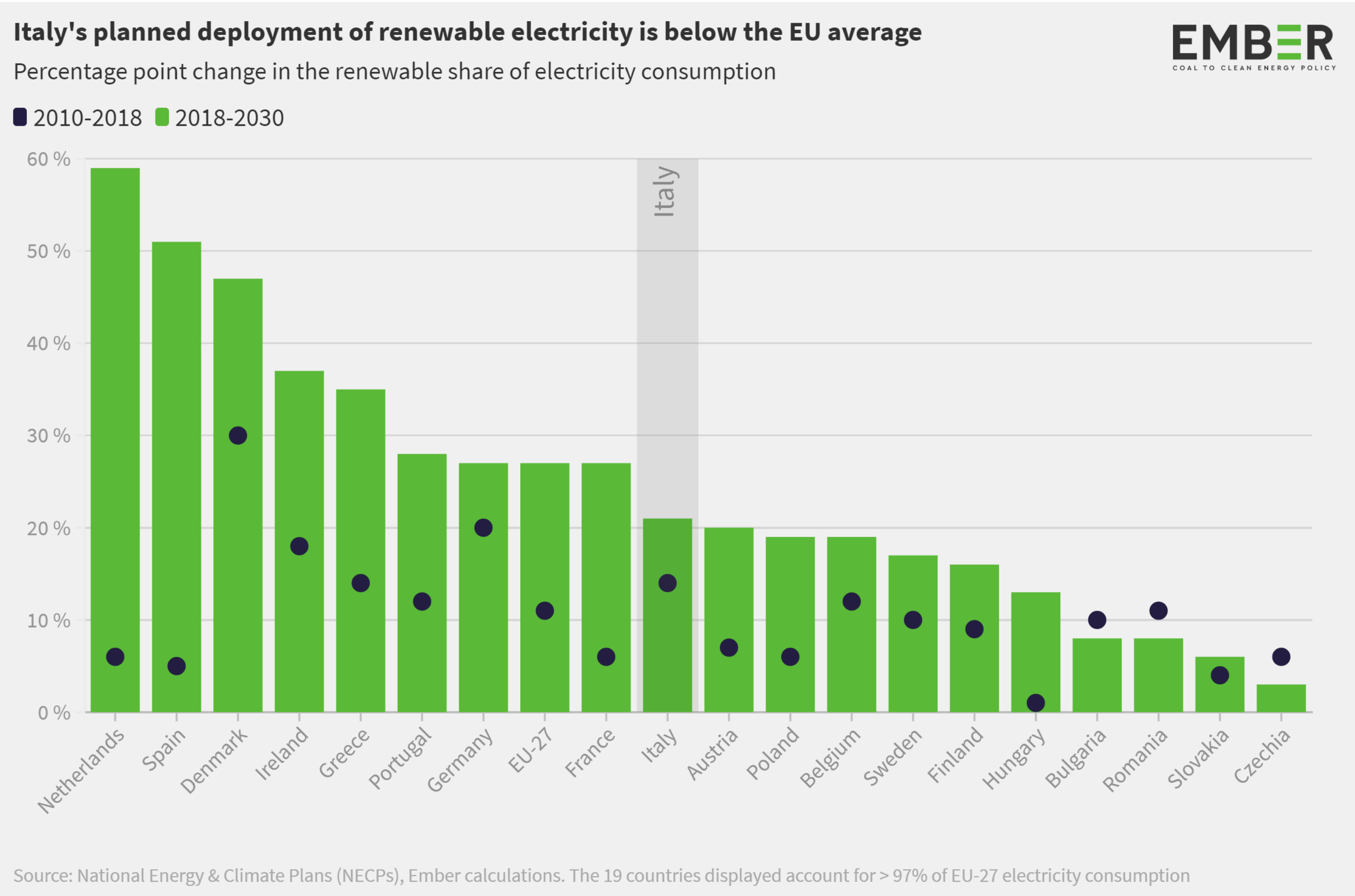
2018
2030
120 %
100 %
80 %
60 %
40 %
20 %
0 %
Italy
Denmark
Austria
Spain
Sweden
Portugal
Netherlands
Ireland
Germany
Greece
EU-27
Italy
Finland
Romania
France
Belgium
Poland
Bulgaria
Slovakia
Hungary
Czechia
Source: National Energy & Climate Plans (NECPs), Ember calculations. The 19 countries displayed account for > 97% of EU-27 electricity consumption


Italy's planned deployment of renewable electricity is below the EU average
Percentage point change in the renewable share of electricity consumption
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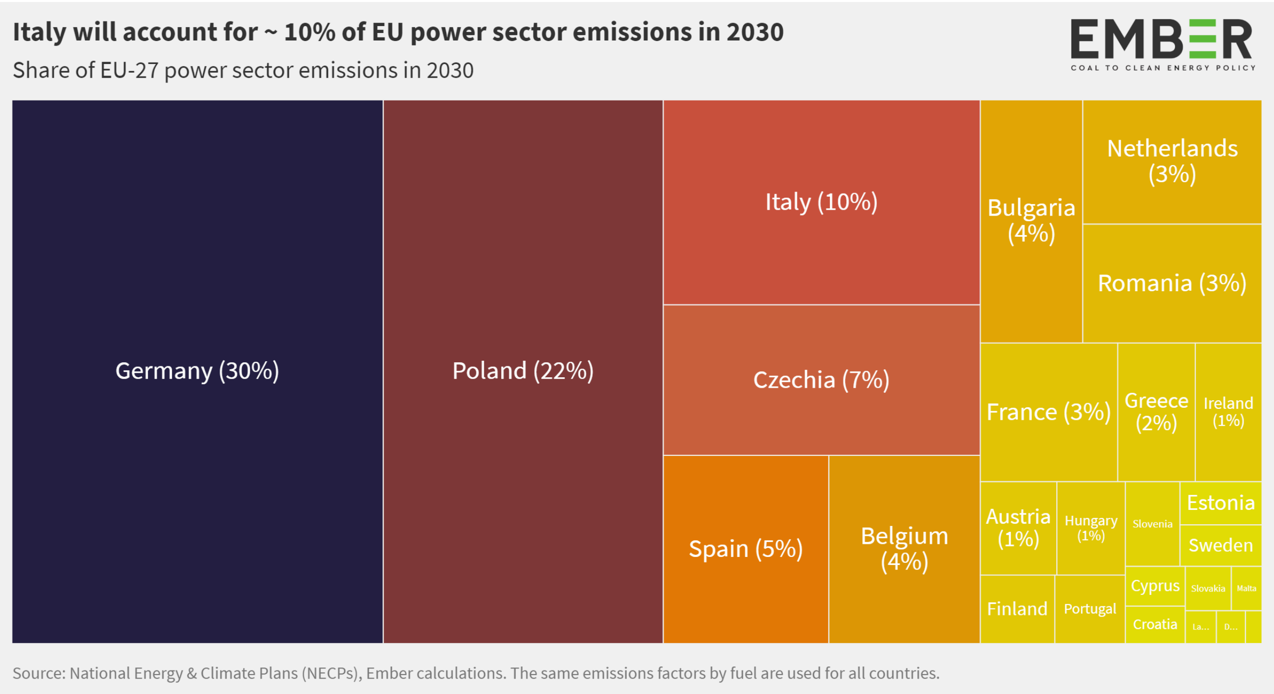
2010-2018
2018-2030
60 %
50 %
40 %
30 %
20 %
10 %
0 %
Italy
Netherlands
Spain
Denmark
Ireland
Greece
Portugal
Germany
EU-27
France
Italy
Austria
Poland
Belgium
Sweden
Finland
Hungary
Bulgaria
Romania
Slovakia
Czechia
Source: National Energy & Climate Plans (NECPs), Ember calculations. The 19 countries displayed account for > 97% of EU-27 electricity consumption

Power sector emissions

By 2030 Italy will be responsible for 10% of the EU-27's power sector emissions and will be the third biggest power sector emitter.



Electricity Mix