

To:  
**Asсен Vassilev,**  
**Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism**

**Sofia, 29 April 2013**

Dear Minister Vassilev,

As you will be aware the Electricity System Operator (ESO), has now order the curtailment of the electricity production from wind and solar projects by 40 % between 10:00 and 17:00 hours for four days in a row.

In conditions of near perfect predictability of the production of solar project – i.e. cloudless sunny days, these orders were issued citing a ‘misbalance between supply and demand’ as the reason. This means that the following must be the case for the management of ESO and specifically the management of the central dispatching unit of ESO:

- they can accurately predict 18 to 25 hours ahead of time, when issuing an order for curtailment on the next day by 16:00 on the previous day, that a curtailment of wind and solar projects will be necessary;
- at the same time, they cannot despite the aforementioned weather conditions, manage forecast production from wind and solar projects well enough to balance the grid even though wind and solar production combined amounts to only about 20% of the total production in the grid;
- they decide to, although Bulgaria as an EU member country is subject to the priority dispatch and guaranteed off-take requirements of the EU and although Bulgaria has implemented these requirements into its own legislation, order the curtailment and disconnection of wind and solar projects before other power sources and without attempting to balance their entire production.

These actions at best amount to gross incompetence if not criminal negligence. I therefore demand that:

1. You immediately relieve the director of ESO and the management of the central dispatching unit of their duties.
2. You issue an order that puts an end to the ongoing curtailment.
3. You order a detailed investigation of the matter.

Should, as has been suggested by the staff of the electricity distribution companies’ dispatching units the actions of ESO have been ordered or endorsed by your Ministry or yourself, I further demand that you relieve all responsible employees of the Ministry including yourself from your duties immediately.

Regards,



Sebastian Noethlichs  
Executive Director  
Bulgarian Wind Energy Association

