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The spread of renewable energy feed-in tariffs (REFITs) in the EU-25

The aim of this paper is to discuss on the one hand why a spread of REFITs took place in the European Union and on the other hand whether this instrument was a driving force of a greening of energy policies. At first we will explain in our paper the function of REFITs. Then we will show which countries within the enlarged EU-25 have introduced this instrument. After that we will identify the factors which led to the diffusion of REFITs and to the decline of quota systems which are beside tenders the main instrumental competitor of REFITs. Furthermore we ask for the influence of REFITs in success or failure of renewable energy development. Therefore we analyse the specific construction of successful REFITs in combination with the general political framework such as the natural conditions for RES, availability of fossil resources, use of nuclear power, the economic (level of energy prices, for example), technological (i.e. grid capacity), and cognitive environment. Finally we look at the possibilities for a uniform corpus of regulation for RES electricity valid for all EU Member States after 2005 and if this could be a REFIT system.