
International Residual Mix (IRM)

Electricity disclosure

Electricity disclosure according to Article 3/6 of the Internal Electricity Market Directive (2003/54/EC) must specify the contribution of each energy source to the overall fuel mix of the supplier over the preceding year. The Directive requires that the information provided by the suppliers must be reliable. That means that it must be accurate and double counting has to be avoided.

Several tracking mechanisms – e.g. certificates – may be used by suppliers to gain information on fuel sources of the electricity. In order to provide an accurate, transparent and efficient solution for the tracking of production attributes for the purpose of electricity disclosure as well as other purposes, the AIB^{*)} created a harmonised certificate scheme (European Energy Certificate System – EECs).

The shortcoming of production statistics for disclosure

Where tracking of information between generators and suppliers of electricity is not possible, national disclosure laws require statistical data (e.g. Austria and Germany use the production statistics for the European mainland provided by UCTE^{**)}). Unfortunately, all available statistical information is purely production data, which has not been adjusted to reflect electricity already accounted for by mechanisms for tracking production attributes. Consequently, the combination of tracked information and production statistics for purposes of disclosure inevitably leads to double counting.

The International Residual Mix (IRM) is the alternative to production statistics

The IRM is the result of adjusting the European production-fuel mix to reflect tracked production attributes and will be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{European production fuel-mix} \\ & - \text{Reliably tracked production attributes (RTPA)} \\ & = \text{IRM} \end{aligned}$$

In the beginning, the IRM will contain three fuel sources: renewable, fossil and nuclear. At a later stage, the IRM might be expanded to more detailed fuel sources. Suppliers can use the IRM for all fractions of electricity of unknown origin. All market participants are invited to assist in collecting information on reliably tracked production attributes, in order to make the IRM more accurate.

Hence the IRM can eliminate the double counting error which is introduced into disclosure information due to the use of pure production statistics.

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Project background

It is not the aim of the AIB project to provide an absolutely accurate IRM, this is not feasible. Yet it provides an information source for fuel mix disclosure which is significantly improved compared to current production statistics. The AIB will strive to continuously improve the IRM over time.

The AIB invited the UCTE to support this project and calculate the IRM jointly. The AIB's input will be to provide information on reliably tracked production attributes (RTPA) and the UCTE's input will be to provide information on the European production fuel-mix.

The AIB intends to calculate the first IRM for the year 2004 in early 2006. The IRM for 2005 will be calculated in summer/autumn 2006.

Contact for the IRM project

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The Association of Issuing Bodies (AIB) is the leading enabler of international energy certificate schemes. The AIB promotes the use of a standardised system, based on harmonised environment, structures and procedures in order to ensure the reliable operation of international energy certificate systems, with a view to encourage the development of renewable energy.

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The "Union for the Co-ordination of Transmission of Electricity" (UCTE) is the association of transmission system operators in continental Europe.

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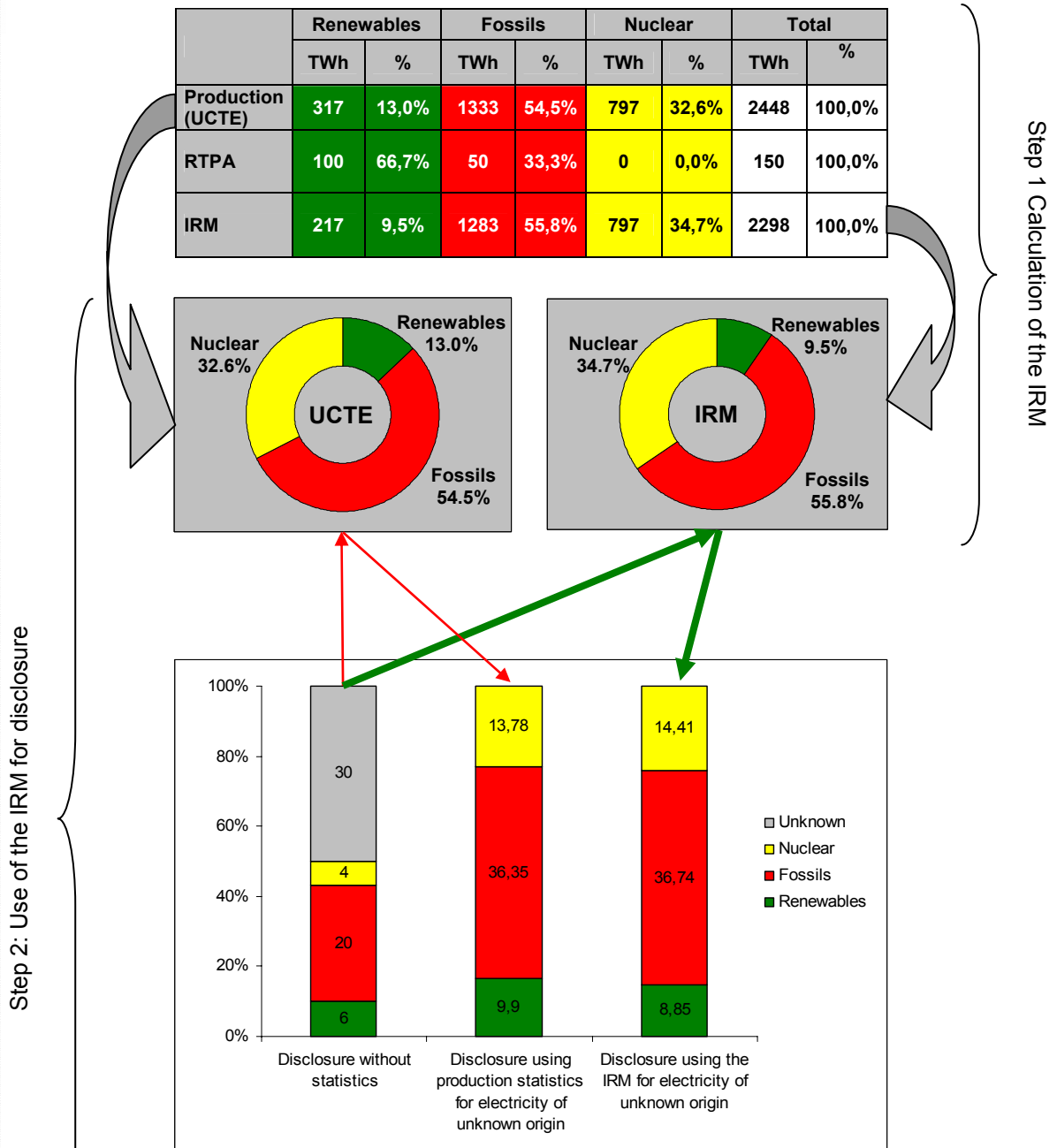
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Annex: Exemplification (Note: figures used here are preliminary!)



Suppliers can use statistical data for all fractions of electricity of unknown origin for disclosure purposes. The picture above shows the difference between using production statistics and using the IRM for those fractions.