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Renewable energy and town and country planning – IUCN
Colloquium Ghent 14/09/10

- Introduction
 - ? Renewable energy in Belgium : now 6 % - should be 13 % by 2020
 - ? Green energy : 18 % wind energy , < 1 % solar energy
 - ? Negative effects + NIMBY
 - ? Study 2004: difficulties obtaining planning permission for wind turbines


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- Legal obstacles
 - ? Solar panels
 - ? on roofs: till 2009 planning permission required, often refused
 - ? in fields: planning permission required, till 2009 no specific zones and no applications
 - ? Wind turbines:
 - ? planning permission required, till 2009 no specific zones but applications; often refused because of nuisance or zoning
 - ? environmental permit required above 500 kW
 - ? environmental impact assessment above certain thresholds


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- Legal obstacles
 - ? Observations :
 - ? study 2004: difficulties in obtaining permissions
 - ? absence of specific policy guidelines (besides an ministerial circular of 2001, declared non-statutory by the Council of State)


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- Measures
 - ? Solar panels
 - ? on roofs: since 2009 (under certain conditions) exemption from planning permission
 - ? in fields : since 2009 possible in agricultural zones (60 % of Flanders) → solar-panel fields


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- Measures
 - ? Wind turbines
 - ? windfarms allowed in agricultural zones (60 % of Flanders) + small windturbines possible for f.i. agricultural or industrial buildings
 - ? policy guidelines for the issuing of permits:
 - ministerial circular from 2006: large windfarms > 15 m (mostly public) -more "planned" ("windplan")
 - ministerial circular from 2009: small windturbines < 15 m (mostly private)

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- Results, recent developments, evaluation
 - ? Since april 2009: first permits for solar-panel fields granted; increase of windturbines but 8/10 permits for small windturbines refused
 - ? Concern about the many applications in agricultural zones
 - ? Council of State 08/01/09: circular of 2006 is non-statutory

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- Results, recent developments, evaluation
 - ? Evaluation
 - ? Increase of possibilities for windfarms
 - ? The granting of permits may not be based on the circulars → environmental conditions therein not "binding"
 - ? Importance of other legislation (f.i. nature conservation)
 - ? Solution of the problems ?

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