

Economists Survey – Energy Law

Zurich, 26 March 2017

Questionnaire

Last year, the Swiss parliament decided to implement a new energy law, which is part of the Energy Strategy 2050 and incorporates a push towards more renewable energy sources and less energy consumption. As a referendum was successfully called upon, Swiss citizens will have a vote on the new law on 21 May, 2017. Without going too much into the law's details, this survey intends to grasp Swiss economists' opinions about the energy policy in Switzerland.

1. Domestic energy generation: Some people think that Switzerland should predominantly generate its energy domestically. Others are of the opinion that it is not very important to generate energy predominantly domestically. From an economy-wide perspective, how important do you think it is to generate energy predominantly domestically? I consider this to be

- very important
- somewhat important
- neither important nor unimportant
- somewhat unimportant
- very unimportant
- prefer not to answer

2.a Reduction of energy consumption: There is a debate whether the government should introduce further measures (in addition to the already existing ones) to reduce energy consumption by households and businesses. Some people are in favour of further measures, some people believe the current measures are adequate and some people say one should reduce the already existing measures. What is your opinion on this? The government should

- introduce further measures
- stick to the current level of measures
- reduce the existing measures
- prefer not to answer

2.b In case the government decides to introduce further measures to reduce energy consumption, what types of policy instruments should be mainly used (check all that apply):

- Regulation
- Subsidies
- Taxes or incentive fees
- Other, comment below
- Comment

3.a Stimulating the production of renewable energy: There is also an ongoing debate whether the government should stimulate the production of renewable energy with subsidies, tax incentives or regulation. Do you think the Swiss government should, more than currently is the case, stimulate the production of renewable energy, or not? Or should it stimulate the production of renewable energy less than it is currently the case? I believe the production of renewable energy should be stimulated

- further
- just as it is
- less
- prefer not to answer

3.b In case the government decides to stimulate the production of renewable energy further, what types of policy instruments should mainly be used (check all that apply):

- Regulation
- Subsidies
- Taxes or incentive fees
- Other, comment below
- Comment

4. Competitiveness:

Some energy policy measures to reduce energy consumption or to stimulate the production of renewable energy usually discussed by the government are suspected of changing the international competitiveness of Swiss firms. What do you believe? Because of such additional policy measures the competitiveness of large Swiss enterprises will

- strongly increase
- moderately increase
- neither increase nor decrease
- moderately decrease
- strongly decrease
- prefer not to answer

... of SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) will

- strongly increase
- moderately increase
- neither increase nor decrease
- moderately decrease
- strongly decrease
- prefer not to answer

You find more information about KOF's economists surveys here:

<https://www.kof.ethz.ch/en/surveys/experts-surveys/economistis-surveys.html> →

Contacts

Klaus Abberger | Tel. +41 (0)44 632 51 56 | abberger@kof.ethz.ch

David Iselin | Tel. +41 (0)44 632 53 44 | iselin@kof.ethz.ch