EU steeds afhankelijker afhankelijker wordt

van invoer van olie en gas. Voor olie zal de importafhankelijkheid

stijgen van 76% in 2002 naar 94% in 2030.

Voor gas zal de importafhankelijkheid toenemen van

49% in 2002 naar 81% in 2030.

Volgens cijfers van de Europese Commissie

bedraagt de afhankelijkheid van ingevoerde energie ongeveer 78.9%, wat boven het EU-gemiddelde ligt.

Deze relatief gunstige situatie is evenwel beperkt

in tijd. In de toekomst zal België immers afhankelijker

worden van gasbevoorrading uit niet-EU-landen, in

het bijzonder gas uit Rusland, terwijl de mondiale olieontginning

zich verder zal beperken tot een steeds

kleinere groep landen.

Dit gegeven dwingt ons tot nauwere samenwerking

in Europees en internationaal verband.

**Benefits**

See also: [Earth's energy budget](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth%27s_energy_budget" \o "Earth's energy budget)

More energy falls on the world's deserts in six hours than the world consumes in a year, and the Saharan desert is virtually uninhabited and is close to Europe. Supporters say that the project will keep Europe "at the forefront of the fight against climate change and help North African and European economies to grow within greenhouse gas emission limits".[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-reuters-44) DESERTEC officials say the project could one day deliver 15 percent of Europe's electricity and a considerable part of MENA's electricity demand.[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-reuters-44) According to the DESERTEC Foundation, the project has strong job creation potential and could improve the stability in the region.[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-DESERTEC_Press_Release-45) According to the report by [Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wuppertal_Institute_for_Climate,_Environment_and_Energy" \o "Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy) and the Club of Rome, the project could create 240,000 German jobs and generate €2 trillion worth of electricity by 2050.[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-reuters020709-46)

**Obstacles**

Centralized solar energy plants and transmission lines may become a target of terrorist attacks.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-epoch-9) Some experts—such as Professor Tony Day, director of the Centre for Efficient and Renewable Energy in Building at London South Bank University,[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-47) Henry Wilkinson of Janusian Security Risk Management,[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-reuters-44) and Wolfram Lacher of Control Risks consultancy[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-reuters-44) – are concerned about political obstacles to the project. Generating so much of the electricity consumed in Europe and in Africa would create a political dependency on North African countries which have corruption and a lack of cross-border coordination. Moreover, DESERTEC would require extensive economic and political cooperation between [Algeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria" \o "Algeria) and [Morocco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morocco" \o "Morocco), which is at risk as the border between the two countries is closed due to a disagreement over the [Western Sahara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Sahara" \o "Western Sahara). Cooperation between the states of Europe and the states of the Middle East and North Africa is also certain to be challenging. Large scale cooperation necessary between the EU and the North African nations the project may be delayed due to bureaucratic red tape and other factors such as expropriation of assets.[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-reuters-44)

There are also concerns that the water requirement for the solar plant to clean dust off panels and for turbine coolant may be detrimental to local populations in terms of the demand it will place on the local water supply.[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-reuters-44) Opposed to this, studies point out the generation of fresh water by the solar thermal plants.[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-dlr-aqua-31) Furthermore, no significant amount of water is needed for cleaning and cooling, since alternative technologies can be used (dry cleaning, dry cooling[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-48)). However, dry cooling is more expensive, technologically challenging and less efficient than the water cooling currently planned. Plans for water desalination for cooling purposes are not part of the Desertec business plan or cost estimates as proposed.

The late [Hermann Scheer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_Scheer" \o "Hermann Scheer) ([Eurosolar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurosolar" \o "Eurosolar)) pointed out that the doubled solar radiation in the Sahara can not be the only criterion especially with its continuous [trade winds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trade_wind" \o "Trade wind) there being problematic.[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-nano2010510-49)

Transmitting energy over long distances has been criticized[*[who?](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Avoid_weasel_words" \o "Wikipedia:Avoid weasel words)*], with questions raised over the cost of cabling compared to energy generation, and over electricity losses. However, the study and current operating technology show that electricity losses using [High-voltage direct current](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High-voltage_direct_current" \o "High-voltage direct current) transmission amount to only 3% per 1,000 km (25% per 10,000 km).[[51]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec" \l "cite_note-50)

Investment may be required within Europe in a '[supergrid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supergrid" \o "Supergrid)'.[[52]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec#cite_note-Cook-51) In response, one proposal is to cascade power between neighbouring states so that states draw on the power generation of neighbouring states rather than from distant desert sites.[[53]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec#cite_note-Wolff-52)

One key question will be the cultural aspect, as Middle Eastern and African nations may need assurance that they will own the project rather than it being imposed from Europe.[[54]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertec#cite_note-zukunftstreff-53)