

# Towards a decentralised energy system accessible to all

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## SUMMARY

In a wide-ranging note issued in May 2014, La Fabrique Écologique has already analysed the regulation of the energy market in this country, calling for the introduction of a French model of energy decentralisation.

The energy and ecological transition requires a profound change in patterns of production and consumption, so as to encourage initiatives focusing on energy demand levels and the development of renewable energies.

Compared with the workings of a centralised system, this requires a totally different logic. This becomes all the more desirable since technological progress is making it increasingly competitive to produce decentralised renewable energy, with small units being integrated into the electrical grid. It is particularly essential if we are to take a lead in the worldwide economic race that has arisen in these fields.

A number of different laws and regulations have been progressively introduced. The first aim of this document is to undertake a full analysis showing that, over and above a certain number of positive measure, the centralised logic of the regulation of the French energy system has not changed. This situation is all the more paradoxical since local authorities, particularly in the major metropolitan areas, have multiplied their initiatives in the field.

Another totally new factor that has arisen in recent years is the clear emergence of citizens' initiatives, essentially representing a change in public attitudes with regard to energy-related matters. As in other European countries, our fellow citizens have a growing desire for transparency and for control of their own consumption, and even for a capacity to produce their own energy either individually or collectively. These developments are positive so long as in practical terms they are directed towards coherent and effective solutions.

In this new context, this document makes two proposals:

1) To give the regions, or sub-regional entities exercising powers delegated to them by the regions, real responsibilities in terms of decentralised energy systems. This proposal, taking up an initial concept first put forward in 2014, has now been made more specific in two major respects: an increased desire to develop citizen participation in renewable energy projects and their financing; and the possibility of experimenting with a regional supplement on purchasing prices, financed by regional electricity consumers.

2) To set the ambitious objective of doubling the share of self-production by 2022, in order to attain the same levels as our European partners in this type of operation. The scope for action in this field is now established by the law adopted in February 2017. A significant aspect still to be dealt with, in relation to a target that is by definition ambitious, is to establish stable economic parameters over the next five years so as to give a clear indication of the progress that needs to be made.