Guarantees of Origin – European Commission Perspective

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Consumers are central to the Energy Union

"with citizens at its core, where citizens take ownership of the energy transition, benefit from new technologies to reduce their bills, [and] participate actively in the market"
Consumer empowerment is needed

"Providing consumers with frequent access, including in near real-time, to partially standardised, meaningful, accurate and understandable information on consumption and related costs as well as the types of energy sources"

A New Deal for Energy Consumers Communication 2015
Requirements for disclosure of the sources of electricity will be reviewed

EU instrument for renewable energy mix disclosure to consumers - the guarantee of origin (GO) is part of the Renewables Directive
- Use of GOs are not compulsory for energy mix disclosure requirements

Electricity suppliers required to disclose energy mix in energy bills under the Electricity Directive (2009/72/EC)
- This legislation is under review at the same time as the renewables legislation
Mid-term assessment of the current Renewable Energy Directive

"It is worth investigating the possible extension of the use of GOs to all types of power generation i.e. including electricity from fossil and nuclear generation"

"This would help support the tracking and auditing on non-renewable supplies and underpin the integrity of the supply mix disclosure statements that inform consumer choices concerning these generation types"
Public consultation questions on disclosure

Should the current system for providing consumers with information on their sources of electricity be developed and improved?

Should the Guarantees of Origin (GO) system be made the mandatory form of information disclosure to consumers?

Should other information, such as CO₂ emissions be included?

Should it be extended to the whole energy system and include non-renewable sources?

Has the current GO system been successful in providing consumers with information on the sources of electricity consumed?
GO system is important to drive market demand for renewable energy by enabling consumer choice.

GO system is key to disclosure of energy sources to consumers and, with few exceptions, it should be strengthened.

Wide support for the extension of GOs to all types of generation, including information on carbon intensity, and its full operation across-borders.

Opposing views regarding whether full disclosure should be mandatory or voluntary, and several stakeholders concerned about excessive administrative burden.
The way forward

The Energy Union is supportive of informed consumers and their engagement in the energy transition

Review of disclosure requirements and the GO system for the post 2020 legal framework

Proposals for revised legislation in 2016 for:
- Electricity market directive
- Renewables directive

The revision provides a good opportunity to take stock of the current system and identify improvements
Thank you for your attention!

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