



Biga, a district in the northwestern province of Çanakkale that lies on both sides of the Dardanelles, is the site of hundreds of wind turbines operated by private firms to generate electricity.

Turkey adds 687 MW of installed wind capacity

Wind power plants across the country provide about 8 million homes with electricity, a report by the Turkish Wind Energy Association reveals

ANKARA

Turkey's total installed wind power capacity reached 8,056 megawatts (MW) with the new energy projects, adding 687 MW in 2019, a wind energy association has said.

Wind energy provided electricity to about 8 million Turkish homes last year, according to the data in the Turkish Wind Energy Association's (TÜREB) annual report.

More than 75 percent of

wind farms is located in the Aegean and Marmara regions of Turkey, the report said, whereas 12.3 percent of wind farms is in the Mediterranean region. The remaining 12.7 percent of them is located in different parts of the country.

The province of İzmir in the Aegean region saw the most installed wind capacity with 1,549 MW, while the northwestern province of Balıkesir ranked second with 1,363 MW and Manisa in western Turkey followed in third place with 689.9 MW.

Turkey currently operates a total of 198 wind energy power plants and the country has 25 wind farms under construction with a total of 1,309 MW. The country secured some 7.4 percent of its annual energy generation from wind power plants, the report read.

"We have installed 3,285 wind turbines across the country," TÜREB head Hakan Yıldırım said.

However, wind turbine suppliers were not able to meet the deadlines for deliveries in the

upcoming months, he added.

"If the force majeure provisions are not implemented due to delays related to the coronavirus, it will be very difficult to complete the investments for power plants of 1,300 MW, which were planned to be commissioned at the end of this year," he added.

High potential

According to Turkey's Energy and Natural Sources Ministry, the wind energy potential of Turkey has been estimated as 48,000 MW. The country is gradually expanding its capacity, mainly in the Aegean and Marmara regions.

In the last five years, \$4.8 billion investment was made in solar power, \$4.3 billion in wind farms, \$6 billion in hydroelectric plants, \$1 billion in geothermal and \$430 million in biomass, according to the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry.

Turkey's Enerjisa and Germany's Enercon won Turkey's second Renewable Energy Resources Zones (YEKA) wind energy tenders for a total capacity of 1,000 megawatts (MW) on May 30, 2019.

The YEKA tenders were held as part of the country's plan to supply 65 percent of its energy needs from domestic and renewable sources by 2023.