

Britain to stick with renewable energy targets and 'green' petrol levy

By Emily Gosden

THE UK is pressing ahead with plans to hit EU renewable energy targets despite Brexit, ministers have confirmed, including the likely introduction of a new "green" petrol adding 1p a litre to prices at the pump.

Lord Bourne, the energy minister, told MPs yesterday afternoon that his department and the wider Government were still working to hit the targets, which require the UK to generate 15pc

of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.

Andrew Jones, the transport minister, said it was "very likely" Britain would introduce a new kind of petrol called E10, which contains a higher proportion of biofuels than current petrol, in order to meet a sub-target requiring 10pc of transport energy to be renewable.

Appearing alongside the ministers before the energy committee, Rob Wakely, head of low carbon fuels at the

Department for Transport, also confirmed that this was expected to add 1p a litre to prices at the pump.

Last year government sources insisted the UK was trying to avoid introducing the fuel, saying that doing so would "shaft" drivers and was part of the EU's "war on the British motorist".

However, experts have said that doing so will be the only viable way of meeting the transport target, which will be a struggle even then.

Mr Jones told MPs that E10 fuel was

"a very likely part of our biofuel future" and described it as an "opportunity".

He insisted it was up to fuel manufacturers – who could already deploy the fuel if they wished – to do so. However, petrol retailers are only likely to introduce it if the Government signals its backing.

Mr Jones said a forthcoming consultation on biofuels would provide "some certainty into the marketplace for E10".

On why targets still applied, Lord Bourne raised the prospect that while

leaving the EU, Britain could still remain in the energy union. Experts have pointed out that this could entail retaining renewable energy targets, as Norway does. "Until we know precisely how Brexit plays out, in terms of the energy union – because there are countries that are part of the energy union that are not part of EU – it's difficult to say exactly how this plays out," he said. "At the moment we are certainly working on the basis that these remain relevant and binding for the UK."

An article in the Daily Telegraph today (14th July 2016) sets out how **the UK is likely to "press ahead with plans to hit EU renewable energy targets despite Brexit including the introduction of a new "green" petrol adding 1p a litre to prices at the pump".** The transport minister, Andrew Jones, said it was **"very likely" the UK would introduce a new kind of petrol called E10** which contains a higher proportion of biofuels than current petrol, in order to meet a sub-target requiring 10% of transport energy to be renewable".

Last year UK Government sources insisted the UK was trying to avoid introducing the fuel (E10), saying that doing so would "shaft" drivers and was parts of the EU's "war on the British motorists".

Why do the the renewable energy targets still apply to the UK? Lord Bourne raised the prospect that while leaving the EU, Britain could still remain in the energy union" but quite how that will be settled as part of the Brexit negotiations is not certain.