



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

The Director-General

Brussels, 20/06/2022

ENER.C[redacted]oa (2022)4835485

[redacted]
Bioenergy Europe

By email:

[redacted] [@bioenergyeurope.org](mailto:[redacted]@bioenergyeurope.org)

Dear [redacted]

I would like to thank you for the letter of more than 500 leaders of European companies on the role of bioenergy in the current transformation of our energy systems that was sent to President von der Leyen on 5 May 2022. I was asked to reply on her behalf, and would be grateful if you could forward this reply to the signatories of your letter.

I would like to thank you for your general support for the European Green Deal and the strong promotion of renewables which needs to be accelerated following the Russian aggression to Ukraine and the necessary phase-out of Russian fossil fuels.

Bioenergy is an important renewable energy source in the EU and in many Member States, accounting for over 10% of EU final energy consumption and about 60% of renewable energy consumption. According to the Commission's analysis underpinning the Climate Target Plan, despite significant energy efficiency improvements and massive deployment of non-bio renewable energies, sustainable bioenergy will be needed to achieve the 2030 climate and energy targets, and particularly the long-term carbon neutrality by 2050.

In the REPowerEU Plan (COM (2022) 230 final) published on 18 May, the Commission underlines the role of bioenergy, including in the current situation, as a domestically available and stable energy source that contributes to replacing fossil fuels. The Communication also highlights that biomass must be sourced sustainably and should rely primarily on biomass waste and residues. Our proposal made in July 2021 introducing new sustainability criteria for forest biomass in the Renewable Directive aims at promoting more sustainable harvesting practices, excluding certain areas that are key for carbon sink and biodiversity protection, and reducing the energy use of roundwood through the cascading principle. In view of the reducing carbon sink in European forests,

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confirmed by recent LULUCF data, we have to ensure such a balance between sustainable harvesting for energy use and the necessary protection of European forests.

I believe that such strengthened criteria will provide investment security for the next years and therefore, should be in the interest of industry.

As you know, we should enter soon into negotiations on the package following the adoption of a general approach by the Council and the opinion of the European Parliament in September. I look forward to further exchanges with you during the process.

Finally, boosting sustainable biomethane to 35 bcm annually by 2030 is an essential part of the REPowerEU plan, and the implementation of this objective will rely also on a good cooperation with industry to which we look forward.

I would like to thank you for sharing your views with the European Commission and welcome your continued engagement on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Ditte Juul Jørgensen