

GÜNTHER H. OETTINGER  
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Mr Rob Vierhout  
Secretary General  
ePURE – European Renewable Ethanol  
Rue Archimède 25  
B - 1000 Brussels

Dear Mr Vierhout,

Thank you for your letter of 14 June 2012 on renewable energy in the transport sector, addressed to Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn. As this issue falls within my area of responsibility, your letter has been forwarded to me.

The Commission does support innovative energy technologies, and focuses more in particular on the development of emerging technologies which are not yet commercially viable. The construction of several demonstration plants for the production of advanced biofuels for example, has been supported in the framework of the SET plan<sup>1</sup>.


However, drafting the support schemes - which are the base for investments in large scale commercial plants - falls under the responsibility of the Member States. Article 21 of the Renewable Energy Directive, the so called double counting mechanism, only provides an additional incentive for the production of biofuels based on waste, residues, non-food cellulosic material, and ligno-cellulosic material.

The growth of renewable energy depends on private sector investments and as you stated correctly, to stimulate these investments, clarity on a long term policy is needed. This is why, three years after the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive, the Commission has already started the debate on the policy for post 2020. In the Communication "Renewable Energy: a major player in the European energy market", major challenges for the development of renewables have been identified. In the related discussion, all options to support the development of renewables are tabled. A new policy framework should, in my view, ensure continuity and stability, enabling Europe's renewable energy production to grow till 2030 and beyond.

I trust that we can continue working together in a constructive way, offering European citizens a clean, secure and competitive energy future, and I look forward to proceeding with our discussion in due course.

Yours sincerely,



 <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/projects/doc/2012/biofuels.pdf>