Thank you for your letter dated 4 January 2019 to Mr Dominique Ristori, Director-General for Energy, concerning the forthcoming delegated act setting out criteria for high and low ILUC risk biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels. I was asked to reply on his behalf.

You express the view that the Commission should take into account that existing methodologies and studies on ILUC are imprecise and often based on outdated data and that the delegated act may discourage productivity increases.

Allow me to recall that the revised Renewable Energy Directive (Directive (EU) 2018/2001), sets out that the delegated act will determine the high indirect land-use change-risk feedstock for which a significant expansion of the production area into land with high-carbon stock is observed, which represents a neutral and objective criterion. The Commission will base its analysis and recommendations on the best available scientific data, which will include a report on the status of worldwide production expansion of the relevant food and feed crops. As regards your point about the imprecise nature of ILUC methodologies, please let me recall that the reason for distinguishing high indirect land-use change-risk feedstock based on observed expansion of the production area into land with high-carbon stock is precisely because the level of greenhouse gas emissions caused by indirect land-use change cannot at present be unequivocally determined based on modelling.

I would like to thank you for your input and the invitation to the workshop on 29 January. My colleague [REDACTED] participated in the workshop and found it very useful.

Yours sincerely,