

Cabinet of Commissioner Kadri SIMSON - Minutes of VideoConference

VIDEOCONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

Title	Meeting with Arla Foods
Date	05-05-2021
Participants	Ext : [REDACTED] COM: CHAPUIS Laure ; [REDACTED]
	Ares initial request : (2021)1588897
	Disclosure authorization : <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES - <input type="checkbox"/> NO - <input type="checkbox"/> Partial (pls highlight unauthorized parts)
Issues raised & follow-up	<p><u>Arla Foods (AF)</u>: The representatives of AF introduced the company as exporting healthy nutrition and dairy products also outside the EU. The focus of their presentation was on the implementation of sustainability strategy over the last years across all farms.</p> <p>Two pillars on their strategy: <u>Stronger planet</u> (minimising their footprint) and <u>stronger people</u> (health and nutrition) – holistic approach to sustainability</p> <p>AF has a target of reducing their emissions by 30% by 2030 (based on 2015 reference), with the right infrastructure, the feed usage, the production of biogas</p> <p>Biodiversity is also a critical element of their sustainability strategy, they are promoting organic products and regenerative farming.</p> <p>They have a carbon net zero footprint operations as a target.</p> <p><u>Sustainable Biogas production</u>: It is a focus in their strategy. As a starting point AF has developed the biggest database of farm data and has conducted climate checks on all their farms, which gives a good insight on what is the footprint in the farm and what are the areas to be improved; they have reduced already by 24% their emissions (but this could be further accelerated).</p> <p>The objective is to mainstream the sustainable practices in order to keep the production level but decrease emission since delocalisation would solve the problem of emissions.</p> <p>Producing more biogas provides farmers with organic fertilizer and this can improve the yield and the fertility of the land.</p> <p>Their question to the Commission representatives was about the way the legal and policy framework at the EU level can provide the incentives and support farmers to make more use of the biogas, since the manure is already there; they are currently using 14% percent of the manure for biogas but would like to scale up to about 50% by 2030. They also focus on green electricity production from wind and solar.</p> <p>They wanted to explore further ways for working together with the EC, in providing input so as to incentivize their farmers to make more investments into biogas. They believe that the scalability of the biogas production can improve if there is a European policy that combines agriculture and energy policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ [REDACTED] In the REDII, the scope of the Directive is enlarged to the industry but not to farmers directly as a sector; overall there are indicative benchmark on the targets that should be reached in renewables. ○ [REDACTED] REDII supports indirectly the biogas linked to agriculture. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>On the emission side</u>: There are the bonuses from biogas produced from waste - <u>On the energy communities</u>: biogas can be produced in a circular model as part of the energy transition in rural areas. - The concept of sustainable circular biogas production is already supported in the Energy System Integration Strategy as well as on the EU Methane strategy. - It is important to scale up the promotion at national level, mainly through the NECPs and other policy tools like the CAP (rural development). Circular models combining biogas/ bio methane and green hydrogen production can lead to net zero or even negative emissions for full decarbonisation.