

From:

AEBIOM

Sent:

18 October 2012 16:46

To:

(AGRI)

Subject:

AEBIOM press release on EC proposal on ILUC

Attachments:

AEBIOM_PR_ILUC_18_10_2012.pdf

Dear all,

Please find enclosed AEBIOM press release on EC proposal, published yesterday, on ILUC issues.

AEBIOM considers that this proposal sets a wrong path to solve ILUC related issues and gives a negative message for the development of biofuels and bioenergy sector.

Best regards,

European Affairs Managers

AEBIOM- European Biomass Association



Press release

EC limits biofuels sector but does not solve the problem

The European Commission has yesterday proposed to change the RES and Fuel Quality Directives and introduce measures aiming to tackle ILUC issues. AEBIOM welcomes the EU Commission's decision to drop mandatory ILUC factor based on uncertain methodology. Nevertheless, the capping of crop based biofuels at 5 % of the RES transport target and multiplication factor of four times for certain wastes and residues will have a negative impact on development of RES transport sector. In such a way, the European Commission reduces the transport target for biofuels rather significantly thus weakening the leading EU role in Climate change and RES policies.

Such changing RES framework conditions only three years after setting them up would impact investors' confidence and hamper future market developments not only of biofuels but also biogas and solid biomass sectors" commented AEBIOM President Gustav Melin.

The European bioenergy industry, on top of compliance with RES directive requirements to avoid harmful land use changes, is strongly committed to providing a sustainable biomass supply and has implemented strong, reliable and credible certification schemes. According to AEBIOM president Gustav Melin: "It is difficult to understand why the only market actor guaranteeing sustainability should be forced out of the market. Other sectors such as food, feed, material use have the highest market shares and growth rates, and therefore, EC proposal to limit the crop based biofuels would have little or no impact on the protection of ecologically sensitive areas".

The preferential treatment of biofuels based on waste and residues would create "waste tourism" and set bad incentives to use wastes and residues from food and material sectors which might be produced in a way that is considered to be unsustainable according to the rules of the RED for crop-based biofuels. As food and other sectors do not have to comply with these sustainability rules, biomass from ecologically sensitive areas could enter the energy market, which is contrary to EU Commission intensions.

In addition, if we use residues and wastes, the 5% remaining RES target in transport, accounted 4 times would in reality mean 1,25% of real biofuels. "It will create virtual renewable energy, counted for the target but non-existing in reality. It is clear that such virtual energy will not help the EU to reduce GHG emissions in transport sector, or to replace fossil fuels", commented AEBIOM Secretary General Jean-Marc Jossart.

Biofuels production yields in valuable by-products (around 40-60%) which are used for animal feed. Capping biofuels use would diminish Europe's own production for animal feed resulting in increasing imports from and land use changes in Brazil and Argentina.

For further information, contact us:

