



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Günther H. Oettinger
Head of Cabinet

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JB/cw – Ares (2012) 556877

Director General
FEDIOL - The EU Oil and Proteinmeal Industry
168, avenue de Tervuren (bte 12)
BE-1150 Bruxelles

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 4 May 2012 regarding the indirect land use change impacts of biofuels. On behalf of the Commission, we would like to thank you for your interest and contributions on this topic.

The Commission is aware that decarbonising transport requires very significant investments by companies such as the ones you represent and the current uncertainty about how the issue of indirect land use change will be addressed is not conducive to these much needed investments. As you may agree, we need to find a robust solution which provides for a reasonably lasting, reliable policy framework.

Given the complexity of estimating indirect land use change effects, the Commission is finalising an impact assessment focusing on the evaluation of a number of policy options for minimising the indirect land use change impacts. The evaluation of the policy options requires a baseline scenario for indirect land use change impacts to 2020 that the policy options can be compared against. As indirect land-use change can only be estimated through modelling, we have taken the view that although a number of limitations and uncertainties remain, the latest IFPRI study represents the best available estimation of the likely indirect land use change impacts associated with the European biofuel consumption to 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Michael A. Köhler