



Contact details

Mr. Christophe Bourillon
106, Rue Joseph II
B-1000 Brussels
p: +33.2.32.57.61.19
e: bourillon@ebio.org
www.ebio.org

Bioethanol industry welcomes EC guidelines on biofuel sustainability and certification

Brussels, today – “Europe made another important step today towards a more sustainable transport future”, said Rob Vierhout, Secretary-General of eBIO after the publication of the long awaited implementation guidelines of the EU biofuels sustainability scheme. “This document is essential to ensure that biofuels used to count towards the European targets have been produced following the toughest sustainability standards applied worldwide”.

When presenting the guidelines, Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger highlighted the crucial importance of sustainable biofuels for the European climate and energy strategy. Biofuels will remain the only ready-made solution to curb greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector for the foreseeable future. He indicated that biofuels offer far greater opportunities than risks, especially compared to fossil fuels that are more and more costly and risky to produce. “There is no way around biofuels if Europe is serious about its climate and energy security goals”, Vierhout commented. “We applaud the Commissioner’s clear support for biofuels and for the 10% target.”

The Commission has now called upon industry, government and NGOs to present certification schemes that guarantee that only sustainable biofuels will be used in Europe. The EU bioethanol industry is working very hard to have schemes operational soon. The first one from industry REDcert is already approved in Germany.

The European Bioethanol fuel industry has been awaiting those guidelines and welcomes their publication. They provide the necessary clarity and pan-European rule-book to allow for business decisions regarding long-term biofuels investments anywhere in the EU27.

The criticism by a number of environmental NGOs that these guidelines are not addressing the effects of Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) is misplaced. The discussion on the still unproven ILUC theory will take place later this year as is foreseen by the Directive. “Narrowing down the biofuel debate to ILUC is equal to ignoring the importance and significance of the strictest environmental criteria ever placed upon an industry sector. It is pure spinning of facts and scaremongering, and this is not very constructive”, said Vierhout.

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About eBIO

Founded in 2005, eBIO serves as the voice of the European bioethanol fuel industry, providing advocacy, authoritative analysis and industry data to its members, the European Institutions, strategic partners and the media. eBIO pursues the promotion of European policies and initiatives that lead to increased production and use of bioethanol fuel. With over 60 members, eBIO is committed to raising public awareness of renewable fuels and the positive contribution they make to European energy independence, climate change and the wider economy. If you wish to learn more about eBIO, please visit www.ebio.org, or contact info@ebio.org.