



Press Release

European Commission's 2030 proposal fails to build on successful existing framework and to tackle rising emissions in the EU transport

Wednesday 22 January

Brussels, Today – The European Commission today published its proposals for a 2030 climate and energy package. The Commission proposes a binding 40% target for GHG reductions and an overall EU binding target for 27% renewables use. The European Renewable Ethanol Association (ePURE) believes that the absence of specific, binding targets for renewable energy use in the transport sector ignores the very pressing need to decarbonise EU transport.

The EU transport sector is highly dependent on imported fossil fuels and accounts for a significant share of both EU energy consumption and GHG emissions. Since 1990 EU transport emissions have increased by 36% and are now responsible for 25% of total EU GHG emissions. In 2009, the EU acknowledged the urgent need to decarbonise EU transport by introducing the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and amending the Fuel Quality Directive (FQD). The fact that EU biofuels use already stands at almost 5% shows that this policy have delivered. Given its success it is logical to continue this policy in any 2030 framework.

“The Commission has failed in its first test to provide a clear signal to investors that there will be a clear policy framework for sustainable biofuels in Europe after 2020. This proposal is short-sighted, the only winner will be the fossil fuel industry. It ignores the giant elephant in the room, the constantly increasing GHG emissions of EU transport which now represent over a quarter of EU GHG emissions. We call on the European Parliament and Member States to recognise the benefits of sustainable biofuels by introducing separate and binding targets for renewable energy and GHG reductions in transport“, said Rob Vierhout, Secretary General of ePURE.

“Failure to capitalise on the successful RED sub-target for transport will also undermine all the work that has been done by the EU industry, farmers, governments and local communities up to now to ensure that Europe is a leader in producing sustainable biofuels and bring benefits in terms of rural development, energy security. It will also prevent in Europe the commercial deployment of advanced biofuels that is happening elsewhere in the world where the policy conditions are more favourable“, concluded Mr. Vierhout.

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The European Renewable Ethanol Association (ePURE) represents the interests of European renewable ethanol producers to the European institutions, industry stakeholders, the media, academia and the general public. Based in Brussels, ePURE represents 53 member companies, with production plants in 16 member states, accounting for 90% of the installed renewable ethanol production capacity in Europe. The organization, established in 2010, promotes the beneficial uses of ethanol throughout Europe.