



Binding target for advanced biofuels needed

Ahead of the European Council on 20-21 March 2014, which will discuss the European Commission's Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 we are deeply concerned about the lack of energy and climate targets for the transport sector in the Commission's White Paper in the period 2020-2030. The European Leaders of Sustainable Biofuels (LSB) call for a renewed and ambitious binding target for the use of truly sustainable renewable energy in the transport sector including a binding and specific target for advanced biofuels.

The large scale introduction of advanced biofuels offers valuable opportunities for creating new jobs, promoting EU-based industrial development in a very innovative field, and creating supplementary value especially in rural areas and agriculture, in addition to reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Moreover, advanced biofuels help to become less dependent on fossil oil and gas producing countries. The recent developments in Ukraine show how crucial it may be that Europe reduces its energy import dependency.

Advanced biofuels are made from wastes and lignocellulosic feedstock that are cheap compared to the sugar and oil crops used in most biofuels nowadays. The processing costs will decrease along with further development of the technology, making advanced biofuels more cost efficient than the first generation in the medium term. Moreover, advanced biofuels have a favourable sustainability profile: high GHG reduction, low/no Indirect Land-Use Change (ILUC) impacts, and do not compete with food and feed production.

Since the introduction of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) targets, the use of biofuels in Europe has grown to 4.8% of total transport energy, and is projected to reach 8% by 2020. Binding targets were key to providing the necessary guidance and predictability that encouraged investment in the sector. Setting a sub-target for advanced biofuels is the best way to further support commercialisation of advanced biofuels production technologies.

European companies are world leaders in advanced biofuels technology, but need a stable and long-term policy framework for the use of advanced biofuels in Europe now and beyond 2020 to take the next steps to further commercialisation of these technologies. The EU must now set a renewed and ambitious binding target for the use of truly sustainable renewable energy in the transport sector including a binding and specific target for advanced biofuels. Without such a binding target, investments made by industry and the European Commission will be wasted, while new investments in advanced biofuel technology will be directed towards other regions of the world where the framework conditions are more supportive.

Your up-coming Council meeting is an opportunity to send a clear signal to the Commission and market players that there is a political will and a vision to make advanced biofuels a reality in Europe and to avoid innovation leakage. We therefore call upon you to work towards an ambitious framework to support advanced biofuel in the transport sector that will enable the EU to live up to its leadership in climate and energy policy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Koltermann', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Prof. Dr. André Koltermann
LSB Chair
Senior Vice President / Biotech & Renewables Center (Clariant)



The Leaders of Sustainable Biofuels

The LSB is a group composed by the Chief Executive Officers of Leading European biofuel producers and European airlines. The initiative aims at supporting the development of second generation biofuels in Europe. The leaders of Clariant, British Airways, Biochemtex, BTG, Chemrec, Dong Energy, St1 Biofuels Oy and UPM and are joining forces to ensure the market uptake of advanced sustainable biofuels by all transport sectors.

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