



AEBIOM NEWSLETTER

April 2007

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

The European Council of 8th and 9th March 2007 was the most important event for the renewable energy sector of the last years. Clear and binding targets were set for the year 2020 for renewables as well as for the reduction of CO₂.

Therefore we inform you more in detail about the new European policy for renewables and upcoming work to implement the decisions of the council.

Heinz Kopetz -President

AEBIOM NEWS

▶ AEBIOM is recruiting a bioenergy expert to start in June 2007

AEBIOM is recruiting a Bioenergy expert with a background in energy engineering. He/she will have an overall responsibility for technical issues relating to AEBIOM activities. The new team member will start work in AEBIOM's office in June 2007 and besides other activities will be responsible for new associate members of AEBIOM.

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▶ AEBIOM statistics – state of the art

For the last two months Mr Christian Metschina has been drawing up the "Statistical report on the contribution of biomass to the energy system in the EU 27". Mr. Metschina is grateful to all those members who provided information for the report; however, as it is a very complicated subject to deal with in a short period of time, further active involvement of AEBIOM members is needed. Good results of the report will be beneficial to both AEBIOM members as well as the association itself, and can be the basis to back up national policies as well as European ones. For example, MEP Claude Turmes is going to draft a report on energy statistics and during the process will need the help of European Associations of RES.

The report on statistics will be available in June.

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▶ AEBIOM's voice is heard in the European Parliament

AEBIOM president Heinz Kopetz made a presentation during the Fair Energy Round Table "Chances and perspectives for a New Energy Future", which was held on 11-12 April in the European Parliament. Mr Kopetz clearly explained AEBIOM's position on heat, electricity and biofuels and the need to promote efficient conversion processes. The message got through to the members of the European Parliament, and AEBIOM ideas were quoted a couple of times during the ITRE committee meeting later that evening. This presentation, together with others from AEBIOM, will be placed on our website in mid May in the "Publications" section, so that the public at large can gain a better idea of AEBIOM positions and activities.

[Read the presentation](#)

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EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

▶ European Council adopts a binding renewables target of 20%

EU leaders during the European Council, which took place on 8-9 March 2007, demonstrated their will to fight global warming by establishing ambitious goals for renewables as well as for cutting CO₂ emissions.

The heads of states set a firm and binding overall target of 20% for renewable energy sources by 2020,

compared to the present 6.5%, as well as a target of cutting the EU's greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020. Furthermore, the EU is willing to raise this last goal up to 30% if the US, China and India make similar commitments. EU leaders also set a binding minimum target of 10% for the share of biofuels in overall transport petrol and diesel consumption by 2020.

It is important now to make sure that national Biomass Action Plans are set up to reach the 20% renewables target. However, questions remain regarding the system that should be used to establish the share of renewables in each individual country's energy mix. Also, there are different possibilities for calculating what constitutes a 20% renewables share, for example, one could count primary, or final energy, which differ from each other significantly.

[Read the Council conclusions](#)

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► **Fair Energy Round Table – focus on renewables**

Climate change, energy efficiency and renewables were the main areas of interest at a round-table discussion held at the European Parliament on 11-12 April by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. The debate was one of the events organised by Parliament to mark the 2007 Energy Globe Awards.

Many topics were discussed regarding renewables, including price and competitiveness. EREC Policy director Oliver Schaeffer made it clear that, although renewables might be more expensive in the short term, gas and oil prices are rising whereas the cost of innovative technologies is falling and "the wind and sun will never send us a bill".

Jeremy Rifkin, author of bestseller *The Hydrogen Economy*, argued that the "new industrial revolution" desired by the European Parliament should be based on the use of hydrogen. The key role of technologies was stressed: "The issue is probably not one of innovative capacity - we are already very advanced technologically - but of organisation and practical implementation", said Claude Turmes (Greens/EFA, LU). Presentations by separate renewables sectors (biomass, wind, solar power etc) were made on 12 April, copies of which are available online (see below).

Several speakers made the point that we can not simply look for new energy sources, without also thinking about managing better the resources we are using now. Paul Rübzig (EPP-ED, AT) argued that energy efficiency should be the key plank of the European Parliament's approach. It is not enough to pass laws to make better use of resources, it was stressed, as the success of the "energy package" (all the new measures proposed by the European Commission in January) also depends on an awareness and understanding of the situation by the public. A proper information campaign is needed throughout the EU, and pilot projects undertaken, particularly in the transport and construction industries.

After the Round Table, the Parliamentary Committee further discussed energy efficiency issues, in light of the fact that national energy efficiency action plans are due to appear on 30 June this year. CHP was considered as a big contributor to energy savings. The Commission was heavily criticized by MEP Claude Turmes, who complained that there is only one person working on energy efficiency in the EU executive, while 20 people are needed. Not much can be expected in this field from the Commission, he believes, if more staff are not employed.

Some MEPs, such as Jerzy Buzek (EPP-ED, PL), were optimistic about the use of traditional energy resources, such as coal and nuclear power, saying that with new technology they could be made clean and even cheaper than renewable sources. Paul Rübzig felt it was clear that we could not expect developing countries to refrain from using these types of energy as this would be "like banning them from developing".

[Read the presentations of Energy Round table](#)

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► **Follow up to Renewables Roadmap – an overall renewables directive**

As a result of the Renewables Roadmap published on 10 January 2007, the Commission is planning to propose an overall renewables directive. The proposal will most probably contain national targets for each member state as well as provisions, rules and regulations for different sectors. The proposal was planned to be published in September, however, it is likely to happen closer to the end of the year. The delay is related to the fact that it is not only DG TREN, but also other parts of the Commission, that are involved in the internal decision making process.

It is important to AEBIOM that the directive contains the necessary tools to increase the use of renewables for heat – definition, removal of barriers, framework for support schemes, reliable statistics, etc. The ideal solution would be if the Commission extends the existing directives on electricity and biofuels until 2020 and proposes concrete numbers for the heating and cooling sector.

AEBIOM would like to see the establishment of national action plans, however, it is not sure yet if the

Commission is going to propose them. There are a number of outstanding questions, such as how the plans will be agreed upon, which procedures will be used for follow-up, whether sector specific targets should be binding once notified to the Commission, when and how the intermediate targets are to be set, etc. Regarding the support schemes, a debate about harmonising RES-E support schemes is taking place parallel to the development of the renewables directive. RES-H support schemes might be discussed also. As for biomass, the important questions are related to the sustainability criteria through certification of biomass, especially when imports are considered. This issue is under consultation (see below) but criteria's like reduction of greenhouse gases and biodiversity will most probably be part of this certification. AEBIOM expects that the Commission will opt for final energy consumption targets, as it implies that energy efficiency will be better taken into account.

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► **Report on renewables is under preparation by MEP Thomsen**

MEP Britta Thomsen is preparing a report on renewables which will be ready on 10 May. AEBIOM had a chance to examine a draft.

The draft calls on the European Commission to come up with a renewable energy legislative framework, and stresses the importance of national action plans and common EU energy policy. The renewable energy framework should build on existing legislation for the renewable electricity and biofuels sectors but must be strengthened and improved compared to these directives. The EP urges the Commission to propose a sectorial approach within the legislative framework by setting clear binding targets for electricity, transport and heating and cooling sectors.

The draft report also urges the Commission and member states to agree on a distribution mechanism based on a sectorial analysis of renewable potential in each country which ensures an active engagement from all member states.

Energy efficiency is emphasized, and the report recalls that district heating could offer an essential infrastructure for taking full advantage of renewable energies. It stresses the need to integrate renewable energy projects within an overall strategy for combined heat and power, since biomass and other renewable energy sources are most efficiently applied in combination with combined heat and power and the use of surplus heating. Furthermore, the report also notes that biomass is often more energy efficient when it is used for heating and cooling, rather than for biofuels. Thomsen calls on the Commission and member states to take this into account when developing the national action plans.

As for the certification system, the Commission is asked to develop a mandatory and comprehensive certification scheme which should take into account both the greenhouse gas savings achieved and a positive energy account. The criteria should also ensure that the production of biofuels does not cause a loss in biodiversity or a reduction in carbon stocks (for example through the use of wet lands). Biofuels that do not fulfill these criteria should not be eligible for subsidies, etc. and should not count as part of the biofuels target.

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► **National BAPs – minutes and presentations available**

On 13 March 2007, the Commission organised a second expert meeting on national biomass action plans which was held as a follow-up activity for the European Biomass Action Plan (BAP). All presentations of the meeting are available in electronic format on DG TREN's web-site:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/biomass_action_plan/national_bap_second_meeting_en.htm

[Read the minutes of the meeting](#)

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AEBIOM POSITION ON EU ENERGY POLICY

► **Expert consultation on EEA draft on bioenergy potential from agriculture – until 10 May**

This draft report provides technical background on the calculation of agricultural bioenergy potential in EEA report No 7/2006 "How much bioenergy can Europe produce without harming the environment?". In addition, it sets out the information and rationale used for defining the environmental constraints in the agriculture sector to develop an 'environmentally compatible scenario'. The last two chapters present and discuss practical examples and policy options for developing environmentally oriented bioenergy production from agriculture in Europe.

This draft report is now being circulated among energy and agriculture experts so that they can comment on the draft. The feedback needs to be provided to Anna.Jonsson@eea.europa.eu by **10 May 2007** at the latest.

► **Public consultation on Biofuels**

The European Commission has launched a new consultation on liquid biofuels in view to prepare an overall directive on renewables. The Commission is inviting answers on the following questions:

- How should a biofuel sustainability system be designed?
- How should overall effects on land use be monitored?
- How should the use of second-generation biofuels be encouraged?
- What further action is needed to make it possible to achieve a 10% biofuel share?

Responses should be sent to TREN-BIOFUELS-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu by **4 June 2007**.

[Read the consultation website](#)

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► **Public consultation on Strategic Energy Technology Plan – until 13 May**

Low carbon/energy efficient technology is a part of the answer to fight against global warming and to increase the security of energy supply. "An Energy policy for Europe", published on 10 January 2007, advocates an accelerated shift to low-carbon energy, in which energy technologies will be driving the industrial revolution to de-carbonise the energy system.

Therefore, The Commission intends to put forward a first European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) by the end of 2007. The aim of the SET-Plan is to accelerate the market introduction and take up of low-carbon and efficient energy technologies. As part of the preparation of a SET-Plan, a widespread consultation with all relevant stakeholders is being conducted. Feedback can be provided until **13 May 2007**.

The Strategic Energy Technology Plan will be debated at the 2008 Spring Summit, which will focus heavily on energy in order to make it clear that the EU takes the energy package very seriously.

The Commission's communication '[Towards a European Strategic Energy Technology Plan](#)' (SET-Plan) (COM (2006)847), sets out the EU executive's initial ideas for what the plan could include.

[Read the consultation website](#)

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PUBLICATIONS

► **Brochure "Life and Energy: Innovative solutions for sustainable and efficient energy in Europe"**

This new edition of the LIFE-Focus series explores the contribution the LIFE programme has made to sustainable, competitive and secure energy for Europe. It highlights key EU policy actions and developments in this area and provides information and experiences of innovative ways to meet present and future energy challenges.

The 60-page brochure is divided into five thematic chapters: Environmental impacts of energy generation and distribution; Energy in the production and services sector; Aspects of energy-efficient building and related services; Energy-use in the transport sector; Cross-cutting policy issues such as the demonstration of cost-effective means of improving energy efficiency, the promotion of alternative energy technologies and good practices.

The analysis in the chapters is supported by 24 examples of particularly successful energy-related LIFE projects that have taken place throughout the EU.

[Read the publication](#)

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► **AEBIOM publication: brochure on pellets for domestic heating systems**

AEBIOM has prepared a brochure (printed version) on pellets for small-scale domestic heating systems. The brochure is focused on the following topics: pellet production, pellet distribution, pellet burning at small scale, legislation and support schemes as well as the pellet market. The pdf version will be soon available on the AEBIOM website under the RESTMAC project section.

[Read the brochure](#)

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► **Study "Implementing the energy crops CAP measures and bioenergy market"**

The University of Bologna has prepared a study on "Implementing the energy crops CAP measures and

bioenergy market". The study provides the following: an analysis of the European Union (EU) bio-energy market; an evaluation of energy crops Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) measures: decoupling, non food on set aside regime, aid for energy crops, rural development measures (investments in agricultural holdings, processing and marketing of agricultural products, non-industrial processing and marketing of forest products/afforestation, adaptation of rural areas); an outlook for future market developments and policy recommendations.

The market analysis covers the EU-25, whereas the evaluation proper covers the EU-15, from 1992 to present.

[Read the summary of the study](#)
[Read the presentation of the study](#)

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EU PROJECTS

▶ IEE call launch, open until September 28

The Intelligent Energy – Europe II (IEE2) programme for 2007 was launched in **mid-April 2007**. IEE2 is part of a broader EU Framework Programme for competitiveness and innovation from 2007 to 2013. Improving European performance in energy efficiency and renewable energies is considered to be a key element for Europe's competitiveness and for the success of plans to encourage innovation and create jobs. Approximately **€55 million** will be made available in the 2007 IEE2 call.

The deadline for submitting proposals will be **28 September 2007**.

The Intelligent Energy-Europe II programme was presented during the European Info Day held on 19 April.

[More about the 2007 call for proposals](#)

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▶ RESTMAC- upcoming workshop in May

As a part of the RESTMAC project, AEBIOM has prepared a brochure on the topic "Pellets for small-scale domestic heating systems" which will be distributed during the conference on pellets within Victam International 2007, which will take place on 10th May in Utrecht, Netherlands.

AEBIOM is one of 11 partners for the RESTMAC project, which is coordinated by EREC (European Renewable Energy Council). The project, developed by a consortium of European renewable energy industry research associations, aims at developing and implementing a concise, well targeted and thematic approach to ensure the dissemination and uptake of selected RES technologies by the market.

[Read the programme](#)

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▶ EUBIONET II – minutes available

A workshop on bioenergy trading within the framework of EUBIONET II and IEA task 40 was organised on 19 April in the port of Rotterdam. The topics regarding biomass prices, pellet markets, port infrastructure, certification criteria's were discussed. AEBIOM made a presentation on the current trends in Austrian bioenergy policies. During the lunch break, a boat tour to the impressive port of Rotterdam, where many liquid biofuels projects are studied, was organised. The participants have also visited the Amer power plant that co-fires 400 000 tons of pellets per year as well as wood waste and coal.

[Read the minutes of the workshop](#)

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▶ FP7 call for research projects

This call was published in December 2006 with the deadline on 1 June 2007. The call is entitled "FP7 Capacities Work Programme: Part 2 - research for the benefit of SMEs". The call is open to all research areas with an indicative budget of € 10 Million.

[Read the call](#)

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EVENTS

▶ AEBIOM conference on pellets within VICTAM International on 10 May 2007, Utrecht

AEBIOM is organising a conference within the VICTAM International 2007 event which is going to take place on 10th May 2007 in Utrecht, Netherlands. Every year, over 3 days, VICTAM International hosts over 200 of the world's leading companies exhibiting the latest technology, as well as ingredients produced by industries dealing with animal feed. The technology that is used to make animal feed is also used to make pellets.

The AEBIOM conference will be focused on pellets. More precisely, the speakers will talk about alternative resource material to produce pellets, such as energetic plants (for example miscanthus), straw, wood waste and others. Also, the production and consumption of pellets will be analysed, focusing on the present pellet market situation, future trends and economic conditions.

[Read the programme](#)

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► **Energy Globe Awards presentation ceremony**

On April 11 2007, the European Parliament's hemicycle became the venue for a television gala- namely the Energy Globe Awards' presentation ceremony, where prominent international figures honoured the world's best practice, when it comes to sustainability projects.

The event also emphasised the sustained efforts of the European Parliament to achieve ambitious goals relating to energy efficiency and climate change. The gala was taped and broadcast as a 90-minute TV-Special on Sunday, April 15 2007 at 11.30 a.m. by the European-wide satellite TV network 3sat. It was also provided for distribution to the EBU as well as other major networks. In total, over 2.5 billion households will be able to witness via TV this unique environmental event.

[Read more](#)

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► **Nordic bioenergy 2007 in June 2007, Stockholm**

Nordic Bioenergy 2007 is this year's largest bioenergy event in Europe. The conference, which acts as a gathering point for professionals in the bioenergy industry, highlights the market trends, and aims at promoting Nordic bioenergy whilst also enhancing Nordic cooperation and competitiveness.

Speakers will include leading decision makers from the transport, heat and power industries; buyers and sellers of equipment, fuels and systems, as well as service suppliers and consultants. Politicians, municipalities, research institutions, NGOs and journalists will also be represented in the conference.

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► **Commissioner Boel delivers a speech on EU grain and oil sectors**

On 4 May, Marianne Fishler Boel, the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Development delivered a speech on EU grains and oil sectors. The biofuels is a hot topic on agricultural agenda, therefore, Commissioner Boel was analyzing several issues regarding biofuels production such as increasing demand and price for agricultural raw material, the influence higher price of raw material might have on the food price, imports needed to meet the biofuels target of 10% by 2020 etc. In order to access the minutes, please click on the link below.

[Read the speech](#)

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