



AEBIOM NEWSLETTER

July 2008

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Dear Readers,



The first six months of this year brought us a tremendous increase in the oil prices: at present the price is about 50 dollar/barrel higher than 6 months ago.

In the past, a similar increase of 50\$/b (from 25 to 75\$/b) took six years, from 2001 to 2007. We are witnessing an extraordinary acceleration in this price movement. The reason to this, according to several experts is that we reach the peak of oil supply. If this is true and we will see it in the near future, the price will continue to rise.

There are several impacts of this development on the biomass sector. On one side the costs of production rise – fuel, fertilizer, other inputs, on the other side the competitiveness of biomass increases as well, which is especially true for biomass with low input production such as forestry or short rotation forests for its' use in the heating sector.

Exactly right in time AEBIOM organized a workshop on pellets in the end of June and is preparing a road map on the development of the pellets industry until 2020. AEBIOM is convinced that pellets will become an increasing attractive alternative to oil and gas in the heating sector.

But AEBIOM also supports binding targets for transport biofuels as an important part of strategy to improve the security of supply in this sector. A higher security of supply can be best obtained with biofuels from Europe. Therefore a clear priority for biofuels from Europe is necessary. Doing so, the criteria of sustainability could be met easily and the impact on global food prices would remain under control. The critics of biofuels should always bear in mind that at present no other alternative to fossil transport fuels is available and that without biofuels the oil prices would increase more rapidly.

AEBIOM hopes that the French presidency will decide over the renewable energy directive before the end of this year.

Heinz Kopetz –President

AEBIOM NEWS

► New AEBIOM members

Two international companies working in biomass field have recently joined AEBIOM as associate members. AEBIOM welcomes the new associate members:

- Jenz GmbH (Germany) - a big producer of large and small scale chippers and crushers
- EC Bioenergie GmbH (Germany) – develops and operates biomass projects, produces solid biofuels (including pellets); the company is also active in biomass trade, bioenergy consulting and energy contracting.

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► AEBIOM workshop on pellets roadmap

AEBIOM, on 26 June 2008, has organised a workshop on “Pellets Roadmap for Europe”, at which AEBIOM associate members working in the pellets sector explained their views (and proposed recommendations) on the market situation in their respective countries. The aim of this workshop was to elaborate a pellets roadmap which would contain an objective (75 millions tons in 2020, both for heat and electricity generation) and clear policy guidelines on how this promising market sector can be further developed in the coming years. The workshop produced policy recommendations for the pellets sector. These recommendations will be included in the “Pellets Roadmap for Europe” draft brochure prepared by AEBIOM. This roadmap will be printed and distributed all over Europe to all relevant policy makers to show that pellets have a high potential to become a serious alternative to fossil fuels in the future.

More information about the workshop can be found in the section of the newsletter entitled “AEBIOM position on EU policies”

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EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

► European Parliament is working on renewables directive – AGRI and ENVI opinions

The renewables directive proposed by the European Commission on 23 January 2008 is still being discussed by the European Parliament. An MEP Claude Turmes (The Greens) was appointed to deliver a report on renewables directive which was published in the beginning of May. There are about 1300 amendments to the Turmes report. Due to such a high number of amendments, the vote on RES directive in ITRE Committee (Committee on Industry, Research and Energy) will take place in the beginning of September rather than in mid July as it was planned. Other parliamentary committees such as ECON (Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs), REGI (Committee on Regional Development), AGRI (Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development) ENVI (Committee on Environment – voting on 7 July), INTA (Committee on International Trade) and TRAN (Committee on Transport and Tourism) have already voted on the renewables directive and, therefore, delivered their opinions for the ITRE Committee. The delay in the ITRE committee means that the final vote in the plenary session will be delayed as well.

Draftswoman of AGRI opinion regrets that there are not many provisions focusing on wood energy as well as the sustainability criteria of it. Sustainability criteria should focus on high efficiency use of solid biomass for cogeneration and sustainable management of forest resources. Harmonised sustainability criteria should be applicable for all types of biomass and it should be ensured that imports of RES also comply with the environmental criteria of the EU as well. The member states should be able to refuse the renewable energy coming from outside EU if it does not comply with social, economic and environmental criteria and if there is a risk for food security.

AGRI committee thinks that decentralized use of RES should be promoted as it favors job creation in rural areas. Due to decentralized nature of biomass resources such as agricultural waste, manure etc for biogas production, biogas is a good option to strengthen the rural areas, produce all types of energy (heat, electricity or use it in cars) and reduce CO₂ emissions. In order to significantly exploit existing potential for biogas, there is a need for a coherent EU policy (cooperation between RES, agricultural and regional development policies) and a need to eliminate all obstacles for biogas use at national and regional levels. Furthermore, natural gas grids should be accessible to biogas.

As regards biofuels, it is proposed to eliminate the binding nature of the biofuels target and focus on research of 2nd generation biofuels instead. Money saved from abolishment of 45 Euros aid to energy crops could be used to finance the research of second generation biofuels. Food security should be also ensured by making sure that biofuels production does not compete with food production. The definition of biofuels is clarified and includes the following products: bioethanol, biodiesel, biogas, biomethanol, biodimethanol, biodimethylether, bio-ETBE, bio-MTBE, synthetic biofuels, biohydrogene and pure vegetable oil. The AGRI committee also proposes to abolish the set-aside land in order to increase the production of biofuels. Double counting of biofuels produced from waste, residues etc is deleted. The Committee proposes Member States to introduce fiscal measures in order to increase the production of biofuels. This system would be linked to the reduction of CO₂ emissions.

The draftswoman thinks that the overall reduction of energy consumption in combination with an increased use of RES will help to achieve 20% RES target and significantly reduce CO₂ emissions. Electricity production alone (from biomass) should not count towards the final electricity target, only electricity produced in cogeneration plants. Furthermore, member states should encourage technologies with high conversion efficiency – at least 85% for residential and commercial applications and at least 70% for industrial ones.

National Action Plans should include how member states are going to achieve their target with their own renewable resources. These national resources should represent at least 80% of renewable energy consumption. The directive should establish fair trade conditions by applying environmental criteria of Common Agricultural Policy to the countries outside the EU. In order to make sure that biomass resources are used in small installations, member states should provide aid to the renewable heat and electricity installations that are smaller than 5MW_{th}.

In his ENVI opinion on the renewables directive draftsman Anders Wijkman focuses on biofuel policy. In general he wants to strengthen the sustainability criteria and stimulate the production of second generation biofuels. The draftsman proposes to lower the biofuel target to 8%.

Biofuels

- biofuel target of 8-10 percent in 2020 of which 40-50% should come from second generation biofuel, electricity, hydrogen or biofuel from algae. This means a smaller part of the 10% biofuels will come from crops that use a lot of agricultural land and lead to higher food prices. Also an intermediate target of 4% in 2015 of which 20% should come from second generation biofuel, electricity, hydrogen or biofuel from algae. The current non-binding target is 5,75% in 2010, but the EU currently uses just 2,5% biofuels.
- Review of the targets in 2015, taking into account the availability of both first and second generation

biofuels which comply with the sustainability criteria plus electricity, hydrogen and algae fuel as well as rising food prices

Sustainability criteria

The sustainability criteria as proposed by the Commission are widely seen as too weak. The CO₂-threshold should be raised, social criteria should be added and environmental criteria should be more elaborate and should contain indirect land use change

Compromises:

- CO₂-threshold of 45% for new installations from entering into force of the directive and 60% from 2015 onwards. Existing installations can continue production with their current efficiency level up to April 2013.
- include water pollution, avoidance of water scarcity, air pollution and soil pollution in environmental criteria
- add social criteria which require compliance with national laws, ILO conventions, UN conventions on indigenous peoples, land rights and rights of consent and consultation
- add indirect land use change with a risk adder of either 120, 20 or 10 grams CO₂/MJ to start with. The Commission will publish a methodology for calculation indirect land use change before 1 January 2010 which shall be used to review the value for indirect land use change.
- widen the criteria from biofuels and other bioliquids to energy from biomass for all criteria except for the CO₂-threshold, the methodology for which should be laid down later.

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► EP is working on RES directive: INTA, ECON, TRAN and REGI opinions

INTA opinion expressed the doubts concerning the binding 10% biofuels target. Due to the soaring food prices and uncertainty about the 2nd generation biofuels, the Committee proposes to delay the fulfillment of binding 10% target until 2025. INTA also proposes an amendment saying that all biofuels and bioliquids should comply with EU requirements for agriculture and not only those produced in the EU as proposed by the Commission. This, according to the INTA opinion, would free the European farmers from a competitive disadvantage and increase overall environmental benefits of a shift to biofuels. The INTA committee thinks that national action plans (biofuels target) should be modified or suspended if food and feed prices have risen significantly. As regards sustainability, in addition to the points in the Commission proposal, it is essential to tackle the risk of biofuels displacing existing food production which then relocates to environmentally sensitive regions. The traceability to the source of RES is added to sustainability criteria as well as the protection of water resources and forests (from deforestation).

ECON opinion focuses on renewables trading mechanism and introduces some amendments to the Commission's proposed system. The GO (guarantees of origin) system could cover all types of renewable energy: electricity, heat and transport biofuels. The trading mechanism should not be possible between persons as it would endanger national support strategies and push up prices for the use of renewables, leading to significant energy price inflation.

This Committee thinks that second generation biofuels are crucial to reduce EU's dependency on imported oil. Biofuels production, however, should not endanger food production and must meet the criteria for environmental sustainability. Regular, un-bureaucratic reporting is preached.

The draftswoman of the TRAN opinion focuses on biofuels and says that in order to achieve the 10% target, a big quantity of first generation biofuels will be needed, which give rise to major environmental and social problems. Second-generation biofuels still face technical and economic uncertainties over their use before 2020. Therefore the draftswoman proposes a flexible and progressive approach to achieving this 10% objective. Besides that, the draftswoman advocates the importance of hydrogen to reduce the EU's dependency on oil. As regards biofuels blends, the opinion proposes to place on the market higher blends of biodiesel in diesel than those envisaged by standard EN 590/2004. The directive should not only require the widespread availability of petrol fuels containing biodiesel at all filling stations but the same requirement should be applied for bioethanol. Also, sustainable biofuels production chain (biofuels production, logistics and distribution infrastructure) should be encouraged so that it reduces the highest amount of CO₂. The National Action Plans should include the measures to promote renewables (including biofuels and gaseous fuels) but also logistics chain. Investments to the infrastructure are needed in order not to be held back by the lack of infrastructure.

As regards sustainability criteria, the social criterion is added to the Commission's proposal. Environmental and social sustainability criteria should be compatible with the criteria currently under discussion in the proposal for amending Directive 98/70/EC on fuel quality, in line with the report adopted at first reading in the ENVI committee on 6 December 2007.

Furthermore, according to this opinion, the renewable energy should be linked to energy efficiency and access to the grid should not be limited to electricity as it is essential to have support schemes for biogas for heat and

power generation.

REGI opinion recalls that renewables offer the opportunity for a decentralized energy policy through the exploitation of regional potential and meeting regions' needs. Therefore, Member States and regions should support the initiatives and activities of all local stakeholders involved in the development of renewable energy sources – local and regional authorities, farmers and foresters, businesspeople and planners, universities, researchers and private individuals. It must be underlined that the use of renewables, as well as the production of equipment and machines, can provide development opportunities to many regions across Europe, especially in regions with limited job creation options.

It is important that Member States consider all possible renewable energy technologies. Simple notification instead of burdensome authorisations will speed up penetration of small and decentralised renewables.

The REGI committee supports the use of sustainable peat for transport, however, deep undrained peatland, according to it, should not be disturbed. It should not be used for biomass, nor should wind turbines or roads be built on it (in order to avoid the release of stored carbon in the atmosphere).

This opinion stresses the importance of energy efficiency and the reuse in buildings. The Commission should be requested to make cogeneration compulsory, when technically possible, where renewable energy is produced from biomass. Furthermore, the Commission should study the impact of wood burning furnace projects on the local and sustainable development of the timber sector, given that this sector plays a major role in contributing to regional development and the dynamism of rural economies. Financial support by government for installation of equipment to use renewable energy in existing buildings is favorable rather than building regulations that would greatly increase the cost and involve bureaucratic inspection procedures.

According to this opinion, the original definition "Forest undisturbed by significant human activity" in art.15(3)a is an inaccurate term used mainly for statistical purposes, which leaves room for ambiguous interpretation as to which forests would belong to this category. In some cases, sustainably managed forests in normal economic use could be regarded as untouched, biodiverse forest and fall outside the 10% biofuel target.

Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), has listed an extensive set of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management on which all the signatories have to report. These criteria have also been implemented at national level and are nowadays an essential part of national forest legislation in many EU countries. Corresponding criteria and indicators have also been created in different parts of the world and should be used for forest-based raw materials outside Europe.

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► Council focuses on flexibility mechanism and sustainability criteria

The Council is now working on renewables directive with a special focus on sustainability criteria and flexibility mechanism for the EU in order to reach the 20% renewables target.

In the meantime, the French presidency announced that they still have the priority to finalise the energy and climate package within their presidency.

Flexibility

The Commission's proposal on RES directive has introduced a flexibility mechanism to enable EU member states to reach the 20% renewables target. However, according to the renewable industry, various NGOs, member states etc this proposal (GOs trade mechanism) will result in introduction of harmonized EU wide certificate scheme which would endanger successful national support schemes such as feed-in-tariffs.

The Council has recently decided to use the UK/Poland/Germany proposed flexibility mechanism. 18 Member States supported this approach and only Austria and Belgium opposed this proposal.

This proposal foresees that it should be left to each member to decide whether to allow other member states to benefit from its' national support schemes and if so, at what extent. It is also left to the member state to decide whether to let the renewable energy produced in its territory to benefit from other member states' national support schemes (and at what extent). Furthermore, it is possible, according to this trilateral proposal, for two countries to make an arrangement to transfer a certain amount of renewable energy between each other. This proposal does not endanger existing national support schemes and allows the EU member states to decide which technology to promote – without putting a pressure to develop only the cheapest technologies.

Sustainability criteria

On 22 February, the Council decided to establish an ad hoc Working Party with the task of drawing up a common sustainability scheme for biofuels. This sustainability criteria is being drawn for two directives: renewables directive proposed by the Commission on 23 January 2008 and proposal for an amendment of the fuels quality directive (98/70/EC).

There is a general agreement on large parts of the text, however, several issues remain outstanding:

- the level and date of application of the second stage for the minimum greenhouse gas saving requirement in Article 15(2); In the present text biofuels should decrease CO₂ by 50% by 2015.
- whether to have binding criteria, reporting requirements or monitoring for the environmental and social impact of biofuel production in third countries (Article 15(5a), (5b) and (5c)); and
- the methodology for calculating the greenhouse gas saving obtained by using biofuels (Annex VII), particularly as regards the calculation of default values and the treatment of co-products.

The Slovenian Presidency was working hard on this intensively discussed part of the directive. A strong debate took place in the European Parliament as well. The ENVI Committee (EP) has voted on 7 July on 50% CO₂ reduction (against 35% proposed in the directive).

A proposal to include social criteria is also being debated. Countries willing to export biofuels to the EU should ratify a number of environmental treaties and several conventions of the International Labour Organization. This is still a critical issue because these aspects should be ideally treated via bilateral discussions and it is questionable how far we can impose the sustainability criteria outside Europe.

[Read the latest Council conclusions](#)

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AEBIOM POSITION ON EU ENERGY POLICY

▶ Pellets roadmap for Europe

AEBIOM has prepared a draft paper on pellets roadmap which was further elaborated on 26 June 2008, during AEBIOM workshop on "Pellets Roadmap for Europe".

The pellets roadmap will be published in September and will contain clear policy guidelines on how this promising market sector can be further developed in the coming years. So far, pellets sector represents 3% of the final bioenergy use (3,3Mt used for electricity and 3Mt for heat), however, according to AEBIOM, this bioenergy sector could represent 14% of bioenergy use in 2020 (75Mt). This development will occur due to the fossil fuels price increase and because pellets are one of the best renewable alternatives to replace fossil fuels in the heat sector and especially in domestic households. The heat demand in Europe is about 50% of total energy demand and house heating represents 46% of the final heat demand in Europe. Nevertheless, such development will require some efforts at European and national levels. First of all, the pellets should be a part of the National Renewable Action Plans that will be required by the upcoming renewables directive. Pellets quality standards, pellet equipment standards/label and related services have to be defined at European level. Even though pellets (for heat) are cheaper than fossil energy (for heat), national incentives such as subsidies are needed for this sector to develop because relatively high investments are required to switch from fossil fuels to pellets use.

In the past, a boom in Europe's pellet market has resulted in a shortage of pellet supply and consequent increases in price. This period is over as the supply is now sufficient. Nevertheless, it is important to ensure a proper market growth for the future. Therefore, this roadmap will also provide recommendations on how to ensure the pellet supply as well as proper distribution.

A press conference was also organised by AEBIOM on 30 June on this topic.

Presentations of the workshop are available on AEBIOM website under Events section www.aebiom.org.

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▶ EREC position paper on biofuels

European Renewable Energy Council has prepared a position paper on biofuels. This position is a response to the EP's intention to eliminate the binding nature of biofuels target. EREC together with its member associations thinks that it is necessary to keep the 10% binding biofuels target and explains renewable sector's point of view towards mediatised issues such as food versus fuel, oil price, land availability, 2nd generation biofuels and sustainability criteria. EREC thinks that binding biofuels target would ensure the security of supply would reduce the CO₂ emissions in the transport sector and will be an incentive to elaborate sustainability criteria not only for biofuels but also for food products made from the same material, which so far, caused deforestation.

[Read the position](#)

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▶ EREC position on Claude Turmes report on RES directive

EREC has recently published a position paper on Claude Turmes report on renewable energy presented within

the European Parliament in mid May. EREC states that the report brings significant improvements to the Commission's proposal. All major areas where the Commission's proposal was too weak were improved, apart from renewable energy in transport. The Claude Turmes report scraps the 10% biofuels target, proposes a clear flexibility mechanism (to reach the national targets) based on voluntary agreements between two or more member states, introduces mandatory RES interim targets (in the proposed directive the interim targets are voluntary) and a direct penalty mechanism if the member states fail to reach their interim RES targets. The report strengthen many other issues of the RES directive such as the heat sector from renewables (especially district heating), efficiency measures, administrative barriers etc. The Turmes report recognises the importance of the National Action Plans and provides detailed information on what should be included in these National Action Plans. All these proposals are welcomed by EREC except the 10% biofuels target. EREC believes that without binding biofuels target, Europe would lose its ability to influence the world's production of sustainable biofuels and give up a crucial alternative to our oil dependency and its ever increasing prices.

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PUBLICATIONS

► Biofuels Barometer 2008

EuroObserver has recently published the Biofuels Barometer for the year 2007. According to this publication, biofuels represent 7.7 Mtoe in 2007 in Europe today. After more than four years of implementation, the European biofuels directive (COM(2003)30) has made it possible to reach biofuel consumption of approximately 2.6% of the energy content of all the fuels used in road transport which is nearly half of the target of 5.75% for 2010 set by this directive.

To achieve 5.75%, the European Union is going to have to increase its production and doubtless call even more on imports, at a moment when biofuels are found at the core of complex ecological and economic issues.

[Read the barometer](#)

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► EP study on sustainability criteria

European Parliament (ENVI committee) has commissioned a study on : "Biofuels sustainability criteria" where the following issues regarding the proposed directive on renewables are analysed:

- Biofuels Potential
- Energy Yields and GHG emission impacts
- Land use Changes
- Use of Degraded and Deforested Land
- Harmonisation with other proposals and mechanisms

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EU PROJECTS

► BAPdriver – workshop results on bioenergy action plans are available

The promotion of bioenergy is a top priority on the political agenda. However, the progress in terms of actual market deployment is still dissatisfactory. Many of the existing market barriers are due to insufficient policy framework at the national level. Therefore recent policy initiatives such as the European Biomass Action Plan or BAP aim at overcoming such barriers. The process of developing country-specific biomass action plans is the starting point for this project. Energy agencies and institutions from eight European countries together with the biomass industry association AEBIOM and a consultancy firm named Eclareon form a European biomass policy group in order to exchange ideas, transfer knowledge and build capacities on biomass strategies and policy options. The participating countries are Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Romania and Greece. A European Advisory board is foreseen to guide the process. The project is divided into four key themes, each of them with its own thematic working group:

- 1) cross country effects
- 2) cost-effective support of bioenergy
- 3) sustainable production and use of biomass

4) energy from the biogenic part of waste.

These four transnational working groups consist of experts and stakeholders at a European level.

A workshop was organized on these topics on 9 April gathering key experts to define main barriers and solutions. The presentations and reports can be downloaded from the project web site, managed by AEBIOM : www.bapdriver.org

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► CHEUBIO project – report on cofiring technology introduction to China

Project CHEUBIO is a specific support action within the European Commission's Sixth Framework Programme. It is a two year duration project that started November 2006 and concerns the 'development of co-firing power generation market opportunities to enhance the EU biomass sector through international cooperation with China'. The overall objective is to determine and establish the basis by which the EU industrial companies might enter the co-firing power generation market in China, which offers very significant potential.

Recently, project partners produced a topical report presenting an overview of the entire project, setting out the rationale for the work, approach adopted and results obtained, with some emphasis on the policy related barriers to technology introduction together with possible solutions that should ensure a strong take-up of co-firing technology in China.

Key project deliverables are made available on the AEBIOM website www.aebiom.org/CHEUBIO. Those organizations that either require further information and/or wish to engage with the Chinese stakeholders should contact Edita Vagonyte at AEBIOM.

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► Bioenergy in Motion project – a movie on innovative heating and cooling technologies is available

In order to promote the deployment of biomass heating and cooling technologies, a movie was made available in June 2008 showcasing successful applications and flagship projects.

Demand for heating and cooling constitutes about half of the EU final energy consumption, however, this sector is lagging behind (as compared to renewable electricity and transport biofuels) due to inexistent legislation at a European level.

The movie addresses practical potential and possibilities, investment opportunities, and the policy context of biomass heating and cooling. The movie covers applications in individual households and large buildings, block heating and district heating systems, and industries.

The core of the movie consists of implemented projects, interviews with key stakeholders, and information on national and EU policy targets and instruments. Three country-tailored versions of the movie are made, covering Bulgaria, Estonia and the Czech Republic respectively. Each of these movies is made in the national language and in English, plus subtitles in various other languages.

The project is co-ordinated by BTG (The Netherlands) and financed under the Sixth Framework Programme. Further information is available on the project website www.bioenergy-in-motion.com.

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EVENTS

► Forest Bioenergy - Fuel Supply Chains 2008, Jyväskylä, Finland – 27-30 August

The Conference organized by FINBIO in co-operation with FinnMETK will focus on the factors affecting the future of the bioenergy (fuel production), fuel handling and business issues in forest industry chain. Topics such as purchasing of forest fuels and trade, timber felling wood residues as fuel, fuels from early thinning, machine entrepreneurship will be presented and discussed. Technical excursions will be held after the conference. This conference and exhibition is usually held every two years and gathers about 500 participants.

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► 2nd Biofuels: Maritime trade and transport, London, the UK on 18-19 September

The biofuels industry is still developing and there are many questions to be answered and debated. This new event – tailored specifically to the maritime industry - will provide answers to key questions such as:

- Where will the new trade patterns emerge?

- What vessel types will be needed now and in the future?
- How is the industry currently configured and where does the future lie?
- How will freight rates be governed?
- What special port handling and storage facilities will be required and where?
- How are biofuels being traded, how volatile is the price and how does that affect shipping?
- What regulations and restrictions will be imposed?
- Who is involved today and who is ready and waiting to participate?

This London biofuels conference has already established itself as the definitive gathering of the world's leading thinkers and practitioners operating in the global maritime trade and transport of bioenergy.

As the world begins to understand the importance of this renewable energy source, the maritime industry is gearing up to play an increasing and central role in handling and transporting the associated raw materials and finished products. And that means new business for shipowners (dry & wet), charterers, port and terminal operators, storage facilities and all those involved in maritime transport and commodities.

The cutting edge maritime players are already profiting from this new and exciting industry and the forward thinkers are learning as fast as they can. You should attend this conference to understand the key issues, debate the facts and network with established players.

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► Experts 2008: Exploring Power Plants Emissions Reduction: Technologies and Strategies, Brussels on 7-9 October

In its 3rd year the EXPERTS conference provides an important international platform where we can assess where we have got to on power plant emissions reduction and discuss the challenges as well as the opportunities.

The first two days will focus on cutting edge emissions reduction technologies and explore power plant experience, including retrofit. Developments and exchange of best practice in the field of "conventional" pollutants (in particular SOx, NOx, particulates and mercury) will be reviewed. Emerging carbon capture and storage technologies will be discussed, as well as the concept of "capture readiness".

The third day will be a workshop on the practicalities of biomass co-firing in coal fired stations, where the exchange of experience will be encouraged between power plants that have been doing this or are planning to do it, available technologies reviewed and future prospects assessed. This workshop will be held at Electrabel's Ruien power station which has played a pioneering role in the field of biomass co-firing and is a particularly appropriate location for a workshop focusing on practical experience.

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► International trade conference for wood energy, Augsburg, Germany on 9-10 October

Every year, nearly 300 representatives concerned with the wood energy industry, including from the world of European and national politics, the media, and associations, meet for Germany's leading conference and exhibition on wood energy. This year the international conference will take place on 9-10 October in Augsburg, Germany. During the two-day conference, expert speakers will present the various aspects of the following topics: European energy policy – upcoming renewables directive, the renewable energy law – implications for wood energy, Energy Heat Act (EEWärmeG). Furthermore, topics such as the funding of wood energy plants, regional biomass mobilisation and several best-practice examples will be discussed. This year, nearly 300 national and international delegates are expected, representing all aspects of the wood energy industry. This will guarantee not only an intensive exchange of information but also further networking within the industry whilst gathering together economic, political and scientific communities. The international trade-fair "IHE® WoodEnergy 2008" and the BBE conference with the same name have established themselves as leading national conferences devoted to the topic of wood energy.

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► 3rd International Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition in Valladolid on 16-18 October

The third international bioenergy conference and fair will be held in Valladolid on 16-18 October 2008. This conference is one of the most important bioenergy events at international level. The success of the first and second editions has made Expobioenergía a unique meeting place for bioenergy industry and a point of reference at international level.

Expobioenergía'08 offers a wide range of activities that will take place in parallel with the exhibition:

- 3rd International Bioenergy Congress
- 2nd edition of the 'Activa Bioenergy' business workshop: companies from Europe and Latin America will be showing professional demonstrations in the exhibition

- Forestry demonstrations and visits to facilities for the production and use of biofuels
- Series of specific work sessions: BIOPAC, BIOMUN etc.
- 3rd Technological Innovation Awards

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▶ RENEXPO® South East Europe 2008, Bucharest, Romania on 19-21 November

For the 1st time, international and Romanian experts meet at RENEXPO® South-East Europe conference in order to exchange the know-how, present practical experiences and provide advices gained through research and development whilst ensuring this knowledge gets quickly transferred into action. The innovation conference takes place over three days and is parallel to the trade fair.

Conference will focus on wood energy, biogas, waste to energy, cogeneration and other types of renewable energy such as wind, solar and geothermal energy. Furthermore, energy efficiency issues will be addressed such as low energy houses and passive houses.

This conference is an international meeting place for decision makers and experts to discuss various topics such as investments, innovation, technology, legislation, EU funds etc.

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