



AEBIOM NEWSLETTER

February/March 2009

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Editorial



Dear Readers,

During this economic crisis, Renewable Energy Sources and energy efficiency are seen as the new driving forces for the next economic take-off. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that governments create positive framework conditions for such a take-off. Further to that, during these months when oil and gas prices are low, it has to be made clear that the continuous growth of renewables will be a precondition for sustainable growth in the future.

The National Action Plans on RES will offer a good opportunity to define these framework conditions in detail. At present, AEBIOM is developing proposals on this issue to the Commission and is organizing a workshop on the template of renewable action plans (biomass part).

Another important topic under discussion is the new building directive that should include mandatory obligation to use renewable heat in new buildings.

The discussion on the sustainability of biomass is going on. AEBIOM is preparing a position paper on this topic in order to prevent that unnecessary unjustified burdens hinder the production of biomass as energy carrier. During the sustainable energy week that took place in the beginning of February AEBIOM organized a workshop together with the Commission on this issue.

Heinz Kopetz –President

AEBIOM NEWS

▶ AEBIOM and EC conference on national biomass action plans

AEBIOM together with the European Commission, on 9 February 2009, has organised a high level conference within the Sustainable Energy Week. The conference “Sustainable Bioenergy strategies” focused on national action plans and the certification of biomass. The presentations of the workshop can be downloaded on AEBIOM website www.aebiom.org.

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EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

▶ Renewables directive: sustainability criteria and national action plans

After the renewables directive was adopted in December 2008, the European Commission’s focus switched to the implementation of the directive and especially to two main elements of it: elaboration of the template of the national renewable action plans and sustainability criteria.

The Commission is now working on several documents and will:

- soon publish the RES Progress Report and Staff Working Paper including information on the implementation of the action plan of biomass. The RES progress report should be published in March.
- provide a template for the national action plans by 30 June 2009. Member States will have to comply with this template in the presentation of their national action plans that are due by 30 June 2010 at the latest.
- publish the implementation guidelines of the directive for member states
- work on the implementation of sustainability criteria, they will decide upon the definition of degraded land, grassland, counting methodology of CO₂ emissions etc.

As regards to sustainability criteria for all types of biomass, quite a few European Commission services are not that keen to have such criteria as it would complicate things and especially the emission trading scheme. The Commission, however, is going to be changed soon, and the new Commission might have different views on this topic.

[Read the directive](#)

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▶ Emissions Trading Scheme: 300 mln allocations for RES and CCS

The European Parliament has also adopted a directive on emissions trading scheme where it sets the maximum CO₂ emissions level to be emitted in Europe and translates these emissions into allowances.

The EU Cap is at 20% below 1990 levels translating into a 21% reduction for ETS sectors compared to 2005 emissions.

This directive installs the auctioning system instead of free allocations system that was in place until now. Free allocations means that the large industries under ETS receive free allowances – the rights to emit a certain amount of CO₂ for free. From now on industries will have to buy these allowances from their governments; therefore, this system represents better the polluter pays principle. Therefore, there will be no more free allocations until 2027 with an exception of some Eastern European countries. It is up to the member states to decide how they spend this income; nevertheless, 50% of it should go to climate-change related solutions.

A very important point for the biomass sector in this directive is that the biomass use is counted as 0 emissions within the ETS scheme. This is a strong incentive for biomass use. The directive also stipulates that 300 Mio allowances from the new entrants' reserve (NER) should be allocated for free to up to 12 CCS demonstration plants and to demonstration projects of innovative renewable energies that are not yet commercially viable.

[Read the directive](#)

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▶ Buildings directive – what is coming up?

On November 13, the European Commission has published a proposal for recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2008/0223). The member of the European Parliament Silvia-Adriana Ticau has prepared a draft report published on 3 February where it proposes several important amendments.

Ms Ticau thinks that financial and fiscal incentives are very important to increase the energy efficiency in buildings, therefore, proposes to establish an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund by 30 June 2010 to support the gradual increase of energy efficient new buildings that use/produce renewable energy. The directive sets the minimum energy performance requirements and, as amended by MEP Ticau already by 30 June 2013, Member States shall set their minimum energy performance requirements. Furthermore, member states shall not provide incentives for the construction or renovation of buildings or parts thereof which do not comply with minimum energy performance requirements.

The report clearly includes the RES for new buildings: Member States will require the use of minimum levels of on-site energy from renewable sources.

[Read the draft report](#)

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▶ DG Agri advisory group on energy and non-food crops

A meeting of this advisory group took place on 9 March. Mr Raffaello Garofalo from the European Biodiesel Board (EBB) was elected as a President. The group includes about 50 people (mainly COPA members and industry players like AEBIOM), has set its' future priorities:

- Implementation of climate and energy package with a focus on sustainability issues.
- CAP support for bioenergy.
- International trade issues and level playing field in exchanges.

Trade is a huge concern for biodiesel and ethanol industry. The anti-dumping and anti-subsidy procedure against B99 imports from the US is ongoing. 1,1 Mt of biodiesel was imported from US last year compared to a market of 6,5 Mt. Regarding ethanol, the Commission is trying to clarify the statistics because ethanol can be imported under several codes (and import tariffs depend on CN codes). The problems still remain as regards to blends (for example, what code should be used for E20?) and secret origins (for commercial reasons the origin of ethanol might be kept secret). After several enquiries the Commission discovered that 20% of this imported ethanol comes from Brazil! Comparing to the year 2001 ethanol imports were multiplied by a factor 20 reaching 66% of the ethanol production in Europe and keep growing at a much faster rate than the EU production. Detailed statistics on ethanol are available under request.

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▶ European Recovery Action Plan

The European Energy Programme for Recovery proposed by the Commission aims to help the EU's energy sector during the economical crisis whilst ensuring the energy supply especially due to the recent gas crisis. The plan provides a list of actions that will be funded by 3.5 bn EUR from the EU budget for energy technology. According to the draft legislation 3.5 bn EUR will go to Carbon Capture Storage (80% funded by EC), offshore wind (50% funded by EC) and gas and electricity interconnected projects. See the next article for the opinion of the renewable industry on this plan (EREC position).

AEBIOM POSITION ON EU ENERGY POLICY

▶ EREC position on Economic Recovery Plan

According to the draft legislation "European economic recovery plan in the field of energy" proposed by the Commission, the biggest part of the 3500 mln Eur fund will go to Carbon Capture Storage demonstration projects. The proposal, according to the renewable industry, is unbalanced. Carbon Capture Storage is a temporary solution to reduce the CO₂ in atmosphere; however, it is not a long term solution ensuring clean energy supply and CO₂ reduction. Therefore, the European renewable energy industry aimed to include the renewable projects in this plan; however, the EU parliamentarians seem to be reluctant because, according to them, it is not in their competence to decide upon the new projects. It is more likely that a certain amount of funds will go to "Smart cities" instead. "Smart cities" is a concept going towards renewable and energy efficient European cities. The EU money spent this way would be a more rational solution rather than spending most of the EU funding for CCS projects. The rapporteur of the recovery plan is an MEP Eugenijus Maldeikis. The European Parliament aims to adopt this piece of legislation before the EP elections in June 2009.

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▶ EREC position on the Buildings directive

The European Parliament has published a draft report in February on the EC proposed recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to boost energy efficiency and renewable energy in buildings.

According to EREC, the report and the Commission's proposal should integrate even more renewable energy sources in new and existing buildings. The energy performance of buildings includes the demand side measures (energy efficiency – to "save" energy) and supply side measures (use of renewable energy sources or cogeneration – to "produce" energy). Such integrated approach is needed. Furthermore, plus-energy buildings should become a requirement for new buildings from 2015 onwards. Each year, new buildings represent about 1% of the buildings market. This small percentage should feature the latest technologies in terms of energy efficiency and renewable energies to ensure that new buildings make the EU less dependent on imported energy. Furthermore, ensuring energy production in autonomous buildings reduces grid and district heating investments. It should be compulsory for existing buildings undergoing major renovation to include a certain share of their energy from renewable energy sources from 2015 onwards.

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▶ AEBIOM-EUBIONET III call for the input on sustainability on biomass

The EU-funded EUBIONET III project is currently looking for the comments from various bioenergy players. The opinions are welcome from all European stakeholders especially industry on how sustainability of bioenergy can be best secured. These inputs are necessary in helping to establish feasible sustainability criteria. The questionnaire takes approximately 20 minutes to fill in and can be downloaded on: <http://www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=1146730>. The consultation closes on 1st of May 2009.

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▶ Public consultation on European Commission's green paper

The Commission has issued a major green paper "Towards a secure, sustainable and competitive European energy network". The Commission invites stakeholders' views on what the EU should do to stimulate the necessary investments and help advance projects which can help Europe secure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy supplies for the future. It also specifically seeks suggestions on how to revise the TransEuropean Networks for Energy programme to make it more effective.

The comments should be submitted by 31 March 2009 to TREN-GREEN-PAPER@ec.europa.eu

[Read the green paper](#)[Top ↑](#)

PUBLICATIONS

▶ EEA study on Bioenergy potential

This report assesses the environmental impacts of converting the technical bioenergy potential into electricity, heat and biofuels. It is based on 2006 EEA report "How much bioenergy can Europe produce without harming the environment".

[Read the study](#)

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► EEA report on Energy and Environment 2008

This report assesses the key drivers, environmental pressures and some impacts from the production and consumption of energy, taking into account the main objectives of the European policy on energy and environment including: security of supply, competitiveness, increased energy efficiency and renewable energy, and environmental sustainability. The report addresses six main policy questions and presents trends existing within the EU compared to other countries.

[Read the study](#)

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► Euroobserver's report on renewable energies in Europe

'The State of Renewable Energies in Europe' contains data on renewable energies (wind power, photovoltaics, solar thermal energy and solar thermal electricity, small hydropower, geothermal energy, biogas, municipal solid waste, solid biomass and ocean energy) in the 27 European Member States up to and including 2007. It is a synthesis of the technology Barometers published during the year 2008.

New in 'The State of Renewable Energies in Europe' is a chapter on socio-economic indicators (employment, turnover) for most technologies in a selection of Member States. The publication concludes with seven country case studies, where specific regions are particularly strong in renewable energy industry: this regards regions in Germany, France, Austria, Poland, Spain, the Netherlands and Slovenia.

[Read the barometer](#)

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EU PROJECTS

► BAPdriver – workshop on nBAPS

The Renewables Directive contains provisions for mandatory national renewables action plans. Bioenergy, representing 2/3 of renewables will play a key role in these plans. The process of developing country-specific biomass action plans is the starting point of the European project BAPdriver.

Energy agencies and institutions from eight European countries together with the biomass industry association AEBIOM and a consultancy firm named Eclareon formed 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.

Some example of activities :

- Expert meetings: a meeting of experts in the field of cost-effective support of bioenergy, sustainability criteria and energy from waste was organized on 9 April 2008. The second meeting was held on 10 December 2008 in Berlin. Conclusions and presentations are available on the project website.
- National meetings are organized within the eight countries mentioned above. The national partners are available for various requests.
- A European Best Practice Guidelines document was recently published (available on the website) to help national coordinators of the biomass action plans. It contains a benchmarking of existing bioenergy plans and initiatives in 12 member states.
- AEBIOM together with the European Commission organised an event on National Biomass Action Plans on 9 February 2009 within the Sustainable Energy Week. Presentations are available on the AEBIOM web site.

Project deliverables can be downloaded from the project website, managed by AEBIOM: www.bapdriver.org

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► IEE call for proposals to be published soon

According to the latest estimates the 2009 call for proposals will be published in late March this year with a deadline to submit project proposals before the summer break. About € 65 million will become available to support European projects promoting energy efficiency and a greater share of renewables. The call text and additional guidance will, as always, be published on the IEE website as soon as they become available.

If you plan to submit an IEE project proposal under this year's call, if you are an energy manager looking for ways in which your company could reduce its energy bill or if you want to find methods for developing a local

CO₂ reduction plan in your community, then the new Intelligent Energy e-library will help you find these and other resources you need. Its searchable web catalogue gives an access to a large variety of manuals, tools and guidebooks for intelligent energy developed with the support of IEE and other programmes. It covers the following themes: energy efficiency in industry, local and regional energy management, renewable energy, and transport. www.iee-library.eu

[IEE call website](#)

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► CHEUBIO project deliverables

Project CHEUBIO was a specific support action within the European Commission's Sixth Framework Programme. Two year duration project that started in November 2006 concerns the 'development of co-firing power generation market opportunities to enhance the EU biomass sector through international cooperation with China'. The overall objective was 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.

This project has ended in November this year and key project deliverables (on biomass potential in China, possibilities for EU companies to introduce their technology in China, Chinese legislative framework etc) 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 heating and cooling

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. This movie is now available in two separate DVD versions: both are in the following languages: EN/CZ/EE/BG audio; on top of that one will have EN/FR/DE/ES subtitles, and the other EN/LT/LV/RU/PL/HU/SK/SLO/HR/RO/EL/PT/IT subtitles.

This 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 (mentioned above).

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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► EUBIONET project – expert meeting on 12 March

AEBIOM organised an expert meeting on biomass trade within the EUBIONET III project. The aim of this event was to identify the most important current market barriers and to develop strategies and solutions to overcome those barriers. Industry players actively involved in biomass trade, representatives from academia studying biomass trade developments as well as NGOs monitoring the increasing biomass trade (and its consequences) were invited to provide an active input on the identified biomass market barriers and strategies. 'New' industrial sectors like metal and construction industry was also invited to provide their views on current situation and future prospects (especially in light of CO₂ emissions reduction requirements that these industries have to comply with). The presentations of the meeting will be put on AEBIOM website shortly.

EUBIONET III is a project focused on important to biomass sector issues such as biomass trade, biomass fuels prices, sustainability criteria, standards etc. EUBIONET III is a continuation of the EUBIONET II project.

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► RESTMAC project deliverables

RESTMAC project has come to an end and all project deliverables can be found on AEBIOM website including three AEBIOM brochures on pellets, energy crops and forest residues. AEBIOM was one of 11 partners for the RESTMAC project, which was coordinated by EREC (European Renewable Energy Council). The project, developed by a consortium of European renewable energy industry research associations, aimed 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 deliverables](#)

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EVENTS

▶ AEBIOM a workshop on the NAP template

AEBIOM is organizing a workshop on the template of renewable National Action Plans (biomass part) on 19 March 2009. These plans will have to be submitted by all EU member states to the Commission by 30 June 2010. The Commission is establishing a template for this plan. Therefore, the aim of this workshop is to discuss with national bioenergy experts (who have an experience in writing such plans) on how these templates should be established.

[Contact us for participation](#)

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▶ AEBIOM conference on energy crops on 21-22 September in Poland

A part of European ENCROP project, this conference aims to promote the production of energy crops for heat, electricity and biogas production in Europe.

The two days conference will focus on policy issues/ support schemes with a stronger emphasis on different possibilities to use these crops for bioenergy as well as practical issues such as contracting, logistics, etc. Besides that, agronomic aspects of energy crops will be discussed.

A study tour to the Koziencice power plant (co-firing of coal and energy crops) and an energy crop trial site will take place on the second day.

[Read the project website](#)

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▶ RENEXPO® South East Europe on 16-18 April 2009

For the 3rd time, national and international experts meet in order to exchange know-how, present experiences from the practice and offer advice gained through research and development and ensuring this knowledge is quickly transferred into action.

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 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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▶ Nordic Bioenergy 2009 in Denmark on 26-28 May 2009

Nordic Bioenergy is one of the largest bioenergy events in Europe. Nordic Bioenergy 2009 is a conference that is organised by the Nordic bioenergy associations Danbio, Svebio, Nobio and Finbio. Danbio is the next year's host of the event which will be held in Aalborg, Denmark, on 26-28 May 2009. This international conference takes place every second year and aims at spreading information and awareness about the most recent developments in bioenergy sector. The conference is held in the Nordic countries as these are known for their cutting-edge technology in the biomass industry. The conference will gather speakers and participants from all over the world. The topics include: CHP, biogas, liquid biofuels, bioenergy markets, security of biomass demand, waste energy and combustion, pellets and woodchips, biomass versus food, peat etc.

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▶ Bioenergy 2009 in Finland on 31 August – 4 September 2009

The 4th International Bioenergy 2009 Conference will take place in Jyväskylä, Finland on 31st August - 4th September 2009. The Conference will focus on:

- Bioenergy in Agriculture and Food Industry
- Bioenergy in Heating, Cooling and CHP
- Biofuels and technologies in Transport Sector

Besides that modern technologies and business solutions including logistic systems, management, procurement chains, the impacts of the energy market and other trends affecting forestry, agriculture, industry and climate will be discussed. The Study Tours will be organised to show the modern biomass-based power, heating and CHP plants and technologies from farm scale up to the world's targets construction. Practical fuel procurement systems, energy technologies, logistics, know-how and experiences, international training possibilities, combustion and harvesting systems and R&D results will be presented.

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► World Bioenergy 2009 – Clean Vehicles & Fuels on 16-18 September, Sweden

The World Bioenergy 2009 Conference will take place in Stockholm, Sweden on 16-18 September. Under the Patronage of H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, the conference will focus on the following topics:

- Socio-economic drivers behind the implementation of bioenergy projects
- Integration of energy recovery into solid waste management regimes
- Impact of international trade in biofuels – securing sustainable supply and demand
- Emergence of bio-refineries: co-production of fuels, chemicals, power and materials
- Development of markets for clean vehicles and fuels

The event combines the world's premier bioenergy convention with the leading European event for sustainable transport solutions. The result is an integrated conference, excursion and tradeshow programme unlike any other. Three intensive days focusing on the practical implementation of bioenergy and sustainable transport systems. The exciting excursions highlight a variety of commercial examples from Sweden and the greater Stockholm area.

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