



AEBIOM NEWSLETTER

September/October 2007

[Subscribe](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Feedback](#)

AEBIOM NEWS

- ▶ Energy Commissioner Piebalgs meets AEBIOM president Heinz Kopetz
- ▶ AEBIOM press conference on bioenergy statistics in the EU-27
- ▶ First activities of AEBIOM associate members

EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

- ▶ An overall renewables directive – certificates trading scheme?
- ▶ European Parliament adopts Thomsen report on renewables
- ▶ Council approves zero rate for set-aside land
- ▶ EC assesses the impact of 10% target for biofuels

AEBIOM POSITION ON EU ENERGY POLICY

- ▶ AEBIOM associate members – workshop in the European Parliament
- ▶ EREC position paper on renewables directive
- ▶ EREC press release on Thomsen report

PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ WWF study on sustainability criteria
- ▶ EP study on sustainability criteria in the fuel quality directive
- ▶ EP study on the synergies between FP7 and structural funds
- ▶ EP study on alternative technology options for transport
- ▶ EC study on agricultural commodity markets

EU PROJECTS

- ▶ EUBIONET study tour in Finland
- ▶ RESTMAC project - brochure on forest residues available
- ▶ CHEUBIO project – EU-China collaboration in cofiring

EVENTS

- ▶ Bioenergy 2007 in Jyväskylä – successful conference on bioenergy
- ▶ Renewable Heating and Cooling Congress in Brussels – 20 -21 November
- ▶ Fuels of the future 2007 in Berlin – 26-27 November
- ▶ CEPI event on the mobilisation of solid biomass – 28 November, Brussels
- ▶ Central European Biomass conference in Graz, Austria, 16-19 January

Highlights

09/2007 [Open discussions on overall renewables directive](#)

25/09/2007 [European Parliament ITRE committee adopts Thomsen report on 25 September](#)

12/09/2007 [AEBIOM president Heinz Kopetz meets Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs](#)

13/09/2007 [AEBIOM publishes its report on bioenergy statistics in the EU-27 in September](#)

12/09/2007 [AEBIOM associated members advise MEPs on how to boost the bioenergy market for heat](#)

01/10/2007 [EREC position paper on upcoming renewables directive](#)

26-27/11/2007 [Biofuels conference “Fuels of the future” will be held on 26-27 November in Berlin, Germany](#)

20-21/11/2007 [EUBIONET study tour in Finland](#)

Dear Readers,



In these weeks, after the summer break, important decisions for the Renewable Energy Sector are being prepared in Brussels. The proposal for a new Directive on RES shall be presented before the end of the year. There are some rumours about a trading scheme of renewable obligations as part of the new directive. AEBIOM opposes such an idea, because it would not help to improve the security of supply in each country, but might lead to a few regions going renewable and others staying with fossil fuels. The population in those regions would be jeopardized if there was any supply interruption of fossil fuels. The target of the Spring European Council can only be attained if all member states engage fully in the deployment of renewables. Biomass such as chips, wood, pellets, biodiesel, ethanol can be traded all over Europe and there is no need to trade obligations!

AEBIOM has undertaken several important initiatives in recent weeks: we organised a first workshop on renewable heat for our new associated members in Brussels. We published the first European Biomass Statistics report, and presented the original copy to Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs. This excellent publication can be ordered through our office.

We are now focused on doing our utmost to get a well balanced RES directive that puts enough emphasis on the introduction of biomass in the heat market.

Heinz Kopetz –President

AEBIOM NEWS

► Energy Commissioner Piebalgs meets AEBIOM president Heinz Kopetz

AEBIOM president Heinz Kopetz met with Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for energy, on 12 September. During the meeting Mr Kopetz presented the Commissioner with a copy of AEBIOM's statistical Bioenergy report (officially published 13 September). The report includes statistics on all types of biomass in the EU-27. Commissioner Piebalgs took a great interest in the report, and welcomed its publication in a Commission press release issued the following day. Statistics are a vital tool for decision making on targets for biomass as a proportion of Europe's renewable energy, and can be the basis to back up both national and European policies. The Commission is preparing a renewables directive and we hope that the statistics will help it to take the appropriate decisions.

[Read the Commission's press release on AEBIOM statistical report](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► AEBIOM press conference on bioenergy statistics in the EU-27

The European Biomass Association has recently published a report on biomass statistics in the EU-27 (see above article). The report includes comprehensive data on biomass, notably: biomass in the European energy system; land use and biomass potential in Europe; biomass for heat, electricity, transport biofuels and biogas; information on energy content, conversion efficiency and crop yields. The report can be ordered via our website www.aebiom.org or by email to vagonyte@aebiom.org.

AEBIOM launched the report at a press conference, at which AEBIOM president Heinz Kopetz and Secretary General Jean-Marc Jossart presented the results of the study. The report attracted widespread press coverage.

Biomass sector is the largest among renewables

Biomass accounts for about 2/3 of all renewable energy sources in Europe and is one of the fastest growing sectors in absolute terms. The gross inland consumption of renewables reached 109.5 million tons of oil equivalent in 2004, out of which 66% (72.3 Mtoe) came from biomass. However, within the whole primary energy consumption in Europe in 2004 (1 747.2 Mtoe), biomass accounted for 4.13%. These figures show

the importance of biomass within the renewables sector.

Due to the historical development of biomass use, cost effectiveness and efficiency aspects, the total biomass of 72.3 Mtoe was unevenly used for different final energy products: 66.8% was used for heat production, 30.5% for electricity and 2.7% for transport biofuels. The biomass supply originated from different sources: 61.5 Mtoe from forestry, 3.5 Mtoe from agriculture and 7.3 Mtoe was coming from waste.

Use of biomass in the EU-27 differs significantly between countries and depends mainly on the available biomass resources, population density, past development of the energy system and effective support schemes. Latvia, followed by the Scandinavian countries, has the highest ratio of biomass use with 29.78% (4.4 Mtoe) of biomass within the country's total energy consumption. France, on the other hand, accounted for 11.92 Mtoe of biomass in 2004, which is 16.5% of total biomass use but only 4.4% of the country's total energy consumption (270.6 Mtoe).

The EU Biomass Action Plan adopted by the European Commission in 2005 defined the following targets for 2010: 75 Mtoe biomass for heat, 55 Mtoe biomass for electricity and 19 Mtoe biomass for transport biofuels. In total 149 Mtoe of biomass should be used in the year 2010. This means that biomass for heat should be increased 1.5 times compared to the biomass use in 2004; biomass for electricity should be doubled and biomass for transport biofuels increased by 9 times by 2010. The production of transport biofuels has almost tripled within the last 2 years, and in 2006 accounted for 5.56 Mtoe. This, however, is still very far from the 19 Mtoe objective.

Considering the environmental biomass potential and biomass conversion efficiency, AEBIOM has set the biomass target for 2020: 120Mtoe biomass for heat, 60Mtoe for cogeneration and electricity and 40Mtoe for transport biofuels. Such mobilisation of biomass potential, however, requires effective European and national policies in place.

Biomass potential

Biomass use is limited by land availability. As a general rule, 0.16 hectares per capita are necessary to guarantee Europe's food supply. This figure does not include the traditional import of protein feedstock from abroad. The total available arable land in Europe is 108 million hectares for a population of 489.391 million inhabitants. This means that more than 30 million hectares of agricultural land are still available for energy production. This availability comes mainly from land that was previously used to grow crops for export, or that has been used as set aside land.

According to a study by the European Environmental Agency, the potential of biomass will be 187.95 Mtoe for the EU-27 by 2010 and 235.95 Mtoe by 2020. These figures show a high potential for biomass use in Europe. Additional to the increased biomass mobilisation from forests, agriculture and waste, a steadily growing amount of biomass will in future come from other regions of the world. AEBIOM estimates that imports will contribute 25 Mtoe to the biomass supply by 2020.

[Top ↑](#)

► First activities of AEBIOM associate members

As from 2007, AEBIOM decided to expand its activities in order to have a stronger representation at EU level. Therefore, the association decided to provide bioenergy companies with an opportunity to become associate members. Up to this point, membership of AEBIOM has been limited to national Bioenergy associations. Now, besides 29 national associations, AEBIOM has 38 associate members. These companies are the following:

ÖkoFEN GmbH, Lindner & Sommerauer GmbH, Fröling Heizkessel- und Behälterbau Ges.m.b.H, KWB- Kraft und Wärme aus Biomasse GmbH, SEEG Mureck, Genol Gesellschaft m.b.H. & Co, URBAS Maschinenfabrik GmbH, Hargasser GmbH, ETA Heiztechnik GmbH, AGRANA Beteiligungs GmbH, RENERGIE GmbH, Energiecomfort, MAWERA GmbH, proPellets Austria, KÖB Holzfeuerungen GmbH, Österreichischer Kachelofenverband, Vogelbusch GmbH, De Smet Engineers & Contractors, Itradec, Vapo Ltd, CHOREN Industries GmbH, Econova Energi AB, Ena Energi Ab, Göteborg Energi AB, Mixport AB, Ecotec AB, Sala-Heby Energi AB, Söderenergi AB, TAIIOil, Värmeprodukter AB, Växjö Energi AB, Harjedalens Miljöbransle AB, Sätåb AB, Vattenfall AB Värme Norden, Sveaskog AB, AB Borlänge Energi, Hadfield Wood Recyclers & Son Ltd, Ferry Group.

AEBIOM seeks to raise the profile of bioenergy companies at European level and to better represent the bioenergy sector within the EU institutions. The association has already organised a workshop in the European Parliament, at which associate members working in the biomass for heat sector explained the market situation in their respective countries. The idea was to decide upon which policies or actions at both European and national levels would be best when it comes to promoting biomass for heat. The workshop

produced a list of recommendations setting out further actions. More information about the workshop can be found in the section of the newsletter entitled "AEBIOM position on EU policies".

[Read AEBIOM recommendations](#)

[Top ↑](#)

EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

► An overall renewables directive – certificates trading scheme?

The Commission has already drawn up a draft text for the renewables directive, the final version of which is expected to be published at the beginning of December. There are still a couple of key points, however, where decisions remain to be taken. The main issue is how to divide up the EU's 20% renewables target at a national level. There are 2 options on the table: a 13 percentage points increase in the use of renewables in every member state (ex. if a country has a share of RES of 5%, the target for that country would become 18%); or the division of the 20% target according to the potential of RES based on GDP in different countries. It is understood that, out of the two, the Commission is inclined to favour the system based on the country's potential (ie. the one using a GDP calculation). In reality, either choice would have its pros and cons. RES representatives, however, agree on one fundamental point: whatever system is chosen, it should not take too long to implement the directive. Long discussions and quarrels between member states over the target would translate into lost years where no significant action is taken to increase the use of renewables. The draft text of the directive indicates that the sectorial targets should be binding within the national renewable energy targets. It also sets out proposals for calculating the targets at national level.

Besides the target sharing, the draft tries to strengthen measures relating to administrative barriers (which hinder the development of renewable energy). Proposals include setting time limits to receive various permits, and establishing one-stop shops for RES market players, thus replacing a situation where various institutions deal with various aspects of renewable energy etc. From the efficiency point of view, the draft sets out certain rules which should apply to new buildings. The figures in the draft take into account final energy rather than primary energy use. The counting of final energy for the biomass sector means that bioenergy producers will consider the conversion efficiency from primary to final energy.

The draft directive includes the heating sector. Although sustainability criteria are present in the draft, they only apply to transport biofuels. There is also a reference to efficient systems within the sustainability criteria. This point, however, is not fully explained in the draft.

An important issue for the renewables sector is the renewable certificates trading system. The Commission would like to introduce a mandatory and unlimited trading system for electricity and heat installations above 10MWth with harmonised guarantees of origin. This implies that those countries who have achieved their target could sell certificates to those performing less well. The draft directive proposes a system according to which there would be national interim targets for every country every second year. If a member state does not reach those interim targets, they will have to buy the RES certificates. Failure to do this would result in infringement proceedings. Member states would not be allowed to put obstacles in the way of trading in these certificates. The certificates trading system is seen as a dangerous approach by the renewables sector, as it could provide an excuse for countries to do less, and would be a threat to feed-in-tariffs in Europe. The system could thus undermine the development of renewables. The member states, however, would most probably like to have such a system, on the grounds that it would be cheap and provide them with flexibility. Interim targets would help the system to work better, but would not solve the basic problem. The certification trading system would be more effective if the tradable RES was limited. For example, the binding target for every member state could become 11% points and only 2% points could be tradable.

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 targets for the heating and cooling sector.

AEBIOM would like to see the establishment of national action plans which would take into account the heat, electricity and transport biofuels sectors as well as efficiency in biomass conversion. It is not sure yet, however, if the Commission is going to propose them. There are a number of outstanding questions, such as how the plans would be agreed upon, which procedures would 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.

AEBIOM expects that the Commission will opt for final energy consumption targets, as it implies that energy efficiency will be better taken into account.

[Top ↑](#)

► European Parliament adopts Thomsen report on renewables

MEP Britta Thomsen has prepared a report on renewables which was adopted on 25 September in the European Parliament (EP). This report will be considered by the European Commission when preparing the overall renewables directive.

In the report, Parliament calls on the European Commission to come up with a renewable energy legislative framework, and stresses the importance of national Renewable Action Plans and a 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 sectoral approach within the legislative framework by setting clear binding targets for electricity, transport and heating and cooling sectors.

The report identifies national Renewable Action Plans (RAPs) as one of the most important tools to achieve the 20% target. These should include binding sectoral targets on heat, electricity and transport biofuels. The Commission, after the evaluation of RAPs, should be able to reject these targets if they are not in line with the 20% RES target.

Furthermore, Parliament wants the Commission to adopt a strict approval and monitoring process for Renewable Action Plans. For example, the report calls on the Commission to include a midterm target so that it could take appropriate action before 2020 if a Member State does not meet its defined target.

The report states that the RES potential of different member states should be taken into consideration. It insists, however, that the 20% target should be reached from RES sources without including nuclear power.

As regards biomass, the report calls on the Commission to ensure that Community legislation and RAPs include criteria and provisions to avert conflicts between different uses of biomass. This is an important point, having in mind the tendency to focus attention on transport biofuels and leave out the heating sector, despite the fact that heating is the most efficient way to use biomass. The report underlines the importance of the use of RES in buildings for heating and cooling, and also underlines the importance of buildings' energy efficiency. It calls for compulsory regulations, especially for new buildings. Statistics on heating and cooling, according to the report, should be also improved.

Regarding transport biofuels, the report emphasises that besides the increased use of biofuels, more efficient vehicle systems should be promoted. A mandatory certification scheme should be developed for both EU and imported transport biofuels, though it has to be ensured that fossil fuels comply with the same requirements applied to biofuels production- for example regarding green house gas reduction and full cycle analysis. Tax incentives are recognised to be an important instrument to change the consumer's choice from fossil fuels to biofuels. Only sustainable biofuels, however, should be counted as contributing to the biofuels target, and only they should be eligible for subsidies or tax exemptions.

Biogas is also recognised as an important alternative fuel for vehicles in the future.

The rapporteur believes that harmonisation of support schemes at European level is the ultimate objective, however, the market is not yet ready for this step. At this stage, it is more important to focus on ensuring technological diversity so that the technologies which are still only at an experimental stage, but which have long-term potential, are not squeezed out of the market prematurely.

[Read the Thomsen report](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► Council approves zero rate for set-aside land

The Council of Ministers approved, on 26 September, the proposal of Mariann Fischer Boel, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, to set at 0% the obligatory set-aside rate for autumn 2007 and spring 2008 sowings. This is in response to the poor cereals harvest in 2006. The low harvest in 2006 (265,5 million tons) resulted in tightening supplies at the end of marketing year 2006/2007, and historically high prices. Intervention stocks have shrunk from 14 million tons at the beginning of 2006/2007 to around 1 million tons now. Reducing the set-aside rate from 10% to 0% is expected to increase output by at least 10 million tons. The future of the set-aside system will be debated in November, on the basis of the Commission's CAP 'Health Check' communication. This will also address the issue of how to retain the environmental benefits which set-aside has brought. Setting the rate at zero does not oblige farmers to cultivate all their land. They can continue with voluntary set-aside and apply environmental schemes.

[Read more](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► EC assesses the impact of 10% target for biofuels

A European Commission study published in July shows that bio-energy production represents one of the major opportunities for agriculture over the medium to long term in the EU. The study indicates that the target set

out in the current biofuels directive, namely that biofuels should account for 5.75% of all transport fuels by 2010, is not on course to be met. This is because markets and technologies have had too little time to react. A figure of 6.9%, however, could be reached by 2020. The intention, therefore, is that future legislation would lead to an increase in biofuel demand by 3.1 percentage points, and also promote a more evenly spread consumption pattern across EU member States than exists at present. The study indicates the main factors that affect agricultural markets, such as first and second generation biofuel technologies, the available arable land, import policies, the share of diesel and transport in total transport fuel and use etc. A 10% target for biofuels share of the transport fuels market, realised over the medium-term, together with newly available technologies, would ensure the provision of renewable transport fuels for the EU without disrupting the domestic food/feed and non-food markets. Imports would provide around 20% of the biofuel consumption. About half of these would be first generation feedstock, mainly oilseeds and vegetable oils.

[Read the study](#)

[Top ↑](#)

AEBIOM POSITION ON EU ENERGY POLICY

▶ AEBIOM associate members – workshop in the European Parliament

AEBIOM organised a workshop at the European Parliament with a view to establishing a list of recommendations on how to develop the heating from biomass sector in Europe. The workshop took place on 12 September and gathered about 40 participants from the European institutions, heat production industries and national biomass associations. As a result of the workshop, 38 recommendations were identified and ranked according to their importance by the participants. They selected 5 main recommendations for action at EU level:

- Integrate the aspects of improved security of supply, energy efficiency and CO₂ reduction in the national action plans
- Increase the minimum tax on fossil fuels for heat at EU level
- Further develop EU wide standards for fuels, technology and services
- Write recommendations to the member states that policies at a national level should be developed in such a way that avoids stop and go in the support schemes
- Develop standard classes for boilers based on efficiency and emission levels

The participants were welcomed by Swedish MEP Lena Ek, who stressed the importance of the biomass sector and the need to rapidly transform our energy systems into ones which are sustainable. Heinz Kopetz, president of AEBIOM, stressed the point that 50% of final energy demand is heat, and that promoting sustainability and efficiency here should therefore be strongly supported at all levels. Tom Howes, a Commission official from DG TREN (transport and energy), identified the following gaps within the heating sector: no promotional directive at EU level, no coordinated approach for the heat sector, no consistency of support mechanisms, lack of appropriate policy and targets and administrative barriers. He also gave a quick insight into the Commission's recent work on the RES directive that will require the establishment of national action plans, with the sectoral targets not only for electricity and transport biofuels, but also for heat. Besides that, it will include sustainability criteria and will address the barriers for heating and cooling.

Challenges for small scale and large scale heating sector

The later part of the workshop was divided into two parts: the small scale heating sector, and large scale and district heating sector.

Mr Christian Rakos from Propellets pointed out that lack of political support in most member states is the main barrier for small-scale heating systems to switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy. In the past few years the pellets market has been rather unstable (shortage of pellets and consequent price increase during the winter in 2006) due to 'stop and go' subsidies, oil prices, and the use of pellets in power plants. Mr Rakos proposed to overcome these barriers by establishing a stable pellets market with consistent and reliable political support. However, the push for action should come from the European level. The EU should include the heating sector in its future renewables directive. It should develop EU-wide standards for various biofuels and biomass conversion devices (eg. stoves), technology and services so that it is easier to produce, count, trace and trade them. Besides that, Mr Palazzetti from Italian company Palazzetti Lelio S.P.A. stressed the importance to support whole house solutions with different renewable energies installed. Mr Emhofer from Fröling added that energy certificates/passes for buildings should include the origin of the energy supply and not only the efficiency. He stated that concrete governmental measures like direct subsidies, tax credits etc should only be available for high quality and efficient technology.

On large scale heating, Mr Jordan noted that differing definitions of biofuels across member states is an obstacle to developing the heating sector in some EU countries. For example, a certain type of biomass is

eligible for feed-in-tariffs in some countries but not in others. Different biofuels quality has an impact on combustion efficiency and emissions, added Mrs Alakangas. On one hand, as showed by Mr Koppejan, biomass combustion technologies have reached a very high efficiency and quality rate, on the other hand, there is still a need to educate professionals and expand R&D within the whole biomass supply chain. Swedish speakers Mr Anderson and Mr Johnsson focused their attention on district heating in Sweden. It is clear that the Swedish energy tax system is a good example for biomass based district heating systems. Mr Johnsson highlighted the example of biomass district heating in Vaxjo, a city where 97% of district heat and power production comes from non-fossil energy.

[Read the proceedings of AEBIOM workshop](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► EREC position paper on renewables directive

The European Renewable Energy Council (EREC- of which AEBIOM is a member) has recently published its position on the upcoming renewables directive. Scientific evidence, according to the paper, shows that it is feasible to increase the use of renewables by 13 percentage points in every EU member state. Furthermore, through a target distribution system, the EU would avoid endless discussions over the target. Therefore, EREC proposes a 13% points system. It underlines, however, that the alternative option on the table, namely a system based on potential (see above), could be an appropriate option, on the condition that negotiations to establish it do not take a long time.

The position paper supports the 'polluter pays' principle and the removal of public subsidies from fossil fuels and nuclear energy- thus creating the same level playing field for both fossil and renewable energy. Otherwise, renewable energy should receive compensation and additional support mechanisms to be able to compete in the distorted market. Support mechanisms can vary according to regional characteristics, priorities or starting points. Nevertheless, certain criteria should be applied to support schemes: effectiveness of the support scheme, long term market stability to avoid 'stop and go' policies, simple and quick administrative procedures, strict monitoring of the target including the interim targets, sustainability criteria for all types of biomass. These sustainability criteria, however, should take into account existing EU rules such as cross compliance rules for agriculture, etc. The need for a sectoral approach is underlined in the paper, on the grounds that this would promote investor confidence and encourage the development of all RES technologies. Therefore, EREC proposes concrete measures for the transport biofuels, heating and cooling and renewable electricity sectors.

[Read the EREC position](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► EREC press release on Thomsen report

EREC welcomed the Thomsen report, and believes that if the proposals are taken into account by the European Commission in drawing up the renewables directive, the EU will reach the 20% target by 2020. The proposals on national Renewable Action Plans, heating and cooling and transport sectors, would ensure the increased use of RES potential in a sustainable way.

[Read the EREC press release](#)

[Top ↑](#)

PUBLICATIONS

► WWF study on sustainability criteria

The study is part of a series of sustainability papers commissioned by WWF, FSC, the Dutch and the UK Governments. It is largely based on previous work on bioenergy sustainability assurance performed for the UK and Dutch Governments.

The paper presents and analyses various approaches to assuring the sustainability of bioenergy. One of the main concepts is the Meta-Standard approach. The study analyses pros and cons of this approach, identifies the concrete elements which are needed for a well functioning Meta-Standard for Sustainable Biomass Production, analyses the possible greenhouse gas calculation methods etc.

[Read the WWF study](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► EP study on sustainability criteria in the fuel quality directive

Directive 1998/70/EC relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels (known as the Fuel Quality Directive- FQD), is currently under revision. The revision aims to set new standards for transport fuels in order to reduce air pollution (sulphur and poly aromatic hydrocarbons). In addition, the European Commission is

proposing a greenhouse gas emission reduction target. The Fuel Quality Directive will thus also become an instrument to fight climate change.

The European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety requested a study on the inclusion of sustainability criteria in the revised Fuel Quality Directive.

The study analyses the possibilities to include greenhouse gas emission reduction in the fuel quality directive, further sustainability criteria, and ways to include the traceability of the fuel.

[Read the EP study](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► EP study on the synergies between FP7 and structural funds

The European Parliament (Directorate-General Internal Affairs) requested Technopolis Group (Belgium) to prepare a study on synergies between the EU's 7th Framework Research Programme and other structural funds. The aim of the study was to provide background information and advice for the Members of the EP's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) on how to improve the coordination and synergy effects between three major EU instruments:

- The 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7),
- The Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP); and
- The Structural Funds.

The three instruments are expected to contribute to competitiveness and the achievement of the goals of the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs. The study authors were asked to formulate an independent view on possible synergies between the instruments and related aspects such as gaps, overlaps as well as possible supplementary actions to strengthen the combined impact of the three instruments.

[Read the study](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► EP study on alternative technology options for transport

The study aims at compiling a catalogue that offers a sound and concise overview of Alternative Technology Options for Road and Air Transport. Its objective is to contribute to improved transparency and governance of this highly complex and often controversial field. Relevant options are described technically and assessed with regard to their economic perspectives, their potential to substitute fossil fuels in transport, as well as their potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants. The study analyses the wide range of options from hydrogen to biogas, and first and second generation biofuels.

[Read the study](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► EC study on agricultural commodity markets

The European Commission has published, in July 2007, a report analysing European agricultural commodity markets. The report contains predictions for the years 2007-2016. The study forecasts that cereal production and consumption will continue to grow at a very moderate rate for the next decade, with the coarse grains market remaining slightly more dynamic than wheat.

Australia, Argentina, the Black Sea region, the USA and the EU will most likely benefit from a growing world market for wheat, whereas India is expected to become a consistent net importer. Regionally, import demand for wheat will grow in Asia and the Pacific, North and Sub-Saharan Africa. In the coarse grains sub-sector, the EU is forecast to maintain its current level of exports and thus is expected to slowly lose part of its market share. The USA (FAPRI only), Argentina, and the Black Sea region will benefit from growing import demand. Cereal prices are expected to be significantly higher in the coming decade than over the last ten years.

[Read the study](#)

[Top ↑](#)

EU PROJECTS

► EUBIONET study tour in Finland

A study tour, supported by the EUBIONET II project, took place on 6 September within the Bioenergy 2007 conference in Jyväskylä (www.finbioenergy.fi). The event was organised by the Finnish Bioenergy Association FINBIO and gathered more than 500 participants from 50 countries and several continents.

The study tour took place in Central Finland where an impressive 50% of energy consumption is covered by bioenergy. Around 40 people took part in the study tour.

[Read the summary report of study tour](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► RESTMAC project - brochure on forest residues available

As a part of the RESTMAC project, AEBIOM has prepared a brochure on the topic "Procurement of forest residues" which was distributed during the Bioenergy 2007 conference on 3-6 September in Jyvaskyla, Finland. Within the conference, a special RESTMAC session was organised on this topic.

As a next step of the RESTMAC project, AEBIOM will prepare a brochure on the topic "New dedicated energy crops for solid biofuels". This will be presented during the Central European Biomass Conference 2008 which will take place on 16-19th January in Graz, Austria.

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 brochure on procurement of forest residues](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► CHEUBIO project – EU-China collaboration in cofiring

Partners in the CHEUBIO project- which is concerned with the development of co-firing power generation market opportunities to enhance the EU Biomass sector through international cooperation with China (CH-EU-BIO)- have prepared two reports entitled "Status of co-firing technology within Europe" and "Biomass availability and status of co-firing activities in China". The project deliverables are available on the AEBIOM website www.aebiom.org under Projects -> CHEUBIO section.

AEBIOM is a partner in CHEUBIO. The project is funded by the EU's 6th Framework Programme for research and development, as part of the activities for Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area. The aim of the project is to establish a basis by which EU biomass companies might enter the co-firing power generation market in China. The purpose of the project is to introduce biomass and biodegradable waste materials into coal firing plants in China, something which would have a positive impact on employment in both China and Europe, help reduce CO₂, and could help to solve China's waste disposal problems. The project involves undertaking various studies analysing Chinese potential for different biomass sources and biogenic waste, Chinese coal fired plants, the possibilities and various options for coal fired plants to incorporate biomass and bio-waste, and the overall impact of selected options (socio-economic, techno-economic and environmental benefits). Other factors being analysed include the state of Chinese policy, regulatory framework and possible barriers to introduce the aforementioned materials in the Chinese coal fired plants, and the possibility of the market to uptake European technologies. The studies are for dissemination to interested parties, in order to help them to cooperate, and as a result to incorporate biomass and biodegradable waste into selected coal fired plants in China.

[Read the project deliverables](#)

[Top ↑](#)

EVENTS

► Bioenergy 2007 in Jyvaskyla – successful conference on bioenergy

The Conference organised by FINBIO in the beginning of September focused on the factors affecting the future of bioenergy, biopower and biobased modern technologies and products, including logistic systems, management, total procurement chains, the effects of the energy market, the influence of green marketing and other trends affecting forestry, agriculture, industry and climate. This year this conference was attended by over 500 participants. The following topics were focused on during the three-days conference in Jyvaskyla:

- Bioenergy in Forest Industry
- Bioenergy in Agriculture and Food Industry
- Bioenergy in other Industries eg. Cement and Metallurgia
- Bioenergy in Heating and CHP

The presentations of the conference are available on the following website: www.finbioenergy.fi

[Top ↑](#)

► Renewable Heating and Cooling Congress in Brussels – 20 -21 November

An Inaugural Heating and Cooling Congress, to be held on 20-21 November, will bring together leading experts, decision and policy makers from around the world to discuss issues relating to renewable heating and cooling.

The heating sector, which accounts for almost 50% of energy demand, has the greatest potential to help achieve the EU renewables target. Yet, to date, this part of the renewables sector has received little legislative support, resulting in slow growth over the last decade. New dynamism is needed to deliver an improved output from RESHC (renewables for heating and cooling). Research shows that there is growing interest from property owners, architects and construction companies in RESHC. This, combined with current rapid technological development, and heightened public awareness on climate change, provides the heating & cooling sector with a perfect opportunity to reach its potential.

The congress is innovative in the fact that it will bring together leading experts in geothermal, solar, & biomass with professional groups such as property investment companies, building owners, construction companies and acclaimed architects.

[Download the programme](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► Fuels of the future 2007 in Berlin – 26-27 November

AEBIOM member BBE together with UFOP is organizing an international conference on biofuels to be held on 26-27 November in Berlin, Germany. The conference will assess the future potential of the German and European biofuels industry. The strategies of car manufacturers, the mineral oil industry, and policymakers will be examined. One question to be addressed will be how to ensure a balance between the cultivation of crops to produce biofuels and safeguarding Europe's food supply. Another will be the extent to which biofuels can contribute to CO₂ reduction.

The conference is an annual event. Last year 900 participants from more than 40 nations took part.

[Download the programme](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► CEPI event on the mobilisation of solid biomass – 28 November, Brussels

CEPI (Confederation of European Paper Industries), in collaboration with AEBIOM and the EUBIONET project, is organising a conference on the mobilisation of biomass on 28 November in Brussels.

Both the paper and bioenergy industries are dependent on the same raw material, and therefore are facing similar challenges. The conference will focus on biomass potential from forestry and agriculture. It will examine the perspective of different actors: producers, policy makers, end users etc. The conference will also present the findings of the EUBIONET II project and analyse wood sustainability criteria.

[Download the draft programme](#)

[Top ↑](#)

► Central European Biomass conference in Graz, Austria, 16-19 January

The Central European Biomass Conference 2008, organised by Austrian Biomass Association, aims at providing an up-to-date overview of the latest economic and technological developments in the field of bioenergy – heat, electricity and fuels. The conference will focus on bioenergy situation in the enlarged Europe as well as on the key factors for successful market development. The event will also provide a platform for discussion on bioenergy market prospects, strategies and necessary action at EU and national levels. As a result, specific targets for bioenergy use in the enlarged EU and proposals for further biomass use will be established.

[Read more](#)

[Top ↑](#)