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01-06/2010 European Solid Biofuels standards are about to be introduced in all EU member States

30/06-1/07/2010 AEBIOM European Bioenergy conference in Brussels, Belgium

25/03/2010 AEBIOM conference on nREAPs within the Sustainable Energy week

25-27/05/2010 World Bioenergy 2010 conference and Exhibition in Sweden



In February, the European Parliament approved the new European Commission with Mr. Günther H. Oettinger from Germany as Energy Commissioner, Mr. Janez Potocnik from Slovenia as Environment Commissioner and Mr. Dacian Ciolos from Romania as the Commissioner for Agriculture. AEBIOM warmly welcomes the appointed commissioners and hopes to collaborate with them on bioenergy related issues in the future.

Another important event for bioenergy sector - AEBIOM is organizing a high level European Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition where we expect to have over 250 bioenergy stakeholders starting with the EU decision makers, national officials and focusing on bioenergy producing companies as the conference will cover both: the EU and national legislation including the nREAPS as well as the market opportunities and business contacts for bioenergy industry.

Heinz Kopetz –President

AEBIOM NEWS

► European Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition 2010

AEBIOM is organising a high level European Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition (REECO group) on 30 June – 1 July 2010. The event will focus on current EU legislation, recent developments of bioenergy market in Europe, the state of national RES action plans whilst providing a platform for market actors to exchange ideas and information as well as a discussion forum with policy makers. The main topics will cover biomass supply, certification, biogas, biofuels, heating, electricity, financing bioenergy projects. Further information on: www.renexpo-bioenergy.eu

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► AEBIOM publishes the Annual Report 2009!

AEBIOM is proud to present the Annual Report 2009 where you can have an insight to AEBIOM activities such as workshops, publications, lobbying and networking activities in all bioenergy sectors such as biogas, pellets, small heating, CHP etc. Further to that, you can find out all important developments in bioenergy sector in Europe such as statistics and the EU legislation as well as AEBIOM reaction and contribution to it.

[Read the Annual AEBIOM report](#)

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► European Technology Platform on Heat– first General Assembly!

AEBIOM and the secretariat of the Renewable Heating and Cooling Technology Platform are proud to announce that the Platform's first General Assembly will be held under the auspices of the Spanish Presidency (as of 1 January 2010) with the joint support of both the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and the Basque Energy Board (EVE). The event that is organised in close collaboration with the Spanish Association of Renewable Energy Producers (APPA) will take place on 23 - 24 February 2010 in Bilbao, Spain.

All registered stakeholders of the platform are invited to attend this major event. The registration is possible online www.rhc-platform.org where you can also find the detailed program of the General Assembly of the European RES Heating and Cooling Platform.

In case you are not a registered member of this platform yet, please download the membership form [here](#) and join today! Participation in the platform is free of charge and on a voluntary basis. For more information and updates on the ongoing work of the platform, visit the platform website below.

[Access the Platform website](#)

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EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

► The new European Commission – what to expect?

With the large majority in favor (488 votes), the European Parliament has approved the new European Commission last Tuesday (9 February) and the new Barroso II team took office on 10 February after the EU leaders have formally approved it.

[The New Commission](#) was supposed to be appointed in November 2009 but was delayed due to the ratification of the Lisbon treaty and the withdrawal of the Bulgarian designate during the European Parliament hearings on 11-19 January. Eventually, the Bulgarian Rumiana Jeleva was replaced by World Bank vice-president Kristalina Georgieva.

The main challenges of the new Commission for the next term of five years will be the economic crisis, climate change and energy efficiency in Europe.

The most important portfolios for bioenergy sector remain the following: Mr. Günther H. Oettinger from Germany (Energy Commissioner), Mr. Janez Potocnik from Slovenia (Environment) and Mr. Dacian Cioloș from Romania (Agriculture). It is worth to note that a new portfolio for Climate Action was created and it is Ms. Connie Hedegaards from Denmark that was proposed for it.

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► The EU Member States are optimistic about reaching their RES target domestically

The EU member states have recently published their forecast documents required by the European Commission where they indicate their capabilities to reach the national renewable energy (RES) targets as defined by the Renewable Energy Directive. In these documents, the member states have to indicate the share of the RES energy that will be produced domestically and the RES share that they expect to receive/give via the flexibility mechanisms between the member states. So far, most member states indicate they will not need to use flexibility mechanisms to reach their national RES targets (France, the Netherlands, Finland, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Slovenia and Romania etc) and quite a few claim they will produce more renewable energy (such as Germany, Spain, Sweden, Greece, Slovakia, Lithuania, Estonia) than it is required, which implies a huge opportunity for RES. It is only Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark that intend to use the flexibility mechanisms to reach their national RES targets.

Nevertheless, these forecast documents are only the estimation of the Member States and the real commitment of the Member States will be seen in the national Renewable Energy Action Plans to be published by the end of June 2010 and implemented by December 2010 (by the Member States).

[Read the forecast documents](#)

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► The EC is about to publish a report on sustainability criteria for all types of biomass

The Directive for the promotion of energy from renewable sources [RES Directive] indicates that the European Commission has to publish a report on sustainability criteria of solid and gaseous biomass. The European Commission will publish this report very soon, most probably in mid February.

According to AEBIOM knowledge, the European Commission does not intend to come up with binding sustainability criteria. The draft report recommends the member states to follow the sustainability criteria as indicated in the RES directive for biofuels and bioliquids and exclude the plants smaller than 1MW. Nevertheless, DG Environment would like to see more stringent sustainability criteria and, thus, the LULUCF (land use, land-use change and forestry) will most probably be introduced within the sustainability criteria. For further AEBIOM views and reflections on this issue, please read the press release of the consortium of European Bioenergy, Forestry and Biogas associations and AEBIOM position paper on sustainability criteria on AEBIOM website.

[AEBIOM website](#)

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► The NER 300 agreement – better possibilities for RES

The ETS directive (Article 10 a.(8)) stipulates that 300 Mio allowances from the new entrants reserve (NER) should be allocated for free to up to 12 CCS (carbon capture and storage) demonstration plants and to demonstration projects of innovative renewable energies that are not yet commercially viable. This can be an excellent opportunity for bioenergy plants.

The draft Commission decision on NER 300 fund has been circulated amongst the Member States and finally the Member States and the Commission have reached the agreement on implementing NER300. The agreement was reached on 2 February.

As compared to the EU Commission's draft decision, the agreement:

- increases the maximum number of projects per Member State from two to three – this gives more

opportunities for project developers to place their installations wherever it is more convenient for them (from profitability and/or familiarity with the market etc. point of view).

- eliminates a provision where all Member States would have been required to match one NER300 Euro with one Euro from their national budget. This would have decreased rather than increased the ability of NER300 to fund projects.
- four new renewable energy categories have been added, proposed by France, Sweden, Denmark, and one category proposed jointly by Ireland, Cyprus and Portugal.

Therefore, seven bioenergy categories (with lower threshold!) will be now eligible for NER300 funding (if the production of biofuels meets the sustainability criteria defined in the RES directive):

- Lignocellulose to intermediate solid, liquid or slurry bioenergy carriers via pyrolysis with capacity 40 kt/y (kilo tonnes per year) of the final product
- Lignocellulose to intermediate solid, liquid or slurry bioenergy carriers via torrefaction with capacity 40 kt/y (kilo tonnes per year) of the final product
- Lignocellulose to Synthetic Natural Gas via gasification with capacity 40 M Nm³/y (million normal cubic metres per year) of the final product
- Lignocellulose to biofuels or bioliquids via gasification with capacity 40 Ml/y (million litres per year) of the final product. Production of Synthetic Natural Gas is excluded under this sub-category
- Lignocellulose to ethanol and higher alcohols via chemical and biological processes with capacity 40 Ml/y (million litres per year) of the final product
 - Lignocellulose to biofuels or bioliquids via chemical and biological processes with capacity between with capacity 10 Ml/y (million litres per year) of the final product
- Algae and/or micro-organisms to biofuels or bioliquids via biological and/or chemical processes with capacity 40 Ml/y (million litres per year) of the final product

If the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers raise no objections, the text would be adopted by the Commission in May 2010. The call for proposals for the first round of projects would be issued shortly afterwards.

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AEBIOM POSITION ON EU ENERGY POLICY

► AEBIOM congratulates the new Energy Commissioner Gunther Oettinger

The European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) congratulates the Commissioner for Energy Günther Oettinger for his excellent presentation during the hearing of the European Parliament on 14 January 2010. AEBIOM thinks that the designate Commissioner would be the right person to tackle energy related problems and increase the share of renewable energy in Europe.

[Read the press release](#)

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► EREC welcomes the NER 300 agreement

EREC has recently issued a press release on the agreement on NER 300 between the European Commission and the EU Member States. EREC welcomes the amendments made by the Member States as, according to the EREC president Arthouros Zervos; it provides better opportunities for renewable energy projects development. It is namely the inclusion of additional renewable energy categories, elimination of provision requiring to match the NER 300 funding with the national funding that were highlighted. Nevertheless, EREC regrets that the NER 300 selection procedure remained complicated requiring an evaluation and coordination by RES developers, Member States involvement and agreement by the European Investment Bank (EIB).

[Read the EREC press release](#)

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PUBLICATIONS

► A handbook on energy crops for heat and power for energy producers

Within the ENCROP project (Promoting the production and utilisation of energy crops) funded by Intelligent Energy for Europe programme, the project partners have recently published a handbook on energy crops for heat and power production. The book covers the reed canary grass, willow, hemp and poplar as well as the a chapter on biogas production from energy crops.

► **EurObserv'ER releases "The State of Renewable Energies in Europe"**

The State of Renewable Energies in Europe' is a synthesis of the technology Barometers published during 2009. The publication gives detailed capacity and renewable energy performance data for all 27 Member States of the European Union including the data on biogas, biofuels, municipal solid waste and solid biomass (pages 52-80). The publication also provides a chapter on socio-economic indicators (employment, turnover) for most technologies in selected Member States (pages 96 - 135). It can be roughly counted that the bioenergy sector provided more than 300 000 jobs in the year 2008.

The publication concludes with seven country case studies, where specific regions are particularly strong in renewable energy industry in the following countries: Italy, Luxembourg, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Finland, Sweden and Slovakia (pages 136-163).

[Read the barometer](#)[Top ↑](#)

EU PROJECTS

► **BAPdriver conference on nREAPs within the Sustainable Energy Week**

Within the Sustainable Energy Week, the partners of the BAPdriver project (under IEE programme) will organise a conference on National Action Plans. The event will take place on 25 March in Brussels and aims at helping the member states to establish their national renewable energy action plans (the biomass part). The event on 25 March will be public and there will be soon an opportunity to register on Sustainable Energy Week website at www.eusew.eu.

The RES action plans have to be submitted by the member states in June 2010. The Member States are required to set the policies through which they aim to achieve the renewables target. Ideally, Member States should evaluate their policies and make the use of the public spending more efficient.

Further information on these topics is available on the project website.

[Project website](#)[Top ↑](#)

► **European solid biofuels standards and upcoming EUBIONET workshops**

The European Committee for Standardization, CEN under TC 335 committee has published 27 technical specifications (pre-standards) for solid biofuels during 2003-2006. These technical standards are now upgraded into full European Standards. The member states have to integrate these standards by the end of June 2010. Therefore, the Member States are now in the process of either withdrawing their national standards or upgrading them into the European ones. The European standards are published in three languages: English, German and French. The standards in other languages will be available via national standardization body. If you would like to know more, please read the article on the [European Standards](#), written by Eija Alakangas within the EUBIONET project.

Beside the standards, two workshops will be organized under the EUBIONET project on 30 June within the *European Bioenergy Conference 2010*:

"Developing new biomass supply sources" will focus on how to develop new and unexploited biomass resources such as energy crops, different type of residues, aquatic biomass, pellets using different materials etc.

"Opportunities for the forest industry" - in cooperation with VTT (Finland) and CEPI (European pulp and paper industry federation), the workshop provides an overview of bioenergy in the forest industry and the perspectives for new business activities (second generation biofuels, pellets, electricity, etc.)

EUBIONET III is an Intelligent Energy Europe 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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► **Qualicert project – qualification of small scale biomass installers**

This Qualicert project is an IEE project focused on certification schemes for installers of small scale renewable energy installations. QualiCert will conduct a concerted action among different Member States on this topic.

The QualiCert project will be useful for both the EU and national agendas as the certification schemes will have to be addressed in the National Renewable Energy Action Plans that Member States will have to submit to the European Commission by June 2010.

In order to guarantee the best possible support to the future accreditation and certification scheme, QualiCert is relying on an interdisciplinary multi-stakeholder approach involving builders and installers. Within this project, it is planned to establish a High Level Steering Group (HLSG) in order to have a wide consultation and guidance process. This group will be closely associated to the project implementation and will have a strategic role on the overall planned activities. By being a member of QualiCert HLSG, you would have the opportunity to *contribute/anticipate the Directive on the promotion of RE implementation*.

Those that decide to become an active member of the Qualicert HMSG, will be requested to:

- review project's deliverables and provide feedbacks
- participate in HLSG meetings in Brussels (June 2010, December 2010, June 2011 and December 2011).

The HLSG will have a special visibility on project deliverables and a dedicated area will be reserved for exchanges on QualiCert website.

Therefore, AEBIOM invites its members and other relevant stakeholders to contact AEBIOM in case they have an interest in this topic.

Furthermore, the QualiCert website has been already launched and visitors can access not only the project deliverables and project events but also the project newsletters issued once every three months.

[Project website](#)

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► FP7 call for proposals

The FP7 work programme has been adopted by the European Commission on 30 July and a large number of calls for proposals have been published on the website,

An overview of all open energy-related topics - topics related to energy but also all other relevant FP7 programmes and themes are available on the CORDIS website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/energy/open-topics_en.html.

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EVENTS

► RENEXPO® Bioenergy EUROPE & AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference, Brussels, 30 June – 1 July, 2010

With the growing importance of bioenergy in Europe, the European Biomass Association AEBIOM and the REECO Group have gathered together to organize an international trade fair and conference for bioenergy – RENEXPO® Bioenergy EUROPE & AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference.

The event will take place on 30 June – 1 July, 2010 at Albert Hall in Brussels, Belgium.

AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference will focus on current EU legislation and recent developments of bioenergy market in Europe as well as the state of the National Renewable Energy Action Plans. The event will serve as a platform for bioenergy market actors to exchange ideas and information as well as a discussion forum with policy makers. The main topics will cover the following issues: biomass supply, certification, biogas, biofuels, heating, electricity, financing bioenergy projects.

The premiere of RENEXPO® Bioenergy EUROPE will take place at the same time. Around 60 international exhibitors representing bioenergy/bioenergy technology producers and suppliers as well as experts from research and development, associations, media, governmental agencies and administrations are expected to participate in the trade fair. They will present their products, services and latest innovations to an estimated number of 1,200 visitors and 300 conference participants.

"The renewable energy directive has set ambitious objectives for 2020 for each member state of the European Union. Bioenergy, which represents 2/3 of renewables is expected to play a key role and its use should treble in the coming 10 years. All markets for heating/cooling, electricity and biofuels for transport are expected to rise significantly. Improved framework conditions and support schemes will create new bioenergy market opportunities, both for small and large companies." – Heinz Kopetz, President of AEBIOM.

Further information can be found at: www.renexpo-bioenergy.eu

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► **World Bioenergy 2010 Conference and Exhibition on 25- 27 May, Jonkoping, Sweden**

The World Bioenergy 2010 conference in Jonkoping, Sweden is a major global bioenergy get-together based on the unique "Taking you from Know-How to Show-How" concept that combines all: the conference sessions, field excursions and tradeshow into one extraordinary event.

The overall focus will be on applied and currently available technology, as well as efficient, sustainable and cost efficient solutions, in short, on bioenergy solutions that work. The conference will focus on the following topics:

- Combined heat and power, combustion, heating and co-firing
- Forest residues – slash, stumps, small tree harvest
- Pellets – the new large energy commodity
- Waste to Energy – works in every society
- Energy crops, agricultural residues and by-products
- Biofuels for transport
- Policy – how to make it all happen

Each of these topics will be complemented by exhibitors in the trade fair as well as daily study tours.

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► **AEBIOM conference on nREAPs within the Sustainable Energy Week on 25 March, Brussels**

Within the Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels, on 25 March 2010, AEBIOM is organising a conference on National Renewable Energy Action Plans. The event aims at helping the member states to establish their national renewable energy action plans (the biomass part). The registration to the event is possible on Sustainable Energy Week website at www.eusew.eu or via assistant@aebiom.org.

The RES action plans have to be submitted by the member states in June 2010. The Member States are required to set the policies through which they aim to achieve the renewables target. This conference provides Member States an excellent opportunity to better prepare/evaluate their policies beforehand. These policies, if selected carefully, could make the use of the public spending more efficient.

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► **International Pellet Forum on 26 February, Verona**

AEBIOM member AIEL is organising an International Pellet Forum on 26 February 2010 in Verona, Italy. The event will focus on regulatory issues, pellets standards, quality of pellets appliances and the market. Registration is possible via the following website: www.progettofuoco.com

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