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At present moment, most of the renewable National Energy Action Plans have been submitted to the European Commission. These plans offer a large variety of data on the energy systems in the EU member states. AEBIOM, amongst other things, studied the expected heating structure in 2020 presented in these plans. Surprisingly, in 2020 more than 80% of the heat market will still be dominated by oil, gas, coal and electricity despite the fact that oil prices are rising again and energy poverty is becoming an increasingly discussed issue.

AEBIOM has just published a new position paper "Bioenergy 2030", where we show, amongst others, the ways to avoid increasing energy poverty in the future (www.aebiom.org).

An important workshop organized by AEBIOM will take place in the European Parliament on 10th November 2010 on biomass as part of the natural carbon cycle to clarify the misunderstandings on the carbon neutrality of biomass.

In November, the newly elected President of AEBIOM Gustav Melin will take over his office and I would like to thank all our readers and supporters for your interest in the development of biomass as a renewable energy source.

Best wishes and Good Bye!
Heinz Kopetz

AEBIOM NEWS

► New AEBIOM members

A few companies have recently joined AEBIOM as associate members. AEBIOM warmly welcomes:

- **Viessmann GmbH**, AT – Viessmann offers a wide range of heating solutions and continues to expand in the bioenergy market. www.viessmann.at
- **METSÄLIITTO France SAS**, FR – As part of the large forest industry group Metsäliitto, this subsidiary specializes in biomass supply – mainly wood shavings, saw dust, chips and bark. www.m-real.com
- **Global Wood Holding SA**, CH – GWH specializes in sourcing and delivery of biomass (mainly woodchips) to large-scale biomass plants. www.ghwgroup.ch
- **Timber Management LLC**, USA – This company is setting up a large scale wood chip operation for second generation biofuels/pellets in south-eastern USA. www.timbermanagementandseed.com

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► Upcoming AEBIOM workshop in the European Parliament on sustainable biomass

AEBIOM is organizing, on 10 November, a workshop in the European Parliament entitled "Bioenergy from sustainable forests – a carbon neutral source of energy".

The workshop aims to provide the facts that the carbon stock in the European forests is increasing and that biomass from forests is a part of the closed carbon cycle of bioenergy. With this workshop, AEBIOM would like to draw the attention that the CO₂ savings related to bioenergy depend very much on the parameters used in the counting methodologies and do not always represent the reality. AEBIOM will present its declaration showing that the use of bioenergy from sustainably managed forests not only reduces the CO₂ emissions by substituting fossil fuels but also, if properly managed, increases the carbon stock in the forests.

[Read the programme](#)

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EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

► The nREAPs – the evaluation process

The European Commission has received almost all national renewable energy action plans except those of Belgium, Estonia, Hungary and Poland. The European Commission is now evaluating a first lot of the nREAPs (the first 15 plans translated in English) and should have a first pre-evaluation process finished by the end of October/November. Nevertheless, the final evaluation will not be finished earlier than the end of January or February next year as there are still missing plans and some of the nREAPs are very long which means that it will take time before the English version is ready for evaluation.

Regarding the content, the nREAPs do not seem to be very ambitious on the heating side. The main focus is on renewable electricity. Transport targets are even exceeding the 10% mandatory objective.

Regarding the biomass side, the indicated biomass supply does not match the national targets (in other words, members states do not foresee enough biomass to meet their targets), therefore, this is still to be clarified as well as the amount of imported biomass that the member states would like to use in their respective countries.

AEBIOM is analysing the biomass part of the nREAPs but there are also other organisations and publications that try to understand and simplify the information provided in the nREAPs. For example, ENDS Europe has published a special report on the nREAPs. This document can be found [here](#).

Further to that, the European Environment Agency compiled a report and a database on the nREAPs. Both of these documents can be found [here](#).

[Access the nREAPS](#)

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► EC public consultations on ILUC and LULUCF

The European Commission has announced a public consultation on Indirect Land Use Change of biofuels, the deadline of which is the 30th October 2010. The Commission is seeking advice on both the scale and characteristics of the problem, as well as, if the scale of the problem is significant enough, how it should be addressed. The Commission aims to find out whether the analytical work done on ILUC up to this date is sufficient to draw some conclusions on ILUC, asks whether the EU action is needed to address ILUC and if yes, what are the ways to address it. The public consultation website can be accessed [here](#).

AEBIOM will submit an answer to consultation. A draft paper on ILUC is circulating amongst the members. There are a number of reasons why AEBIOM is against the ILUC factor to be added to the biofuels emissions. The aim of the EC consultation on LULUCF (deadline on 5 November 2010) is to collect views from stakeholders on how land use activities may contribute to climate change mitigation; if land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) should count towards the EU's greenhouse gas reduction commitment; and, if so, the ways in which this could be done. The EU has committed unilaterally to reduce its overall greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, and by up to 30% if conditions are right. Emissions and removals in the LULUCF sector are currently not part of the EU's commitment. However, in accordance with Decision 406/2009/EC (Articles 8 and 9), the Commission should consider whether to include the aforementioned emissions and removals in the reduction commitment and, if appropriate, make a proposal.

AEBIOM will submit its' opinion to the European Commission. AEBIOM is not favorable for LULUCF to be used in the GHG commitment.

[LULUCF consultation website](#)

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► European Committee of the Member States on Biofuels Sustainability

A newly created European Committee of the Member States has gathered together on 7 October. The Committee is a part of the EU decision making process ensuring the Members States' input within the EC work on issues related to biofuels sustainability. The Committee will be involved in the following issues:

- Define highly diverse grassland
- Make a decision on reporting requirements for economic operators
- Recognition of bilateral and multilateral agreements
- Recognition of voluntary schemes

- Examination of individual sources of biofuel and bioliquid
- Revision of typical and default values
- Revision of greenhouse gas calculation methodology
- Detailed definitions of severely degraded land and heavily contaminated land (Article 19(8)) : definition of such land needed.

The decisions made by this Committee for the Renewable Energy Directive will also be applicable to Fuel Quality Directive (Directive 2009/30/EC).

The implementation of the Directive is critical at the moment as none of the member state is ready with their national sustainability scheme. Several voluntary schemes have been proposed to the Commission but will be available for the Committee only in January.

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► Environmental organisations against the European Commission

A couple of environmental organisations have grouped together to sue the European Commission over the lack of transparency in the biofuels policy in March and in September this year. They claim that the European Commission failed to release documents containing information on the negative climate impacts of biofuels use.

In April this year, IFPRI (the International Food Policy Research Group) published a study where it is claimed that EU biofuels policy would reduce carbon emissions. The environmental groups try to prove that the published information is based on wrong assumptions and was manipulated by the European Commission.

The Secretary General of AEBIOM, Jean-Marc Jossart, however, was surprised to hear about the environmentalists' attacks over the transparency of the EC. He considers the European Commission to be one of the most transparent governmental organisations in Europe. Further to that, he notes that the same environmentalists' group is publishing the reports against the use of biomass and biofuels where the results are based on unrealistic assumptions. AEBIOM is organising an event on 10 November where it aims to clarify the carbon issues within the bioenergy use (see the events section for more information).

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► European support for renewables – reality or illusion?

The European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI) is one of the 6 initiatives proposed within the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET plan, COM(2007)723)). Four of these technologies (wind, solar, electricity grids and CCS) were launched in Madrid in June 2010, whilst the bioenergy initiative is expected to be launched by the Belgian presidency in November 2010 together with a call for projects. The key objective of EIBI is to accelerate the commercial development of sustainable bioenergy to reach 14% of final energy in 2020 coming from bioenergy. This initiative will support large scale advanced bioenergy and advanced biofuels plants covering 4% of EU transportation needs by 2020. The estimated budget is 8 billion euro over 10 years to support from 15 to 20 projects.

Nevertheless, despite good intentions, for the time being there is no evidence that such call for projects will be launched soon. Financing sources of this initiative are not clear at all.

On the other hand, the support for bioenergy within the NER300 seems to be more certain. The European Commission is now finalising a call for proposals which was supposed to be published by the end of September. It is slightly worrying; however, that the bioenergy stakeholders will not have enough time to prepare a proposal as the deadline of call for proposals will be quite soon after that call is published.

The NER 300 fund is related to the ETS directive where the 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. According to the NER300 decision, the EU financing of the first call of proposals could cover up to 50% of the eligible costs of the demonstration projects – this will enable companies to draw up proposals for large demonstration projects, which should be operational by the end of 2015. Further to that, seven bioenergy categories will be now eligible for NER300 funding (if the production of biofuels meets the sustainability criteria defined in the RES directive). It includes the technologies based on lignocellulose, algae, household waste materials to produce power, biofuels, biogas by using the following conversion technologies: pyrolysis, torrefaction, gasification, biological and chemical processes.

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AEBIOM POSITION ON EU ENERGY POLICY

► AEBIOM position on Bioenergy towards 2030 proposes a solution to combat energy poverty

This recent AEBIOM paper focuses on the development of the bioenergy sector until 2030 and explains the position of AEBIOM on a few important energy issues such as sustainability, energy efficiency, energy poverty, the future of residential heating, bioenergy synergies with other RES, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and CO₂ taxation.

At present, bioenergy with over 100 Mtoe covers more than 60% of all RES and has a potential to provide 300 Mtoe of gross inland energy consumption by 2030. This quantity coming from solid, liquid and gaseous biomass should also in the future be used for the supply of heat, electricity and transportation fuels (first and second generation transportation fuels and biomethane).

About 40% of the final energy in Europe is used in the residential and service sector, mainly in the form of heat. At present, around 90% of this heat demand is covered by fossil fuels and electricity. In the future, when the prices for oil and gas rise, this might cause an increasing problem of energy poverty (when people can no more afford paying for energy). Biomass is a part of the solution as its' fuel costs are low reaching only half of the fossil fuel prices. Other renewables have even lower running costs. However, investment costs are higher and the lack of capital holds back such development. AEBIOM is proposing a European fund of at least 10 billion Euros annually to co-finance national programmes aimed to start a rapid restructuring of the heating sector. This money should be available for citizens.

With this paper, AEBIOM aims to contribute, in a constructive way, to the rapid deployment of bioenergy in Europe in order to achieve the European targets and create a sustainable, secure and environmentally friendly energy system.

[Read the AEBIOM position](#)

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PUBLICATIONS

► Biomass heating in Upper Austria – green energy, green jobs

O.O. Energiesparverband have published a publication entitled "Biomass heating in Upper Austria - green energy, green jobs".

The report shows how modern, high-efficiency biomass heating provides great opportunities for local economic development whilst decreasing energy costs and ensuring climate and environmental protection. It provides information on biomass heating technologies, biomass supply chains and appropriate business models. It highlights the policies and programmes that were implemented in Upper Austria to trigger a successful biomass market development. The publication also provides the examples of biomass heating systems installed in Upper Austria.

[Read the publication](#)

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EU PROJECTS

► EUBIONET III workshop on Emerging Biomass Resources

The partners of EUBIONET III project (supported by IEE programme) have organized a workshop on "Emerging Biomass resources" within the European Bioenergy Conference in June 2010. This workshop was organised in cooperation with DTI (Danish Technology Institute).

The supply of biomass is a challenge for most countries trying to meet their national renewable energy target and will require traditional biomass mobilization as well as the development of new and still unexploited biomass resources (agriculture by-products, algae, etc.). This latter issue was discussed in this workshop.

The event identified 3 initiatives at EU level that could help to develop these new biomass sources:

- Ensure independent advisory service in all countries for guiding farmers.
- Analyze the social and sustainability issues determining the farmers' reluctance to establish energy crops
- Develop a method for evaluating and valuing environmental effect, for instance when algae take up polluting nutrients in coastal waters.

► Biomass Trade Centres project result in an inauguration of a trade centre

Within the BiomassTradeCenters project supported by the IEE programme, the inauguration of a new Biomass Logistic&Trade Centre took place on 9 October.

The forest and agriculture company CIP CALOR Ltd., supplying wood fuels to their customers, marked the inauguration of the Biomass Logistic & Trade Centre (BL&TC) in Lombardia region, Italy.

The centre is one of the first biomass companies that is able to offer to the local market – both to public and to private end users – the contract ensuring the supply of heat through the most advanced technologies, woodchips boilers on the market.

The company stated that they considered the wood chips quality and the security of supply to be the most elements, therefore, they invested in an ambitious project: the setting up of the biomass logistic and trade centre with a cogeneration plant whose co-heat production is used to dry woodchips so that they could offer a professional service and guarantee the wood fuels quality.

The centre's innovative CHP plant produces 75 kW electricity and 300 kW heat used to dry fresh woodfuels. Beside that, the bioenergy production is combined with the furniture production.

[Project website](#)

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EVENTS

► AEBIOM event on Bioenergy – a carbon neutral source of Energy, in Brussels, 10 November

The European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) is organizing, on 10 November, a workshop in the European Parliament entitled "Bioenergy from sustainable forests – a carbon neutral source of energy".

The workshop aims to provide the facts that the carbon stock in the European forests is increasing and that biomass from forests is a part of the neutral carbon cycle of bioenergy. With this workshop, AEBIOM would like to draw the attention that the CO₂ savings related to bioenergy depend very much on the parameters used in the counting methodologies and do not always represent the reality. AEBIOM will present its declaration showing that the use of bioenergy from sustainably managed forests not only reduces the CO₂ emissions by substituting fossil fuels but also, if properly managed, increases the carbon stock in the forests.

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► EU Biomass Forum conference in London on 27-29 October

EU Biomass Forum 2010, organized by IQPC, will focus on the energy sector and the challenging market dynamics and will bring together the World's leading authorities to discuss unique approaches to a sustainable and competitive biomass framework and combine the perspectives of all stakeholders in the biomass value chain.

During EU Biomass Forum 2010 event, policy and industry representatives will share insights and discuss on topics including:

- Which European and local measures are being taken to promote, support and drive usage of renewable energy sources;
- Biomass availability & sustainability: How to mobilise further biomass feedstock?
- Rethinking the biomass value chain: The dynamics affecting the role of current companies and new entrant's in today's biomass value chain
- OUT-OF-THE-BOX Case Studies: Biomass-to-Energy Project outside the Utility Sector
- Join the discussion on aligning the European biomass framework – harmonizing sustainability criteria internationally
- An Investment Bank's perspective on the feasibility of biomass projects
- EU Policy Framework: Summary of national renewable action plans of member states of the European Union

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► International Bioenergy Conference in Valladolid on 27-29 October

The fifth International Bioenergy Conference and fair will be held in Valladolid on 27-29 October 2010. This conference is one of the most important bioenergy events at international level. The success of the previous editions has made Expobioenergía a unique meeting place for bioenergy industry and a point of reference at international level.

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► **International Venice Symposium on Biomass & Waste on 8-11 November**

The aim of the Venice 2010 Symposium, organized by the International Waste Working Group, is to focus on energy recovery from biomass and waste as well as the technological progress in this field. The previous edition of the Symposium, held in 2008, attracted around 600 scientists and various actors from 60 different countries.

The event will last four days and include not only the conference but also a poster session, small exhibition and technical tours.

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► **Belgian Presidency 2010 SET-Plan conference on 15-16 November**

The SET-Plan (Strategic Energy Technology plan) conference on 15 - 16 November 2010 will officially launch the European Industrial Initiatives for bioenergy and nuclear fission and will report on the progress of all actions of the European Commission's SET-Plan.

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► **A Belgian EU presidency conference on Sustainable Biomass for Europe on 29-30 November**

A Belgian EU presidency is organising a conference entitled "Sustainable Biomass for European Energy". It will take place in the Committee of the Regions in Brussels on 29-30 November. The conference will focus on issues surrounding the achievement of the 2020 national targets for renewable energy in the final energy consumption and will provide an opportunity to meet the key EU players of the sustainable energy sector, including policy makers, public officials, environment experts and other stakeholders.

The event will try to answer to the following questions:

- Is there enough biomass to realise the 2020 target for renewable energy?
- How can the local production of biomass be increased and is imported biomass an issue?
- How to use biomass in the most optimal way - heat, electricity or biofuels? Are second generation biofuels the answer for transport, or should we focus on electric vehicles?
- Should sustainability criteria for stationary bioenergy be enforced through regulation? Is there a need for a European framework?

The second day of the conference, there will be an excursion organised to innovative biomass facilities in Flanders and Wallonia. AEBIOM will participate in a speaker panel in this interesting and free of charge conference.

[Register to the event](#)

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► **Central European Biomass Conference in Graz on 26-29 January 2011**

After the 2nd successful Central European Biomass Conference in 2008 in Graz that attracted more than 1,000 participants from 50 countries worldwide, the Austrian Biomass Association together with the Klima and Energiefonds, the Styrian Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry, BIOENERGY 2020+ GmbH and in cooperation with the Messe Graz are pleased to announce the 3rd Central European Biomass Conference that will be held on 26 - 29 January 2011 in Graz, Austria.

The conference aims at providing an up-to-date overview on the latest political, economic and technological developments, covering the entire range of bioenergy related issues: resource availability, raw material supply, conversion technologies (heating, cooling, electricity and transportation fuels), integration in the energy system, industrial applications, financing of bioenergy projects, environmental impacts and market development as well as needs for political action.

Abstracts to be submitted by 4 June 2010 are expected to cover the following topics:

- Strategies, legislation, interrelation between agricultural, energy and environmental policy
- Financing instruments and support schemes
- Biomass potentials (agriculture and forestry, by-products, waste), markets and market research
- Biomass mobilisation and production pre-treatment – organisation. technology. costs and quality

- standards (monitoring and quality assessment)
- Heat, cooling, electricity and transportation fuel from biomass and biogas / R&D, technological innovations, organisation models, costs and quality standards
- Bioenergy for industry and energy utilities
- Information, communication, dissemination

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► **The European Pellet Conference in Wels, Austria on 2-3 March 2011**

The European Pellet Conference will be held on 2-3 March 2011 in Wels/Austria within the World Sustainable Energy Days! With more than 600 participants every year, the European Pellet Conferences in Wels have become the largest annual pellet event in the world. Next year's focus will be on the following:

- technology innovation in fuels, distribution, equipment
- leading-edge products, services, financing, marketing & business models
- strategies & programmes
- market reports
- improvements in costs, performance & consumer satisfaction
- sustainability, standardisation & quality
- pilot projects, information and training

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► **International Congress Progress in Biogas - biogas production from agricultural biomass and residues in Stuttgart on 30 March – 1 April 2011**

The International Congress on biogas aims at showing the development, state of technology and economy of the biogas production worldwide. Engineers, scientists, biogas producers and politicians will present and discuss the developments in the fields of process engineering, political/ social frameworks and utilisation of the fermentation products. Practical experiences will show the positive developments in this fast developing field of technology and the business possibilities.

Previous Congress „ Progress in Biogas - Biogas production from agricultural biomass and organic residues“ was held in 2007 and attracted 400 participants from more than 40 countries.

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