

Newsletter: April 2013

Bioenergy voice in Europe

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EU publishes Renewable Energy Progress report 2013

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EP rapporteur Corinne Lepage publishes report on ILUC

01/03/2013

Updated ENplus handbook 2.0 published

27/03/2013

Green paper- 2030 framework for climate and energy policy

13/03/2013

AEBIOM and EURELECTRIC press release on EU wide binding sustainability criteria

25/04/2013

EIPS replies to negative articles on biomass from *The Economist*

17-19/06/2013

4th AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference in Brussels

Dear readers,

One of my daughter's best friends forgot her bank card in a cash machine in China recently. I have never heard of anyone doing that in Sweden. However at my evermore frequent trips to Brussels, I have understood that this happens now and then in Belgium. When withdrawing some euro's during my last visit to Brussels, I got annoyed when communicating with the cash machine. When I first inserted my card, the device told me: "N'oubliez pas votre carte" - *don't forget your card*. Then, I actually had to confirm by pushing a button that I didn't have the intention to leave my bank card in the machine. Finally after receiving the money, the minor intelligent construction flashed and beeped as it was expressing the message once again on the screen. I can confirm that I still am in possession of the very same bank card.

There are always different solutions to a problem: some are bad, others are possible and a few are superior. I find the solution provided by the cash machine to avoid forgetting bank cards questionable. The construction of the European Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) for carbon dioxide emissions provides a possible solution to decrease carbon emissions, but it doesn't work if you don't manage it properly by for example distributing too many rights for free. Even if it worked as intended, it would be difficult to predict the carbon price making it challenging for boards and bankers to use the system to finance investments. The current ETS system has been a total failure on this point - and possibly on all other points as well – but helps keeping us aware that carbon emissions are a serious problem. The April vote on the proposal of back-loading 900 million tons of emission rights to increase the price was once again a disappointment. In my opinion, the best solution in the current situation would be to establish a similar system as in the UK for Europe, which would introduce a price limit of €20 as lowest traded value of an emission right per ton. With this, the system would enhance investments and start to function as intended. This solution would also approach the superior solution for climate change mitigation; the carbon dioxide tax.



Back to the cash machine, it required the programmer three different steps to reprogram the machine to solve the problem of forgotten bank cards. First the message - *don't forget your card*-, then the flashing and beeping, and finally the confirmation button. The programmer never came up with the superior solution which would have directly solved the problem for any person who focuses too much on the so wanted money – never deliver the money before the card is withdrawn from the machine!

Gustav Melin, president of AEBIOM

AEBIOM NEWS

► New AEBIOM members

AEBIOM has the pleasure to welcome 12 new members:

- Biolake BV
- Amandus Kahl GmbH & Co.KG
- Energieonderzoek Centrum Nederland (ECN)
- Activus L.I Konstantinou O.E
- Forest BTL Oy
- DNV KEMA Energy & Sustainability

- River Basin Energy Inc.
- ROTAWAVE
- Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC)
- Ukrainian Pellet Union (UUP)
- AREVA
- California Pellet Mill (CPM)

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EUROPEAN PELLETT COUNCIL

▶ ENplus handbook 2.0 published

Clarifications, program improvement and better usability of the ENplus handbook were the main reasons for revising this document in a comprehensive way. All ENplus stakeholders (especially producers, traders, pellet associations and inspection/certification companies) gave input to the handbook update. The European Commission supports the process in the frame of the PellCert project which organized more than a dozen consultation events. The ENplus handbook 2.0 will enter into force on 1 May 2013 and can be accessed on the ENplus website, where you can also find a summary of main changes compared to the previous version.

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▶ First pellet safety workshop a great success

Over 70 experts from 13 countries attended the First International Workshop on Pellet Safety convened by the European Pellet Council, AEBIOM and the SafePellets project on 4-6 March. Participants included researchers, pellet producers, utilities, producers of pelleting and safety equipment, representatives of associations and of inspection companies, investors and companies involved in pellet logistics.



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▶ ENplus training for auditors, 26-27 June 2013, Vienna

A ENplus training will be organised on 26-27 June in Vienna for auditors of inspection bodies that want to perform ENplus related audits of pellet production plants and pellet traders' facilities. The participation in this training is considered as an adequate proof of qualification for persons intending to audit pellet plants (see requirements stated in the ENplus handbook). The training will include an introduction to the relevant EN standards, the requirements of ENplus, practical training in determining physical parameters of pellets and audits of two modern pellet production plants.

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► Change in EPC management

After serving EPC as General Manager since its creation in July 2010, Peter Rechberger will leave EPC and AEBIOM at the end of April 2013. "I am glad that EPC is now recognized as the voice of the pellet sector in Europe. I want to thank EPC president Christian Rakos, the EPC members and all our ENplus partners for the smooth cooperation. It has been a great pleasure to be involved in building up this network and witness the success of the ENplus certification" said Peter who will pursue new career opportunities at the other side of the globe. Peter will be succeeded by Gilles Gauthier. Gilles is Belgian and was already involved in EPC activities while working for the Walloon Biomass Association *ValBiom*, thus ensuring a seamless transition.

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► Pellet round table discussions

On 16 April the International Wood Pellet Roundtable (IWPR) met in London for the second time. This EPC supported forum of pellet-using utilities, as well as pellet associations from Europe and overseas, discussed the new EFET contract for pellet in spot market trade, implications of the EU Timber Regulation, various policy issues and the collection of (standardised) statistics. Christian Rakos reported on the safety workshop which was a first priority of IWPR, and Yves Ryckmans explained the new harmonized sustainability certification system established by the utilities which should be operational by the end of 2013.

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EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL PELLET SUPPLIERS

► EIPS meeting in London

Eleven companies have now joined the EIPS (European Industrial Pellet Suppliers) group: 4 producers, 5 traders and 2 supporting members. The group held a meeting on 16 April in London, which gathered all members, representatives of the US pellet producers (USIPA) and of the Canadian pellet producers (WPAC), as well as other European companies potentially interested in joining this initiative. Several issues were discussed, including biomass sustainability, carbon accounting and data collection. The group will hold a session dedicated to European industrial pellets during the European Bioenergy Conference in June in Brussels. Markets aspects, safety and co-firing will be discussed at this occasion.

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► EIPS replies to negative articles on biomass from *The Economist*

The first communication action of the group proved to be very successful: EIPS' response to two recent negative articles on biomass from *The Economist* was published on the online version of the magazine. The EIPS group hopes that this response will provide a valuable input in establishing the public opinion on wood as a renewable energy source.

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► IBTC - standards for torrefied biomass

The second International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC) meeting took place in London on 16 March 2013. In this meeting, Michael Wild (Wild & Partner) was officially nominated as Chairman of the group. Since its launch in December 2012, the IBTC has developed draft standards for torrefied pellets and briquettes. The drafts were successfully presented by the Austrian Standardisation Committee (ÖNORM) at the ISO meeting in Bangkok in March. The standardisation proposal was accepted and is now categorized as a New Work Item Proposal (NWIP). IBTC's members will continue discussing the specifications in collaboration with their National Standardisation Committee. Other issues discussed in London covered trade logistics, best practices regarding safety and security, as well as public relations and lobbying issues for the sector. The next meeting will take place in Brussels during the European Bioenergy Conference in June, where IBTC will hold a dedicated session on torrefaction. Interested companies are welcome to join IBTC via AEBIOM membership.



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EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

► EU publishes Renewable Energy Progress report 2013

On 27 March 2013, the Commission published its progress report on the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive. This document is based on the national progress reports provided by Member States in 2011 and on 2010 statistics. In 2010, the EU renewable energy share reached 12.7% and the majority of Member States already reached their respective 2011/2012 interim targets set out by the Directive. However, there are reasons for concern regarding future progress (including the slow transposition of the Directive and the current economic crisis in Europe). Current policies alone will be insufficient to trigger the required renewable energy deployment in a majority of Member States. Hence, additional efforts will be needed for Member States to stay on track in the forthcoming years. This statement is valid for biomass, for which developments will be slower than those projected by Member States if additional measures are not taken.

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► EP rapporteur Corinne Lepage publishes report on ILUC

European Parliament rapporteur on the issue of indirect land use change (ILUC), Corinne Lepage (Environment committee), has published a report on the European Commission's legislative proposal. The rapporteur considers the accounting of ILUC crucial for a coherent EU energy and climate policy. Among others, she suggests to replace the current proposed 5% capping of crop-based biofuels by the integration of 'ILUC factors' in the greenhouse gas (GHG) balance calculation of biofuels and bioliquids. To preserve existing investments, a share of crop-based biofuels – corresponding to current national consumption levels - could be exempted of the ILUC factor up to 2020. Moreover, a sub target of 12% energy efficiency in the transport sector and a 1.5% sub-target for renewable electricity in transport by 2020 are introduced. Finally, the report proposes to consider wood plantations as no-go areas, at least until an ILUC factor has been determined for lignocellulosic material and until specific sustainability criteria for forest biomass destined to energetic uses have been identified. The deadline for amendments on this report is 27 May. One should recall that the content of this draft report is rather different than the draft opinion of the ITRE committee (Industry, Research and Energy). This issue will therefore most probably be highly debated in the Parliament. The Council is currently also revising the Commission's proposal.

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AEBIOM POSITION ON EU POLICY

► AEBIOM & EURELECTRIC press release on EU wide binding sustainability criteria for biomass

In a press release published on 13 March, AEBIOM and EURELECTRIC strongly advocate establishing harmonised, binding sustainability criteria for solid biomass on EU level. Taking into account that bioenergy, and in particular solid woody biomass, will play a crucial role in meeting the EU's 2020 renewable energy targets and in mitigating climate change, a legal framework at the EU level is necessary to realise the full potential of biomass. EU utilities have already taken the lead in voluntary measures by collectively developing sustainability requirements for pelletised biomass and sourcing wood from certified forests (such as PEFC or FSC).

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► Heat Coalition press release on Green paper 2030 framework for climate and energy policy

The European Commission published a Green paper in order to consult stakeholders on the 2030 climate and energy policy framework. The Green Paper raises a set of questions relating, amongst others, to the main lessons learnt from the 2020 framework; the type, nature and level of climate and energy targets for 2030; the coherence between different policy instruments; the competitiveness and security of energy supply; and distribution of efforts between Member States. The public consultation is now open until 2 July 2013 to collect different insights and viewpoints. AEBIOM plans to provide a response. Following the publication of the Green paper, the Heat Coalition - a platform gathering 11 European associations including AEBIOM – has published a press release calling on the European Commission to adequately address the future role of the renewable heating and cooling sector. Indeed, the Green paper provides virtually no mention of renewable heating and cooling, while this sector accounts for no less than 45% of the final energy consumption in Europe today.

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► RHC-Platform: industry-led R&D projects with a high benefit for society

AEBIOM organised the 5th Annual Biomass Panel meeting of the RHC-Platform on 23 April 2013 in Dublin, gathering research and industry stakeholders of the biomass-heat sector to discuss the latest technological developments as well as R&D projects required by 2020. The event took place during the 4th European Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooling, in which the RHC-Platform launched its *Strategic Research Agenda*, which identifies the R&D activities and investments needed to make RHC technologies cost-competitive in all market segments (residential, non-residential, and industrial) in the short term (by 2020) or in the medium term (by 2030). Marie Donnelly, DG Energy Director, New and Renewable Sources of Energy welcomed the 'excellent' publication and emphasised that the crucial dimension of industry commitment, as well as the need to further highlight the benefits research in renewable heating and cooling can bring for society.



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► BIOGRACE II: first round of feedback sessions

The first draft version of the greenhouse gas calculation (GHG) tool developed by the BioGrace II project is now ready and the first round of feedback sessions is currently on-going. The project has the ambition to deliver a widely recognised tool for the GHG calculation of solid and gaseous biomass for heat and electricity, which will be in line with the guidelines provided by the Commission in the upcoming legislation on sustainability. AEBIOM organized its first feedback session on 16 April in London and will hold the next session on 17 June during the European Bioenergy Conference in Brussels. The purpose of these feedback sessions is to present the project outcomes and receive feedback on the BioGrace II GHG calculation tool. Feedback sessions will take place in Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, and optionally also in other EU countries.

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► BASIS: mapping bioenergy plants using wood chips all over Europe

AEBIOM will ensure the coordination of a new project entitled BASIS. The kick-off meeting took place in Brussels on 10 April 2013. The project aims at interacting with bioenergy project developers and investors, providing them a comprehensive view on the sustainable supply and the competition for wood used in wood chip boilers. Information on the wood supply potential combined with the existing use of wood chips (data collection of bioenergy plants above 1 MW using wood chips all over Europe), as well as sustainability aspects influencing the supply, will be processed and displayed in a GIS. Mapping of bioenergy plants will help in the identification of optimal locations for new projects.

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► 4th AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference, Brussels, 17-19 June 2013

The 4th AEBIOM Bioenergy Conference organized by the European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) will take place on 17-19 June 2013 at the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel in Brussels, Belgium. The event is organized in association with the Irish presidency of the Council of the EU, co-organized with the European Pellet Council (EPC), the European Industrial Pellet Suppliers (EIPS) and organized in collaboration with the European Biogas Association (EBA). The main conference supporter is the Canadian Government. The programme of the conference has recently been published and we are happy to announce that we have 7 confirmed high-level representatives from the European Commission (DG Enterprise and Industry, DG Agriculture, DG Energy and DG Climate) and 4 Members of the European Parliament from the Environment and Energy Committees. High-level speakers in the field of biomass production and supply, planning, bioenergy production and representatives from NGOs have also been confirmed. This panel of speakers will ensure intense and informative debates. AEBIOM has also finalized an exciting programme for the visits day on 19 June: a one hour trip on the yacht *Jacob van Artevelde* and the visit of 3 large scale plants in Ghent (GDF-SUEZ power plant, Biobase Europe-Pilot Plant and Stora Enso). This year the main topics of debate will be the sustainability criteria for solid/gaseous biomass and the worrying carbon neutrality debate. So far the conference has 5 sponsors: AREVA, Andritz, BioAlgaeSorb, Neuson-Ecotec, and Port of Ghent. Currently, nice a sponsor slot for the EP Dinner is still open. What about your company?

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CONFERENCE

17 - 18 - 19 JUNE 2013

Radisson Blu Royal Hotel

www.aebiom.org/conference

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► Other events

World Biomass Power Markets, Netherlands, 16-17 May 2013

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Nordic Baltic Bioenergy 2013, Norway, 21-22 May, 2013

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Bioenergy Technology Exhibition & Congress, Portugal, 23-25 May 2013

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36th Euroheat & Power Congress, Austria, 27-28 May 2013

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South-East European Eco Forum & Exhibition on Renewable Energy & Waste Management, Bulgaria, 29-31 May 2013

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Sustainable Energy Week, Belgium, 24-28 June, 2013

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Bioenergia/Bioenergy, Finland, 4-6 September, 2013

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International Training Seminar Biomass Heating, Austria, 09-12 September, 2013

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6th Biogas- Expo & Congress, Germany, 23-25 October, 2013

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4th Central European Biomass Conference, Austria, 15-18 January, 2014

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