

## Newsletter: April 2014

### The bioenergy voice in Europe

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**23/04/2014**

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EIPS welcomes new members

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## EDITORIAL

Dear readers,



*I was in Brno and celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Czech Biomass association a couple of weeks ago. I really enjoyed the visit and became impressed by the active and growing bioenergy association. Czech Republic is very much like most European countries, the energy balance is 21% electricity, 21% transportation fuels and 58% heat! The ordinary key figures for any country is 25% electricity, 25% transportation fuels and 50% heating.*

*I mention this because I would like to emphasise the importance of the heating sector. It is important to continue to focus on the heating market as AEBIOM has started to do. In the heating sector bioenergy is very competitive, often without subsidies but of course it helps if your country has introduced carbon dioxide emission fees. If you look at the figures again you see that the need of electricity is only half of the need of heat. This is a perfect match with combined heat and power CHP. If you produce power from bioenergy in a combined heat and power plant, you get one third electricity and two thirds of heat. Power production when you sell the heat is a lot more competitive than when wasting the heat and actually necessary if power production from bioenergy should be able to compete without subsidies on most of the markets.*

*The AEBIOM conference in May is getting closer, I really look forward to meet you all in Brussels and discuss with you how bioenergy and biomass production best can contribute to solve the larger questions of our time. See you in Brussels!*

Gustav Melin  
AEBIOM President

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## AEBIOM NEWS

### ► 3 more weeks until the 5<sup>th</sup> AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2014

There are only 3 weeks left until the AEBIOM Bioenergy Conference. Please register [HERE](#) to the conference. If you would like to benefit of the networking possibilities please make sure to register your profile for the B2B meetings. You can participate **ONLY** if you register your profile [HERE](#). The conference programme is now close to its final format. Please find the latest version [HERE](#).

**We have already 200 participants registered to the event. Amongst the participants here are the key attendees:**

EU Commission DG Agriculture, DG Energy, DG Environment, Bioten Group, Ekman, KWB, Palazzetti, Port of Rotterdam, Total Belgium, Torricol, River Basin Energy, SEKAB, AIEL, AVEBIOM, BBE, Birdlife, CEPF, COPA-COGECA, EIPS, EPC, EREC, IBTC, PEFC, SVEBIO, WWF, Russian Managers Association, GOPA-Cartermill, International Press Agency, Fram Renewable Fuels, Belgian Eco Energy, CPM Europe, ONF International, UAB Rudeksas, HEIG-VD, Zilkha Biomass Fuels I LLC, Vattenfall Energy Trading, BALTPool UAB, GDF SUEZ/Laborelec, EASME- EC, KWB Kraft und Wärme aus Biomasse GmbH, AREVA, Drax Power, DEPI, Metsäliitto Cooperative, Arigna Fuels, SOCOR, Topell Energy, European Institute for Energy Research-EIFER, RISI, INTRAS, JSC UMEGA, ValBiom, SEKAB E-Technology, Benet Oy, juwi Energielösungen, Miktech Ltd, OÜ Kalaveski, CellMark AB, Swiss Combi, JEFERCO SAS, VICTAM International, Z2K, REA, etc.

The conference topics will cover the following issues:

**EU Policy Agenda:** The policy session will focus on ongoing developments in three EU Policy files which are of the utmost importance for our sector: What is the future of renewable energy support schemes? How to both promote the renewable heat sector and reduce the emissions from combustion installations? How to make sure that bioenergy developments take place in a sustainable framework?

**Heat Market:** The Heat market (with sessions organised by EPC and EIPS): strong focus on **pellet markets** (market development, country cases, pellet supply, etc.) but also speeches on wood briquettes, wood chips and wood logs markets;

**Future Markets:** Technological challenges for heating appliances will be addressed, along with sessions on innovation and development in Torrefaction (session organized by IBTC) and Advanced Biofuels. As the Biomass Technology Roadmap will be freshly launched at that time, setting out actions and investments needed, presentations will look at innovations going forward (and against the backdrop of Horizon 2020).

For more information about the event log on [www.aebiom.org/conference](http://www.aebiom.org/conference).

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### ►[AEBIOM welcomes new members](#)

AEBIOM would like to say a warm welcome to the following new members:

**J. Müller Agri Terminal** (Port of Brake/Germany) is a new AEBIOM/EIPS member. They are the largest import terminal for grain, feedstuffs and biomass in Germany.

**Statkraft** is also a new AEBIOM/EIPS member. Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy and is the leading power company in Norway.

**Teal Sales Incorporated** – TSI Inc from USA applied for IBTC membership, but for the moment they have been approved as AEBIOM members. TSI designs and builds equipment for today's highly automated plants in the Engineered Wood and Biomass Industries.

**AIREX Énergie inc.** from Canada also applied for IBTC membership, but for the moment they have been approved as AEBIOM members. Airex Energy is a leading developer and manufacturer of biocoal production equipment and technology.

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## EU POLICY AND AEBIOM POSITION

### ►[EU 2030 climate and energy framework](#)

Heads of States and Governments met in Brussels in March to discuss among others the Commission's Communication on the EU climate and energy framework for 2030. AEBIOM has joined 2 initiatives to recall the RES sector messages to Member States:

-Open Letter from AEBIOM, EGEN and ESTIF: To EU's Heads of State and Government on energy dependency and the RES heat sector [HERE](#).

-Press Release from all sectorial RES associations- Want a competitive Europe? Embrace Renewables [HERE](#)

The conclusions of discussions of Heads of States and Governments do not mention specific targets, but are calling for an improvement of the coherence between GHG emission reduction, energy efficiency and renewables and developing a supportive EU framework for advancing renewable energies. The Council will continue the discussion at its next meeting in June. To this aim, it has called the Commission to conduct an in-depth study of EU energy security and to present for the next meeting a comprehensive plan for the reduction of EU energy dependence.

### ►State aid guidelines

On 9 April, the European Commission has published the final version of its [Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy 2014-2020](#). AEBIOM participated to the public consultation and raised the situation of the bioenergy sector. With these new guidelines, the objective of the Commission is to make the support to renewable energy more market orientated. In this debate, AEBIOM has raised the importance to take into account the fact that the bioenergy sector is not homogeneous as made of installations of very different sizes and using different processes. The published guidelines leave the possibility for Member States to derogate from feed-in premium and the bidding procedure for small size installations (0,5 and 1 MWe respectively) producing renewable electricity. AEBIOM welcomes this possibility although it estimates that the thresholds are too low when regarding the situation of the bioenergy sector. As far as the heat sector is concerned, the obligation of aid granted in the form of premium and through competitive bidding process does not apply and operating aid can be granted under certain conditions.

### ►AEBIOM participation in policy events

Over the last weeks, AEBIOM participated to two EU events focused on sustainability and the cascading use principle:

- Think Forest Forum event: organized by the European Forest Institute "*Forest bioenergy in Europe - towards sustainable options*". More information available [HERE](#)
- Workshop organized by "*Increasing resource efficiency by cascading use of biomass -from theory to practice*" organized by Nova Institute in the framework of the project supported by the German Federal Environment Agency. The final agenda is available [HERE](#) and presentations are available [HERE](#). Representatives of the European Commission, the forest based industries, the bioenergy sector and the scientific community exchanged their views on the cascade principle and the resource efficiency concept. Through its presentation, AEBIOM had the opportunity to give its views on these questions, based on the [statement](#) published in November together with agricultural and forestry European organizations.

## EUROPEAN PELLET COUNCIL

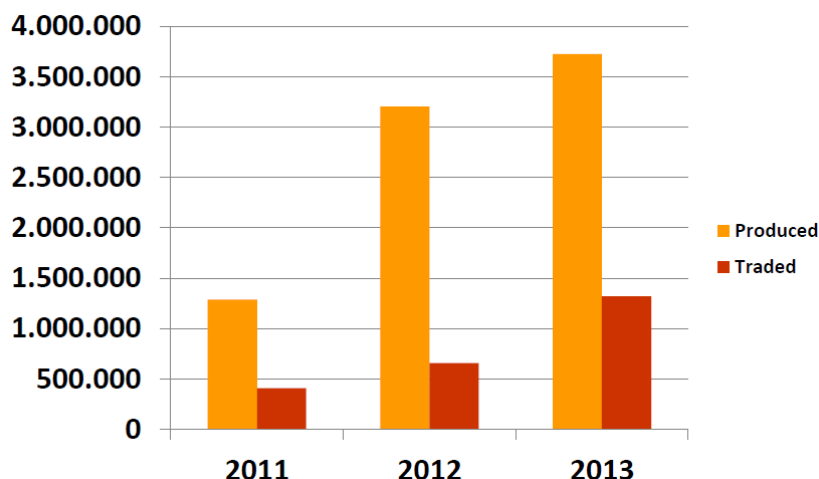
### ►Propellet France, the next ENplus National Licenser



During the last EPC board meeting held in Verona, ProPellet France, representing the pellet sector in France, was accepted as the ENplus National Licenser for France. As a result, ProPellet France will soon manage the certification of French producers/traders.

ProPellet becomes the 12<sup>th</sup> ENplus National Licenser, joining Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and UK.

The concept of decentralized management and promotion of the ENplus certification scheme by national associations has led to an exceptionally rapid uptake of this new quality label. Following the steady growth that occurred from 2011 to 2013, the prospects for 2014 also look promising. This year, EPC aims to reach 5 million tons of pellets produced under the ENplus certification.



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## ►2<sup>nd</sup> International Workshop on Pellet Safety: last chance to register



Following the huge success of the first workshop on pellet safety last year, the European Pellet Council (EPC), in cooperation with the SafePellets project, the European Industry of Pellet Suppliers (EIPS), and the International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC) is organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Workshop on Pellet Safety, taking place on the 5-7 May 2014 in Fügen, Austria.

The event will include formal presentations on most recent research results and open space discussions on how to improve safety standards in production, logistics and use of pellets. Formal presentations will provide the audience with the results of the SafePellets project and will also include reports on practical experiences related to the operation of large storage silos and other parts of the logistical chain, as well as addressing incidents that have occurred in the last year and what has been learned from them.

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## EUROPEAN INDUSTRY OF PELLET SUPPLIERS

### ►EIPS Activities



Through the “*Bridging with Biomass*” campaign, EIPS, together with the US and Canadian pellet associations (USIPA and WPAC) raises the voice of the pellet suppliers on key EU policy issues such as sustainability, competition of uses and carbon accounting. This debate also involves environmental NGOs and the forest based industries.

As far as sustainability is concerned, EIPS is following the work of 6 EU utilities gathered under SBP (Sustainable Biomass Partnership) to develop standards and processes allowing companies in the biomass sector to demonstrate compliance with legal, regulatory and sustainability requirements relating to woody biomass. Through its members, EIPS is expressing the views of European pellet suppliers. More information about SBP available here: <http://www.sustainablebiomasspartnership.org/>

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## ►EIPS welcomes new members

Statkraft is a new member of EIPS. Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy and it's the leading power company in Norway. The company owns, produces and develops hydropower, wind power, gas power, biomass and district heating. We welcome Statkraft to the EIPS and AEBIOM network.

J. Müller Agri Terminal (Port of Brake/Germany) is now also a new EIPS member. They are the largest import terminal for grain, feedstuffs and biomass in Germany. We welcome them to the EIPS and AEBIOM network.

With these new members, EIPS now gathers 13 companies, key actors involved in the pellet supply chain and aiming at strengthening the pellet business in Europe.

The group recently elected Ludger Spohr (VIS NOVA Trading) as President and Anne Leibold (German Pellets) as Vice-President for a two years mandate.

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## PROJECTS

### ►RHC-Platform- Biomass Panel Meeting

The Biomass Panel will hold its annual meeting in Brussels on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2014 in Brussels. The meeting marks the end of the mandate of the current steering committee and so a new committee will be elected. If you wish to lead the Biomass Panel in the next stages of the RHC-Platform, please feel encouraged to put forward your candidature. All details can be found [here](#). We will also welcome speakers from the European Commission to the meeting as we discuss the upcoming opportunities for Biomass under Horizon 2020. The meeting takes place in conjunction with the Annual Event of the RHC-Platform, taking place on the following day. Further details can be found below.

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### ►Common Technology Roadmap

Following the finalization of the Biomass Technology Roadmap (which will this month be published on the RHC-Platform website), the focus of the RHC-Platform now turns to the drafting of the Common Technology Roadmap on Renewable Heating and Cooling. A horizontal working group bringing together the experts from Biomass, Solar Thermal, Geothermal and the related Cross-Cutting Technologies has been formed and is working to have this document published in the summer. It will provide a clear research and innovation pathway for the whole Renewable Heating and Cooling Sector to follow going forward.

Following the identification of the research needs for RHC with the publication of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda in 2013, the common roadmap brings together the efforts of the 4 technology panels to outline the specific measures needed for RHC and how the needs of each technology fit together.

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### ►Annual Event of the RHC-Platform

*2030 Reasons to Integrate Renewable Heating and Cooling: Innovation, Technology Development and Market uptake*, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual event of the RHC-Platform will take place in Brussels, at the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union, on the 22nd May.



The draft Common Roadmap will be presented in a consultation forum to the wide range of stakeholders in the morning when we will be joined by Ms. Marie Donnelly, Director for New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Innovation at the European Commission's DG Energy. This will be followed in the afternoon by a high level policy event as we welcome policy makers, industry leaders and researchers to discuss the role of RHC in the transformation of the energy system with a particular focus on the Commission's proposal for a 2030 climate and energy framework. All information on the event (including details on how to register) can be found [here](#).

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### ►Results of the LogistEC Workshop: Energy crops and EU Cooperation

The workshop organized by AEBIOM in the framework of the LogistEC project on 19 March 2014 focused on how to develop lignocellulosic energy crops in the EU. The event achieved successful results thanks to the participation of more than 80 stakeholders that have exchanged best practices and exposed their recommendations for a real take off of lignocellulosic energy crops in Europe. A list of recommended actions has been established by the stakeholders of the workshop. This "wish list" can be found [HERE](#).

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## EVENTS

### ►AEBIOM events

Second International Workshop on Pellet Safety, Austria, 5-7 May 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2014, Belgium, 12-14 May 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
Biomass Policies Workshop- Sustainability and Mobilisation, Belgium 14 May 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
Biomass Panel of the RHC-Platform, Belgium, 21 May 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
2030 Reasons to Integrate Renewable Heating and Cooling: Innovation, Technology Development and Market Uptake, Brussels, 22 May 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
IBTC Meeting during the 5 <sup>th</sup> Biomass Pellets Trade & Power, Seoul, 23-27 Sep 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>

### ►Other events

Euroheat & Power Annual Conference & 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Belgium, 28-29 April 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
Sustainability of biogas Workshop, Belgium, 29 April 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
Impact and achievements of IEE bioenergy projects, Belgium, 22 May 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
International Conference on Renewable Energy Gas Technology, Sweden, 22-23 May 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
World Bioenergy 2014, Sweden, 03-05 June 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
British Renewable Energy Awards, UK, 12 June 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
EU Sustainable Energy Week, Belgium, 23-27 June 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
Nordic Biogas Conference, NBC 2014, Iceland, 27-29 August 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
International Training Seminar Biomass Heating- Market development and technologies, Austria, 08-11 Sept 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
International Conference: Progress in Biogas III, Germany, 10-11 September 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
Bioenergy from Forest 2014, Finland, 15-18 September 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>
Biofuels International Conference 2014, Belgium, 24-25 September 2014	► <a href="#">Read more</a>

Conference of the European Biogas Association 2014, 30 September-2 October 2014	<a href="#">►Read more</a>
13th Pellets Industry Forum 2014, Germany, 14-15 October 2014	<a href="#">►Read more</a>
SGC International Seminar on Gasification 2014, Sweden, 15-16 October 2014	<a href="#">►Read more</a>
Expobiomasa 2014, Spain, 21-23 October 2014	<a href="#">►Read more</a>
Biogas 2014, Germany, 22-23 October 2014	<a href="#">►Read more</a>
European Pellet Conference 2015, Austria, 25-26 February 2015	<a href="#">►Read more</a>