

Newsletter: December 2013

The bioenergy voice in Europe

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Sponsors Call for the 5th AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 12-14 May 2014

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Article on Sustainable and Economical Energy Supply by Gustav Melin

Dear readers,



I would like to thank you for the confidence you have shown me by electing me as AEBIOM President for the third time this November. In my opinion, AEBIOM is a very important player in Europe today. AEBIOM delivers a sound business and sustainable message in the heart of Brussels. For a time it has been important to focus on sustainability of bioenergy and carbon debt, this will be important for the future as well. Now, however it will be increasingly important to focus on market development, competitiveness and communication. In the heating market bioenergy has been competitive for many years, in the power markets only when selling electricity from combined heat and power plants. In the long run we can never lean on subsidies for bioenergy development or any type of power production. In the bioenergy sector, I believe it is important to focus on developing the district heating nets. This will give several benefits, it will improve energy efficiency, increase biomass use and save emissions and cost less. I haven't done the calculation yet, but if we would take care of waste heat from power production we could replace most of the fossils for heating. There are of course a lot of infrastructure investments to be done but it is profitable! It may be possible to reduce the CO₂ emissions with 50 per cent until 2030 and also get a better energy comfort than today. Using combined heat and power will give lower energy costs and a better trade balance.

Another subject - It is strange to hear that the lower coal price also has become the return of coal in household stoves and boilers for example in Belgium. Maybe low coal prices have come to stay, we know that there is coal for several hundred years available globally, but most of us have believed that fossil fuels will get more expensive. Maybe that is not the case, maybe new production methods, energy efficiency and more renewables will keep fossil prices low?

How do we handle that? Will we allow continuous increase of emissions of greenhouse gases? Do we not have a climate issue? Our solution is clear: the polluter must pay for the emissions, we need a fee for carbon dioxide emissions. Many people have misunderstood the Swedish carbon tax. The carbon tax has mainly been for households and not for companies, with the purpose not to damage the companies' competitiveness due to higher energy costs. It is time to call for the carbon tax for households; we could switch it to a lower income tax to promote jobs and domestic energy production.

Gustav Melin, President of AEBIOM

AEBIOM NEWS

► **AEBIOM Statistical Report: 2013 European Bioenergy Outlook**

AEBIOM has published its' yearly statistical report: **The 2013 European Bioenergy Outlook**. This extensive collection of data on biomass aims to contribute to a better understanding and further successful development of the bioenergy sector in Europe. Besides the general overview of RES and bioenergy situation in Europe, the report consists of two main parts. The first part provides basic information about the biomass resources originated from forest, agricultural and waste streams. The second part is structured according to its end use: electricity, heat and transport. Two more special chapters complete the report: one on biogas and one dedicated to the pellet sector, elaborated by EPC.

The report is available free of charge on [AEBIOM website](#).

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► AEBIOM Staff

We regret to announce that two of our staff members are leaving AEBIOM at the end of this year. Edita Vagonyte has been working at AEBIOM for 6 years as the European Affairs Manager and was one of the corner stones in AEBIOM's success. She was the first employee of the AEBIOM team and thus the oldest in the team. "It was a pleasure to work with such great colleagues at AEBIOM. I will dearly miss them. The experience I gained working here is of a high value but after 6 years of working here it is time for me to have a different experience in life. I would like to thank all the partners and AEBIOM members for a friendly cooperation and their dedication to the bioenergy field which made my work an enjoyable experience," said Edita who will pursue new career opportunities in Brussels. Edita will be succeeded by Fanny-Pomme Langue who is the Policy Director at AEBIOM.

Lara Mertens will also be leaving AEBIOM at the end of December. Lara has been working for AEBIOM for 2 years and a half as Bioenergy Expert. During her work here, Lara showed great passion for the bioenergy sector and proved her efficiency in the work that she led at AEBIOM. "I have had a professionally-rich and most enjoyable experience working on bioenergy issues and witnessing the latest developments in Europe. In particular, I would like to thank my colleagues in the RHC-Platform for the smooth collaboration," said Lara who will continue her career in the environment sector.

The AEBIOM team wishes them the best of luck in their future endeavours and will miss them!

► Job Announcement- Bioenergy Expert Position

AEBIOM is looking to recruit a young Bioenergy Expert to support Policy activities. EU legislation impacts more and more the bioenergy markets, sometimes with worrying proposal. The new employee should be able to understand at the same time bioenergy issues and EU affairs. Please see job description [HERE](#). Applications and CVs should be sent to AEBIOM Secretary General Jean-Marc Jossart by e-mail **by 30 December 2013**, info@aebiom.org.

► AEBIOM welcomes new members

AEBIOM is happy to welcome its new members. **Advanced Torrefaction Systems** (an American company that has patented ATS TorreCat (tm) Technology, a technology designed to solve problems that have hindered the development of commercial-scale torrefaction plants), **Arigna Fuels Ltd** (Irish company that manufactures HETAS approved, high-quality smokeless and low smoke fuels designed for the Irish and UK domestic markets), **CPL Industries Limited** (UK company focused on producing cleaner, greener, more efficient and environmentally friendlier domestic fuel products, which account for approximately 10% of their overall business), **Hashtagbio** (offers sustainable solutions to climate change, through the development of their own torrefaction technology whilst building supply chains with partners to bring biocoal to the energy market), **Miktech Oy / Biosaimaa** (Finish company that provides various business development services for technology companies and coordinates diverse projects mainly in focus areas such as technology and wood product industry, digitization, bioenergy and environmental safety), **Pellet Fuels Institute** (a North American trade association promoting energy independence through the efficient use of clean, renewable and densified biomass fuel).

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► 5th AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2014

AEBIOM has started its call for sponsors for the **AEBIOM Bioenergy Conference** organized on **12-14 May 2014** at the Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Belgium. Please see [HERE](#) the different sponsorship offers we propose. Our lowest categories start already from **1,000 Euros** (Visits), to **3,000 Euros** (Bronze Sponsorship), **4,000 Euros** (Dinner sponsorship), **5,000 Euros** (Silver Sponsorship) and **7,000 Euros** (Gold Sponsorship).

So far, the conference is benefiting from one Silver sponsor: **BIFFIO EU Project** and one Bronze sponsor: **STICHTING VICTAM**. We would like to thank them for their support.

These are the main reasons why 2014 is an important year for your industry:

- The pellet market for the domestic market is booming, offering opportunities for many new market players.
- The financial support to renewables is under scrutiny at EU level and future of support schemes is uncertain.
- The EC is expected to release a report on sustainability criteria for solid and gaseous biomass used for heat and electricity production.
- The European Commission recently proposed to change the RES and Fuel Quality Directives and introduce measures aiming to tackle ILUC issues. The proposal is now under discussion in the Council and in Parliament
- The debate on carbon emissions accounting is expected to continue and the principle of biomass carbon neutrality will have to be strongly supported so as to face the criticisms related to the so called "carbon debt" issue.

This year the conference will focus on the "Internationalisation" of the heat markets, the EU legislations impacting business and future markets. Therefore, we encourage you to be a leader in these discussions and expose your brand in front of potential clients as well as high representatives and officials. The 5th edition will be co-organized with the European Pellet Council (EPC), the Industrial European Pellet Suppliers (EIPS) and the International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC).

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▶ Article on sustainable and economical energy supply by President Gustav Melin

AEBIOM President Gustav Melin wrote an article on how to gain independence and sustainability in a profitable way by giving Sweden as an example. The article was published in the magazine *Verstas & Politika* and can be viewed [HERE](#).

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EUROPEAN PELLET COUNCIL

▶ 2013, an Incredible Year for ENplus!



As we near the end of 2013, it is time to look back and reflect on what was an extremely successful year for ENplus. 2013 was a year of growth and international expansion for ENplus with EPC now enjoying the support of large parts of European and even World pellet sector (USA, Canada, Russia). Today, 103 producers and 134 traders are ENplus certified amounting to a total of more than 4 million tonnes of ENplus certified pellets. Hence, around 50% of pellets used for heating in EU are ENplus certified!

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▶ Congratulations to the new EPC President and Vice-President



The elections of EPC President and Vice-President were held during the EPC Membership Assembly (14/11/2013, Berlin). Christian Rakos and Marcos Martin were elected as President and Vice-President respectively. EPC would like to thank Eija Alakangas for her commitment during her Vice-Presidency mandate and the decisive contributions she made for the standardisation of biomass.



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EUROPEAN INDUSTRY OF PELLET SUPPLIERS

► EIPS Future Meetings



The European Industry of Pellet Suppliers Group (EIPS) held its last meeting in Brussels in early October. Focus is on communication campaign (together with USIPA and WPAC), sustainability (coming EU report), cascading (future ban of roundwood?) and statistics. 12 members are now part of the group that credibly represents the interests of the European pellet industry. The next meeting will take place in London, April 2014 in the framework of the Argus conference. For more information about EIPS, please consult the introduction brochure [here](#) or contact Fanny Langue, General Manager of the group, fanny.langue@aebiom.org.

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INTERNATIONAL BIOMASS TORREFACTION COUNCIL

► IBTC Meeting in Miami



US' main event on pellet industry, the Exporting Pellets Conference organized by USIPA, was held in Miami the 27-29 of October. With this occasion, IBTC organized a public meeting the 27th, before the opening session of the conference.

The purpose of the public meeting was to approach easily American and Canadian companies, present IBTC and discuss about common torrefaction issues. Six companies from the US finally attended. Michael Wild, IBTC President, presented the group, the objectives and his activities followed by Jean-Marc Jossart, who presented AEBIOM and some key issues on bioenergy legislation. They were followed by two technology presentations from IBTC members: ANDRITZ and AREVA. After very lively debate on the perspective of torrefaction, all the observer participants expressed their interest in the IBTC activities and will possibly join the group.

The next **IBTC meeting is scheduled the 16th January 2014 in Graz/Austria** in the frame of the Central European Biomass conference. IBTC will also co-organize together with IEA task 40, task 32 and SECTOR project, a workshop dedicated to torrefaction on Friday, 17th of January 2014.

For more info on IBTC activities contact Cristina Calderón, IBTC General Manager, at calderon@aebiom.org.

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► IBTC welcomes new members



IBTC is proud to welcome 5 new supporting members: **CPL industries** (one of the leading distributors of wood pellets in UK), **EPI-Energy Pellets International** (broker active worldwide in pellets from wood and other biomass), **University HEIG-VD, Yverdon St.Roche** (carries out applied research and development on wood and biomass energy projects), **MIKTECH OY** (Finish technology centre active in bioenergy and torrefaction research) and **#bio** (Ukrainian company developing torrefaction).

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EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

► Eco-design regulation

The EU Eco-design Policy aims at reducing the environmental impact of products, including the energy consumption throughout their entire life cycle. It consists in mandatory requirements for selling a product on the market. Boilers and local space heaters are subject to this policy in lots 15 and 20. In September, the Commission proposed a draft Regulation for each lot for Member States to vote on. According to AEBIOM, EPC and other EU based organizations, the proposed levels of requirements were far too strict and could seriously undermine bioenergy market developments. These concerns were endorsed by several EU Member States and the vote was postponed in order to leave more time for consultation with experts.

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► 2030 EU Climate and Energy Policy

AEBIOM, together with EREC (Renewable Energy Council) and other EU Renewable Energy organizations, is involved in the ongoing EU debate on the future climate and energy policy. The EU renewable Energy sector is of the view that a legally binding renewable energy target is needed beyond 2020 so as to guarantee the continuation renewable energy developments and tackle climate change. This position was clearly expressed in answer to the consultation organized by the European Commission through the Green Paper “2030 framework for climate and energy policy” (all answers are publically available [here](#)) and is currently explained to the European Parliament which will vote on its position in early 2014. However other (strong) voices are arguing in favour of a sole CO₂ target supported by technology neutral tools like ETS.

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AEBIOM POSITION ON EU POLICY

► Cascade use of wood

On September 25th, AEBIOM, EIPS, CEPF, COPA-COGECA, ELO and Eustafor published common statement on the cascade principle (available [here](#)). According to this principle, wood should be used in the following order of priority: wood-based products, re-use, recycling, bioenergy and disposal. With this statement, the concerned organizations aim at explaining why this principle should not be made legally binding, as there is no economic or practical justification that such provisions will promote the competitive and sustainable use or supply of wood. Instead, more efforts should be made to increase wood mobilisation in Europe. This position was explained during the workshop “*The Efficient Use of the Biomass Resources*” organized under the IEE project “Biomass Policies”.

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PROJECTS

► RHC-Platform- Industry validation of the Biomass Technology Roadmap

The Biomass Technology Panel is finalizing its Biomass Technology Roadmap which identifies the actions and milestones needed to implement the strategic research priorities in the short-term (up to 2020). Over the last months, the Steering Committee of the Biomass Technology Panel has deployed significant efforts to involve key stakeholders in the drafting of this document, in particular experts from industry. On 29 October 2013, the Biomass Technology Panel held an Industry Validation workshop in Brussels to discuss the Roadmap with key industrial actors and to showcase the industry’s readiness to engage in research and innovation projects for biomass heating and

cooling technologies. In the first part of this meeting, a series of presentations elaborated on the RHC-Platform and on the R&D financing options for heating and cooling with biomass. The workshop then featured 3 dedicated sessions to present and discuss different implementation actions of the draft Biomass Technology Roadmap. Participants were subsequently invited to give their feedback in an interactive roundtable discussion. The presentations and the minutes of this workshop are available in the Members section of the [RHC-Platform website](#).

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▶ **Successful BioGrace Public Workshop on CO2 calculation methodology**

The past 30th October the BioGrace II project organized a public workshop on GHG calculations for electricity, heating and cooling from biomass. The workshop had an audience of almost 60 participants, mostly companies that will have to or would like to comply with sustainability criteria for solid and gaseous biomass in the next years.

Giulio Volpi (DG ENER EU Commission) updated the audience on the latest policy developments in the field of sustainability criteria for electricity, heat and cooling from biomass, while Caroline Season (DECC) gave an overview on the UK policy developments. They were followed by presentations from BioGrace II partners on the BioGrace II tool itself and the calculations rules. The floor was open for questions all the time which led into a lively and constructive workshop.

A second public workshop will be organized in Vienna in 2014. The workshops are aiming to inform participants (1) how European bodies are going to regulate GHG calculations for electricity, heating and cooling from biomass, and (2) the BioGrace GHG calculation tool is available to perform these calculations. More info: <http://www.BioGrace.net>

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▶ **Biomass Policies Project: Efficient use of the biomass resource**

The Biomass Policies project – of which AEBIOM is a partner - aims to provide sound knowledge and measures to enhance the integration of resource efficiency in both national and EU policy. The Biomass Policies consortium held its first European workshop in Brussels on 26 November 2013. The workshop intended to discuss the baseline for biomass resource efficiency in Europe and how it can be best integrated in existing policy. Mr. Glattfelder, Member of European Parliament, welcomed the participants of the workshop and introduced the topic by emphasizing the need to increase efficiency in both biomass production and use. The first part of the workshop aimed defining resource efficiency according to the Biomass Policies consortium, taking into account environmental impacts on carbon and water resources. In a second part, the workshop discussed how existing policies currently address resource efficiency with a particular focus on the Dutch case. The workshop ended with a panel debate in which the wood and bioenergy industries had the opportunity to present their views regarding the efficient use of biomass resources, and in particular the cascading use principle. The presentations of this workshop are available on the project website www.biomasspolicies.eu.

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▶ **LogistEC Workshop: Energy crops and EU Cooperation**

The LogistEC project aims to develop new or improved technologies of the biomass logistics chains. Cost-efficient, environmental-friendly and socially sustainable biomass supply chains are needed to achieve the 2020 EU RES targets that might be impeded by the potential scarcity of lignocellulosic biomass. The project covers all types of lignocellulosic crops: annual and multi-annual crops, perennial grasses, and short-rotation coppice.

The contribution of agriculture to the energy sector is expected to increase significantly in the coming 10 years. Many European initiatives currently address bio-energy in agriculture, such as the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-plan), the European Biofuels technology platform, the European Renewable Heating and

Cooling technology platform, several IEE and FP 7 projects, the up-coming reform of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), that will give room to Member States for measures related to the bio-based economy and so on.

The EU Cooperation Workshop organized by AEBIOM with the involvement of partners Averinox, ECN, Acciona, Biotrans, BIOPOPLAR, Risø DTU, FCBA, and CENER will focus on trans-national cooperation, and will involve the following speakers: relevant project partners, EU DG-Agri Rural development, some Member States having relevant policies. The targeted participants include national leaders for rural development programmes and farmers trade unions. A factsheet will be produced, focusing on the best policies to help energy crops to take off.

For all the stakeholders involved in these initiatives, a good understanding of the issues associated with energy crops is essential. Therefore, this workshop will be organised in Brussels specifically targeting EU policy makers in order to spread the findings of the project regarding possible measures to support the deployment of lignocellulosic-based value chains.

A save the date information is available on the [LogistEC web site](#). If you would like to register to the workshop please send an e-mail to andronache@aebiom.org by **13 March 2014**.

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EVENTS

▶ AEBIOM events

[AEBIOM Board Meeting, Belgium, 30 January 2014](#)

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[AEBIOM General Assembly, Belgium, 18 March 2014](#)

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[LogistEC Workshop on Energy Crops and EU Cooperation, Belgium, 19 March 2014](#)

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[AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2014, Belgium, 12-14 May 2014](#)

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▶ Other events

[1st Central European Pellet Day, Austria, 15 January 2014](#)

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[4th Central European Biomass Conference, Austria, 15-18 January 2014](#)

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[Fuels of the future 2014, Germany, 20-21 January 2014](#)

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[Biogaz Europe 2014, France, 29-30 January 2014](#)

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[World Biomass Power Markets, The Netherlands, 3-5 February 2014](#)

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[Fieragricola, Italy, 06-09 February 2014](#)

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[European Pellet Conference 2014, Austria, 26-27 February 2014](#)

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[World Bio Markets, The Netherlands, 4-6 March 2014](#)

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[Bois Energie 2014 Expo, France, 13-16 March 2014](#)

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[International Biomass Conference & Expo, USA, 24-26 March 2014](#)

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[Euroheat & Power Annual Conference & 60th Anniversary, Belgium, 28-29 April 2014](#)

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[World Bioenergy 2014, Sweden, 03-05 June 2014](#)

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[EU Sustainable Energy Week, 23-27 June 2014](#)

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[Bioenergy from Forest 2014, Finland, 15-18 September 2014](#)

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[Biofuels International Conference 2014](#)

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