

## Newsletter: February 2013

### Bioenergy voice in Europe

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**24/01/2013**

The future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2014-2020

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**18/12/2012**

Bioenergy projects receive 630 million € under NER300

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**01/03/2013**

Updated ENplus handbook 2.0

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**21/02/2013**

AEBIOM Working Group on Advanced Biofuels

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**05/12/2012**

AEBIOM launches the International Biomass Torrefaction Council

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**17-19/06/2013**

4th AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference in Brussels

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**22-23/04/2013**

4th Annual Conference of the RHC-Platform in Dublin

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*Dear readers,*

In my opinion AEBIOM has developed into an organisation that can be described as “the politicians’ best friend”. Why is that? We are an association that speaks not for a single and narrow biomass interest, but for all bioenergy routes, the whole bioenergy community. We have the views of both producers and users in mind. We maintain a focus on developing profitable businesses to create jobs and growth, and improved technology. At the same time we remain concerned about the environment and sustainable forest production, as well as nature conservation and the protection of rare species. We have the ambition to embrace a balanced view.

AEBIOM needs to be stronger, however. We have a number of important battles ahead of us. We have to handle issues concerning the use of biofuels and the current ILUC-proposal of the European Commission, the carbon accounting debate, the sustainability criteria for solid biofuels and biogas, the introduction of a common carbon tax, improvements of the emission trading under the ETS, etc.



How can you help us? There are several options. Obviously, we hope as many companies as possible will join forces with us by becoming members of AEBIOM and of the national associations, and engage in the policy work at national level. This time I would specifically ask those of you who have subsidiaries in Poland to approach the older POLBIOM, or the recently established POLBIO. Find out what they do in helping the Polish government to avoid becoming the European country clinging tight to the continuous use of fossils instead of embracing renewable energy. Stronger national associations will ensure a better local market development, a stronger AEBIOM, and a better policy for us all.

Finally I would like to remind you to come and see us in Brussels at the AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference on 17-19 June 2013!

*Gustav Melin, president of AEBIOM*

## AEBIOM NEWS

### ► Fanny-Pomme Langue joins the AEBIOM Team!

Fanny-Pomme Langue joined the AEBIOM in early 2013, where she is working as Policy Director of the association and as General Manager of the “European Industrial Pellet Suppliers” (EIPS) group. Before joining AEBIOM, she worked for three years in the European Commission (DG Energy) as Policy Officer in charge of bioenergy issues and for four years as Deputy Director of the French Forest Cooperatives Association (UCFF). She has a background in EU Policies and in agricultural law.

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### ► AEBIOM Working Group on Advanced Biofuels

On 15 November 2012, AEBIOM launched a new European working group on advanced biofuels. The aim of the working group is to offer a discussion platform for companies with similar interests, and to commonly voice the concerns of the sector to the outside world. Moreover, as most advanced biofuels are produced from lignocellulosic biomass, the advanced biofuels industry will have to address several issues which considerably overlap with AEBIOM’s core activities - such as logistics of woody biomass supply chains, sustainability and security of biomass supply. This

common ground highlights the relevance of an enhanced collaboration between AEBIOM and the advanced biofuels sector.

The Working Group held their second meeting on 21 February 2013 in Brussels. During this meeting; the group discussed on the future activities of the working group, which will focus on biomass demand for the advanced biofuels sector, on the availability of advanced biofuels for European Members States and on the elaboration of policy recommendations. Companies are welcome to join AEBIOM and participate to this working group.

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### ► **AEBIOM publishes its 2012 Annual Report**

AEBIOM recently published its 2012 Annual Report. Have a look at this document and find out more on the activities led by AEBIOM in 2012.

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### ► **Renewable Heat: AEBIOM meets Director General of DG Energy**

The Commission is currently preparing a green paper on the energy and climate change framework for 2030. The publication of this paper is expected in spring 2013. AEBIOM, EREC (European Renewable Energy Council), ESTIF (European Solar Thermal Industry Federation) and EGEC (European Geothermal Energy Council) recently met P. Lowe, Director General of DG Energy in order to discuss the role of renewable heating and cooling today and in the future EU Policy. This meeting was also an opportunity for representatives of the renewable heat sector to jointly express their views on the need to create an internal market for heat services, the need to decarbonize the EU heat sector (to date, around 80% of fossil fuels) and to call for an EU dedicated action plan for renewable heating and cooling technologies and developments. The relations between the EU energy efficiency legislation and renewable developments were also discussed.

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## EUROPEAN PELLET COUNCIL

### ► **ENplus handbook 2.0**

The updated handbook 2.0 will be officially approved by the ENplus associations on 1 March 2013 and published shortly thereafter on [www.enplus-pellets.eu](http://www.enplus-pellets.eu). All ENplus stakeholders will also be notified directly by email. The ENplus certification is supported by the European Commission via the PelCert project.

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### ► **ENplus workshop and EPC session at AEBIOM conference**

An international ENplus workshop will be held on 17 June 2013, right before the start of the AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference. This workshop is supported by the PelCert project and is free of charge. The European Pellet Council will hold its own session, focusing on “pellet use in heat markets”, during AEBIOM’s Bioenergy Conference on 18 June 2013.

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## ► 3.2 million tons of ENplus pellets produced in 2012

The wood pellet certification administered by EPC and its members surpassed all expectations in 2012. ENplus certification has reached a production volume of 3.2 million tons at the end of 2012 and ENplus certified trade reached about 0.65 million tons.

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## EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL PELLET SUPPLIERS

### ► Upcoming activities of the European Industrial Pellet Suppliers

The European Industrial Pellet Suppliers (EIPS) has been recently created under umbrella of AEBIOM with the aim of gathering industrial pellet producers. Seven companies have already committed to the group's activities. The next meeting of EIPS will take place in London on 16 April 2013 and will be opened to all companies interested in the activities of this working group. The agenda of this meeting will be circulated in March 2013. Industrial pellets will also be subject to a specific session during the next AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference on 17-19 June 2013, focusing on markets and co-firing.

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## INTERNATIONAL BIOMASS TORREFACTION COUNCIL

### ► AEBIOM launches the International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC)

AEBIOM and the stakeholders of the torrefied biomass sector have decided to join forces and create the International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC). IBTC was launched on 5 December 2012 in collaboration with the Dutch Torrefaction Association (DTA) as a discussion platform for companies with similar interests. The main objective of this working group is to promote the use of torrefied biomass as an energy carrier in Europe, undertake studies or projects, and to commonly voice the concerns of the industry to the outside world. IBTC is currently working on torrefied biomass standardisation and a draft version of the standard will be presented to the Austrian Standardisation Committee (ÖNORM), with the request to put it on the agenda at the next ISO meeting in Bangkok mid-March. At the moment, 20 companies in Europe and USA support the initiative, and many more have already expressed their interest to join the group. Interested companies are welcome to join via AEBIOM membership.

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## EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

### ► The future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2014-2020

On 24 January 2013, the AGRI committee of the European Parliament (EP) voted its amendments to the Commission's proposal for regulations on the future CAP. The vote in plenary session will take place in March 2013 and will provide a final confirmation of the information delivered below. Member States are currently finalizing their discussion within the Council of the European Union and should adopt a common position by end of March 2013.

Among others, the Parliament has confirmed the Commission's proposal to grant no support for the planting of short rotation coppices, Christmas trees or fast growing trees for energy production under the rural development measure "Afforestation and creation of woodland" (Article 23 of the proposed Rural Development Regulation). However,

Member States may decide to reintroduce the possibility to finance fast growing trees (as it is the case today) under this article. Support to short rotation coppice under another measure may be possible and is still to be clarified. The Parliament has also opened the door for the use of ecological focus areas (one of the greening measures proposed by the Commission) for production without utilisation of pesticide and fertiliser application (Article 32 of the proposed Direct Payment Regulation). This may constitute an opportunity for bioenergy crop production. AEBIOM continues its lobbying activities on this issue.

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### ► Bioenergy projects receive 630 million € under NER300

The NER300 programme - managed jointly by the European Commission, European Investment Bank and Member States - dedicates funds raised from the sale of 200 million allowances in the New Entrants' Reserve of the European Emissions Trading Scheme, to subsidising installations of innovative renewable energy technology and carbon capture and storage. Under this scheme, the Commission awarded over 1.2 billion € to 23 innovative renewable energy technology projects in December 2012. Eight of these projects - located in Finland, Italy, Poland, France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Germany - are dedicated to bioenergy (including 5 on advanced biofuels) for a total amount of 630 million €. The selected projects aim to tackle the main challenges to the large-scale deployment of mature innovative technologies. In the short term, the projects are expected to add 10 TWh to the EU's annual renewable energy production. The European Commission intends to proceed "as early in 2013 as possible" with the launch and implementation of the second call for proposals under the NER300 funding scheme.

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## AEBIOM POSITION ON EU POLICY

### ► Carbon accounting remains a critical issue

Carbon accounting remains at the centre of attention in the debate on bioenergy sustainability. AEBIOM attended to a workshop "How sustainable is Scandinavian biomass?" organised at the European Parliament on 30 January 2013, during which several experts were invited to present their views on the state of Scandinavian forests and on carbon accounting. AEBIOM continues to actively participate to the debate related to the later issue, while explaining that the bioenergy industry uses essentially industry residues and forest by-products (top and branches) which ensures a clear climate benefit, and that sustainably managed forest make a greater contribution to climate change mitigation than unmanaged forests.

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## PROJECTS

### ► RHC-Platform: participate in innovative biomass-based heat projects

Since 2008, the RHC-Platform has built up a strong network of industry and research stakeholders in the renewable heating and cooling sector. A competent structure managed by 4 associations - AEBIOM, EUREC, ESTIF and EGEN - is now in place. The Strategic Research Priorities for biomass-heat technology have been published in April 2012 and the Platform now seeks to build transnational consortiums for innovative biomass-to-heat projects in the value chains listed hereunder. It is still time to jump on board and participate to innovation in the biomass-to-heat sector, to stay informed on the RHC-Platform activities register free of the charge on the RHC-Platform website.

- ▶ Cost and energy efficient small scale CHP
- ▶ High efficient biomass conversion systems for tri-generation
- ▶ Advanced biomass fuels replacing coal and fossil oil in CHP
- ▶ High efficient large-scale steam CHP with enhanced availability and increased high temperature heat potential

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## ▶ **BioGrace II: first round of feedback sessions for companies**

The BioGrace-II project, supported by the IEE programme, aims at harmonising the calculations of GHG emissions for the production of electricity, heating and cooling with biomass. The project has recently produced a first draft Excel calculation tool and a list of standard values. Policy makers and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide feedback on these deliverables in small technical meetings and in larger workshops. Moreover, companies active in biomass, heat and/or electricity production, as well as biomass traders (for instance of wood pellets) and R&D organisations, are invited to participate in the 9 feedback sessions that will be organized in different countries. The industry is convinced of the need for harmonized GHG calculation rules, and their feedback and expertise will be most valuable to help the BioGrace II consortium in improving the first version of the Excel calculation tool, the drafts of the methodological background paper and the calculation rules. A first round of feedback sessions will be organized in spring 2013 in Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK.

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## ▶ **BioalgaeSorb: could microalgae save us all?**

Microalgae have been subject to considerable attention from the scientific community, as it constitutes an interesting feedstock for a new generation of biofuels and other possible applications, such the production of biogas through anaerobic digestion. Although there are plenty of merits to microalgae as a raw material for environmental-friendly commodities, several technical constraints hinder this technology. A sustainable source of nutrients for cell growth, replacing inorganic fertilisers, is vital to preserve its low carbon impact. Appropriate low energy cell recovery for the minimisation of the sheer volume of algal cultures is equally important. Finally, only a multi-product focused approach will fully exploit the potential of algae as a feedstock source for both food and fuel. The BioAlgaeSorb project aims at addressing some of the above-mentioned constraints. At Swansea University, the integration of membrane filtration technologies has been used to bring to light microalgae-related technologies in waste management and energy production.

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## EVENTS

### ▶ **4th AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference, Brussels, 17-19 June 2013**

The AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference, organized by AEBIOM, is the fourth edition of the growing series. The conference is co-organized by the European Pellet Council, the European Industrial Pellet Suppliers and the European Biogas Association. With 300 international participants in the field of biomass production and supply, planning, bioenergy production, representatives from the EC and EP and NGOs, the AEBIOM Bioenergy Conference has become Europe's major occasion for discussion and networking amongst important industry leaders and policy makers. The conference will provide an ideal platform for everyone who wishes to get the latest news on sustainable bioenergy and exchange views and experience. This year the main topics of debate will be the sustainability criteria of solid/gaseous biomass and the worrying carbon neutrality debate. Against this background, AEBIOM has invited representatives from the European Commission and the European Parliament to give their perspective on the needs of the future promotional framework.

Main Conference highlights include:

- ▶ European Legislation: sustainability criteria, CO<sub>2</sub> accounting methodology, ILUC
- ▶ Focus on pellets, biogas, and sustainability certification
- ▶ Several company profile cases
- ▶ Event co-organizers: European Pellet Council, European Industrial Pellet Suppliers, European Biogas Association
- ▶ Dinner at the EU Parliament (17 June)
- ▶ B2B meetings (18 June)
- ▶ Organized visits to bioenergy plants in Belgium (19 June)

The conference has already benefits of 4 sponsors: Andritz, BioAlgaeSorb, Neuson-Ecotec, and Port of Ghent. Sponsoring at the AEBIOM Bioenergy Conference 2013 will provide you an excellent opportunity to raise your company profile and showcase your expertise in front of a high calibre group of participants. The 7 conference packages will give you the possibility to choose something that is most suitable for your company.

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### ▶ **EPC-SafePellets Workshop, Fuegen, Austria, 4-6 March 2013**

The event will be the starting point of a dedicated effort of the wood pellet sector to enhance safety throughout the entire supply chain and in the final use. The workshop will promote the exchange of know-how on measures to enhance safety, identify common issues that require further research and establish a network of cooperation in safety issues. The workshop will deliver recommendations on “what needs to be done” and should trigger follow-up activities.

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### ▶ **4th Annual Conference of the RHC-Platform, Dublin, 22-23 April 2013**

AEBIOM will organise the biomass sessions of the 4th Annual Conference of the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC-Platform) on 23 April 2013 in Dublin. In the first part of the biomass session, a first class panel of speakers will present their latest innovative R&D activities in line with the Biomass Panel’s Strategic Research Priorities. In the second part of the session, the implementation plan for the Biomass Strategic Research priorities will be presented and discussed. In a dedicated Panel Discussion, key questions related to innovation in biomass to heat will be debated, such as which projects should be funded in the short-term and what type of activities are needed (research, demonstration), how the performance of the can projects be measured, what budget is needed and which are the most adequate funding instruments? This key annual gathering of the Biomass Panel members is a unique opportunity to liaise with stakeholders of the biomass heating and cooling sector and to discuss to discuss the actions needed to unlock the vast biomass-based heating and cooling potential in the EU energy strategy.

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### ▶ **AEBIOM General Assembly, Dublin, 24 April 2013**

### ▶ **EPC Members Meeting, Austria, 1 March, 2013**

### ▶ **EIPS Members Meeting, UK, 16 April, 2013**

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## ► Other events

IrBEA 12th National Bioenergy Conference, 21 February, 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
European Pellet Conference 2013, 27-28 February, 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
World Biofuels Markets, Netherlands, 12-14 March, 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
International VDI Conference- Biomethane, 19-20 March, 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
Bois Energie 2013, France, 20-22 March, 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
Biogaz Europe 2013, France, 20-22 March, 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
International Biomass Conference & Expo, USA, 8-10 April, 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
3rd European Biomass to Power, Poland, 10-11 April, 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
Argus European Biomass Trading 2013, 17-18 April 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
Cogen Europe Annual Conference & Dinner 2013, Belgium, 18-19 April, 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
World Biomass Power Markets, Netherlands, 16-17 May 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
Nordic Baltic Bioenergy 2013, Norway, 21-22 May, 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
36th Euroheat & Power Congress, Austria, 27-28 May 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
South-East European Eco Forum & Exhibition on Renewable Energy & Waste Management, Bulgaria, 29-31 May 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
Sustainable Energy Week, Belgium, 24-28 June, 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
Bioenergia/Bioenergy, Finland, 4-6 September, 2013	<a href="#">► Read more</a>
4th Central European Biomass Conference, Austria, 15-18 January, 2014	<a href="#">► Read more</a>