

Newsletter: February 2014

The bioenergy voice in Europe

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Dear readers,



In EU we now discuss the targets for 2030 regarding greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Commission in January communicated “A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030”. We have agreed on the overall ambitions, that we should decrease the greenhouse gas emissions, and that we need to strengthen the security of energy supply and that we have to preserve our industrial competitiveness.

It is however not easy to agree on the toolbox this time. Some would like to use shale gas in Europe, to become more competitive with the US, with lower energy prices. Others claim that renewable energy makes us more competitive, sometimes regardless of the cost of investment. In my opinion

we need to choose a route forward that can take care of all the three ambitions and at the same time be clever and get more results from every Euro invested.

In the proposal from the Commission the burden put on the industry to decrease CO₂ emissions is 43 percent inside the Emission Trading System (ETS), whereas the ambition to decrease CO₂-emissions in the energy sector outside ETS is only 30 per cent. This is very strange. The Commission put a higher burden on the industry that competes globally than on the industry that competes more internally in Europe. Obviously the ambitions should be higher in the sector outside the ETS and especially for households in the heating sector where it is most cost efficient and profitable to replace fossil carbon.

Against this background, it is strange that the communication from the Commission leaves out all mention of the Energy Taxation Directive and the earlier proposal to introduce a common carbon dioxide tax. Such a common tax would be one of the most efficient steering instruments to reach high climate ambitions, and to increase security of supply and energy efficiency in the heating sector. I am convinced that the carbon tax in the heating sector will come, and it will be extremely useful for the bioenergy business. Until we get a common legislation we can introduce the tax country by country. So far, we have some sort of carbon taxation in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK. The proposal in the Energy Taxation Directive some years ago was rather good. Let's introduce a CO₂-emission tax in the heating sector.

Gustav Melin, President of AEBIOM

AEBIOM NEWS

► Programme published for the 5th AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2014

AEBIOM has published the first draft programme of the 5th AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2014.

Key highlights:

- Overview of the European markets for small and medium scale heat, as well as transport.
- Comprehensive view of the EU legislation impacting the heat markets (future of support schemes, appliance emissions reduction, and sustainability).
- Understanding the heat markets and players, with a focus on pellets and trade.
- Opportunity for B2B meetings and useful contacts.
- Visits to bioenergy plants.

If you are interested to attend the conference please register on the conference website. We also offer the opportunity to sponsor our conference. 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 two Bronze sponsors: **ARBIO** and **STICHTING VICTAM**. We would like to thank them for their support.

The 5th edition will be co-organized with the European Pellet Council (EPC), the European Industry of Pellet Suppliers (EIPS) and the International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC).

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EUROPEAN PELLETT COUNCIL

▶[Welcome to SVEBIO, a new EPC Member](#)



SVEBIO, the Swedish Bioenergy Association, has joined EPC. So far, 18 national associations have joined EPC as full members and 5 as observing members.

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▶[Fraud on ENplus pellets- The price of fame for ENplus!](#)



With more than 4 million tons of produced pellets under the ENplus certification worldwide, our certification represents an incredible success story. Market players now understand the added value of selling ENplus certified pellets. Because of this, more and more fraud cases are appearing. Here is the procedure to follow if you have any doubt regarding the pellets you are planning to buy: <http://www.enplus-pellets.eu/consumer/1391-2/>.

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EUROPEAN INDUSTRY OF PELLETT SUPPLIERS

▶[EIPS Future Meetings](#)



The next EIPS meeting will take place in London, April 2014 in the framework of the Argus conference. EIPS plays a key role in lobbying activities for the pellet sector, communication to policy makers, and is the main contact body between utilities and the European pellet manufacturers and traders regarding the Sustainable Biomass Partnership – SBP.

For more information about EIPS, please consult the introduction brochure [here](#) or contact Fanny Langué, General Manager of the group, fanny.langué@aebiom.org.

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INTERNATIONAL BIOMASS TORREFACTION COUNCIL

▶[IBTC in the Central European Biomass Conference](#)



The International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC) held its latest meeting in Graz, Austria the 16th January in the framework of the Central European Biomass Conference. The working plan for 2014 was

discussed, with a focus on the activities needed in the torrefaction market development. With the special invitation of ANDRITZ to the IBTC members, a visit was organized to the AndritzTorrefaction Pilot Plant in Frohnleiten.

The day after, IBTC co-organized with IEA Bioenergy Task 40 and SECTOR Project a workshop dedicated to torrefaction. Latest developments in the torrefaction sector were presented together with the first experiences from large-scale combustion and co-firing test and some of the technologies available.

► IBTC welcomes new members



IBTC is proud to welcome 3 new members: Arigna Fuels Ltd (Irish leader producer of smokeless fuels) and Torftech Energy Ltd (biomass and waste, multi-fuel energy solutions using the patented TORBED[®] technologies) as full members and BioEndev (engineering spin-off company originating from R&D at Umeå University, Sweden) as supporting member. 20 members are now part of the group that reliably represents the interest of the torrefaction industry. For more information about IBTC, please contact Cristina Calderón, General Manager of the group, at calderon@aebiom.org.

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EU POLICY AND AEBIOM POSITION

► EU 2030 climate and energy framework

On January 22nd, the European Commission published a communication to present its views on the **2030 EU climate and energy package**. The approach of the Commission is focused on GHG emissions reduction (objective of 40% reduction by 2030 compared to 1990). As far as renewable energy sources are concerned, the Commission suggests a 27% EU objective without any distribution among Member States. No objective is set up on energy efficiency. The Commission leaves it to later analysis to be carried out for the review of the Energy Efficiency Directive to be concluded later in 2014. The approach of the Commission is therefore rather different than the 2020 approach which is based on three parallel targets (GHG reduction, Renewable energy and energy efficiency). The renewable energy sector is very worried by this CO₂ focused approach which is not the most effective to ensure the development of renewable energy in Europe. The European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) has published [a paper](#) analyzing the Commission's technical work. As far as biomass is concerned, **the Communication raises concerns about robust and verifiable GHG savings and competition of uses. AEBIOM is of the view that this approach is not balanced and needs to be reviewed. The Communication will be discussed by Member States in the coming weeks.**

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► Proposal for a Directive on Medium Combustion Plants

On December 18th, the Commission published a **proposal of Directive** on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants. This proposal aims at setting emissions threshold of SO₂, NO_x and particulate matters for combustion plants with a (fuel) capacity between 1 and 50 MW. This proposal is now to be discussed by the Council and the Parliament for an adoption in co-decision. This Directive could have significant impacts for the bioenergy sector and AEBIOM is following this file very closely.

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PROJECTS

►RHC-Platform- Finalisation of the Biomass Technology Roadmap and Annual Event

The Biomass Technology Panel has now finalized the Biomass Technology Roadmap, identifying the actions and milestones needed to implement the strategic research priorities until 2020. This document has been supported and validated by a number of key industrial actors, all of whom are listed in the relevant section of the [RHC-Platform Website](#). This document will soon be available in the [Publications](#) section of the RHC-Platform website. The focus now turns to the Common Technology Roadmap of the RHC-Platform, grouping together the work of the experts from the 4 technology panels and identifying the ways in which the different RHC technologies are linked through the Cross-Cutting Technologies. Once the work has been compiled by the experts, the Common Roadmap will be presented to a wide range of stakeholders in a consultation forum. This forum will be part of the annual event of the RHC-Platform, which will welcome Ms Marie Donnelly, Director for New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Innovation, DG Energy, to speak on the role of Renewable Heating and Cooling in an integrated SET-Plan. The event will take place in Brussels on the 22nd of May 2014. Full details will soon be available on the [RHC-Platform website](#).

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►LogistEC Workshop: Energy crops and EU Cooperation

Please find [HERE](#) the final version of the programme [*Energy Crops –How EU Cooperation Can Help*](#) workshop organized on the 19 of March, 2014 in Brussels, Belgium. The workshop which is organised within the LogistECproject aims to develop new or improved technologies of the biomass from agriculture logistics chains. Cost-efficient, environmental-friendly and socially sustainable biomass supply chains are needed to achieve the 2020 EU RES targets.

Workshop focusses:

- Bioenergy in the new Common Agriculture Policy
- National policies in favour of energy crops
- Feedback from companies working in the energy crops business

There are already many persons registered to this workshop, therefore please register as soon as possible by sending an e-mail to andronache@aebiom.org in order to reserve a place. The workshop is **free of charge**.

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EVENTS

►AEBIOM events

SolidStandards Final Workshop, Belgium, 5 March 2014

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AEBIOM General Assembly, Belgium, 18 March 2014

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BioGrace II Policy Maker Workshop, Belgium, 19 March 2014

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LogistEC Workshop on Energy Crops and EU Cooperation, Belgium, 19 March 2014

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Second International Workshop on Pellet Safety, Austria, 5-7 May 2014

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AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2014, Belgium, 12-14 May 2014

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►Other events

World Bio Markets, The Netherlands, 4-6 March 2014	►Read more
Bois Energie 2014 Expo, France, 13-16 March 2014	►Read more
International Biomass Conference & Expo, USA, 24-26 March 2014	►Read more
TECHAGRO-BIOMASS, Czech Republic, 30 March-3 April 2014	►Read more
2014 European Biomass to Power, Denmark, 1-2 April 2014	►Read more
Argus European Biomass Trading 2014, UK, 9-10 April, 2014	►Read more
Euroheat & Power Annual Conference & 60th Anniversary, Belgium, 28-29 April 2014	►Read more
International Conference on Renewable Energy Gas Technology, Sweden, 22-23 May 2014	►Read more
World Bioenergy 2014, Sweden, 03-05 June 2014	►Read more
EU Sustainable Energy Week, 23-27 June 2014	►Read more
Nordic Biogas Conference, NBC 2014, Iceland, 27-29 August 2014	►Read more
International Conference: Progress in Biogas III, Germany, 10-11 September 2014	►Read more
Bioenergy from Forest 2014, Finland, 15-18 September 2014	►Read more
Biofuels International Conference 2014, Belgium, 24-25 September 2014	►Read more
Conference of the European Biogas Association 2014, 30 September-2 October 2014	►Read more
Pellets Forum 2014, Germany, 14-15 October 2014	►Read more
Expobiomasa 2014, Spain, 21-23 October 2014	►Read more