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Highlights

14/12/2010 Four countries to announce the introduction of ENplus pellet certification in 2011

10/2010 AEBIOM declaration (and presentations) on carbon neutrality is available online

09/11/2010 The NER 300 call for proposals is published on 9 November

15/10/2010 The Belgium presidency launches the European Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI)!

11/2010 AEBIOM's red light for the introduction of ILUC factor and LULUCF

24-25/01/2011 Fuels of the Future conference in Berlin - focus on biofuels

29-30/06/2011 European Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition, Brussels, Belgium

5/05/2011 European Pellets Conference in Cologne within VICTAM International 2011, Germany



It is an honour to me, as a new president of AEBIOM, to start carrying out my duties with presenting myself to you, dear readers, in this AEBIOM newsletter. I am coming from a cold Sweden where we have decades of experience heating our homes with biomass energy, fuelling our cars with biogas and ethanol and producing electricity in cogeneration plants. I hope that I will be able to bring the best out of Swedish experience into the European platform and thus help to reduce the negative impacts of the climate change caused by the use of fossil fuels. Having said that, I would like to point out that it is unusually cold in Sweden and all over the Europe. It means that once again this year we will hit a new record of bioenergy use. Bioenergy is Sweden's largest energy source at present and it still continues to grow.

Most of you would agree that the basis of a good bioenergy development is an implementation of proper steering instruments. Now, let me be critical, the European Union discusses to introduce a new steering instrument that leads to nothing but a prolonged use of fossil fuels - the ILUC factor.

I am afraid, an introduction of an Indirect Land Use Change factor for biofuels or bioenergy in the EU will not help to stop the climate change. Up to date, there is no evidence that an increased biofuel production leads to an increased deforestation. On the contrary, statistics show that the opposite development is happening in real life. As biofuel production has expanded dramatically, deforestation has continuously decreased in Europe and globally during the last ten years. The suggested ILUC factor would punish all types of biofuels regardless how sustainable the production is. It would not steer towards improved biofuels production, as producers cannot improve or reduce their ILUC factor. I think there are other, better and more efficient measures to combat climate change and protect biodiversity. Therefore, AEBIOM will need the support of its' members to explain land use change issues and possible consequences to the politicians in Brussels but before the decisions early next year:

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Gustav Melin, president of AEBIOM

AEBIOM NEWS

► European Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition 2011

AEBIOM is organising a high level European Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition (REECO group) on 29-30 June 2011. The event will focus on current EU legislation, recent developments of bioenergy market in Europe, the state of national RES action plans whilst providing a platform for market actors to exchange ideas and information as well as a discussion forum with policy makers. The main topics will cover biomass supply, certification, biogas, biofuels, heating, electricity, financing bioenergy projects. Further information on: www.renexpo-bioenergy.eu

This event will particularly focus on **sustainability of solid biomass**. The Commission has to publish a report on it by the end of 2011. The bioenergy community should be mobilized to ensure a pragmatic and cost efficient approach taking into account the difficulties and the experience gained from implementing the sustainability criteria for liquid biofuels. So far, positions of bioenergy stakeholders are different. Some large bioenergy players in the power sectors are strongly requesting for a harmonised binding scheme while forest owners that have a long experience in biomass sustainability schemes are afraid of administrative burdens and disproportionate costs. It appears that NGOs are also willing to go further with ambitious sustainability schemes for solid biomass putting the directive on the table again and questioning the carbon balance of forests products. The year 2011 will definitely be an exciting period to define the future framework for bioenergy sustainability.

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► New AEBIOM members

AEBIOM warmly welcomes the first member from Romania. "Fokus Invest" offers consultancy services for the

bioenergy sector. Please contact Peter Braun - [pbraun\(a\)fokus.ro](mailto:pbraun(a)fokus.ro) – for more information.

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▶ **AEBIOM welcomes its' new team members in Brussels offices**

The European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) has recently expanded by employing two additional staff members – an Event manager Anamaria Olaru and an assistant to the Secretary General - Cristina Calderon. Anamaria Olaru ([olaru\(a\)aebiom.org](mailto:olaru(a)aebiom.org)) is 26 years old and originally comes from Romania. She has been appointed to be in charge of all AEBIOM events, a few projects and especially the European Bioenergy Conference that is taking place on 29-30 June next year. Cristina Calderon, who is 25 and from Spain was employed by AEBIOM to be in charge of AEBIOM members' catalogue that will give a visibility to all our members and will enable a better networking amongst us. We warmly welcome Cristina and Anamaria and we are convinced that AEBIOM activities will be strengthened by the arrival of these two important staff members.

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▶ **AEBIOM workshop in the European Parliament on sustainable biomass**

Some NGOs are arguing that biomass creates a carbon debt in the forest leading to a non-neutral carbon cycle of bioenergy. AEBIOM has organized a workshop in the European Parliament to prove them wrong!

The workshop entitled "Bioenergy from sustainable forests – a carbon neutral source of energy" was organised on 10 November in the premises of the European Parliament.

The speakers provided the facts that the carbon stock in the European forests is increasing and that biomass from forests is a part of the closed carbon cycle of bioenergy. With this workshop, AEBIOM showed that the CO₂ savings related to bioenergy depend very much on the parameters used in the counting methodologies and do not always represent the reality. AEBIOM presented a declaration showing that the use of bioenergy from sustainably managed forests not only reduces the CO₂ emissions by substituting fossil fuels but also, if properly managed, increases the carbon stock in the forests.

[Read the declaration, access presentations](#)

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▶ **Pellets certification: 4 countries announce to introduce ENplus in 2011**

The ENplus certification system for wood pellets will be implemented on European level next year. This was decided during the meeting of the European Pellet Council (EPC) on 13 December 2010 in Brussels. After the successful introduction of ENplus in Germany in 2010, the associations of Austria, Italy and Spain announced their uptake of ENplus certification in 2011. Therefore, during the EPC meeting it was agreed to have a common international handbook that will ensure a consistent implementation of the ENplus certification in the future.

EPC president Dr. Christian Rakos (Pro Pellets Austria) says: "With the growing pellet use for heating in Europe we have to ensure international and uniform pellets quality levels. ENplus offers such possibility through the implementation of the respective European standard. ENplus also includes the pellet traders in the certification. As a result, unprecedented quality and smooth heating is ensured for the end user." Mr Rakos expects that approximately 30% of the total European pellet production capacity will be ENplus certified in 2011.

The European Pellets Council was founded this year under the umbrella of AEBIOM. In 2011 big challenges await the EPC: besides the implementation of the common pellets certification, the publication of detailed statistics in the European Union will be the main tasks of the Pellet Council. Furthermore, the EPC will help the EU countries and institutions that wish to use the energy carrier pellets for electricity production to exchange the information and best practices. Mr Rakos adds: "the attractiveness of the raw material - wood will further increase in the future. All actors should be able to coordinate the use of pellets. As a result, a free and reliable pellet market will be in place."

France (Pro Pellets France), Ireland (Irish Bioenergy Association) and Italy (AIEL - Italiana Energie Agroforestali) were accepted as new EPC members on 13 December. Japan (Pellet Club Japan) joins Canada and the United States as observing member of EPC.

For more information, please contact: Mr Christian Rakos, EPC president from proPellets Austria: [rakos\(a\)propellets.at](mailto:rakos(a)propellets.at) or Peter Rechberger from AEBIOM at [Rechberger\(a\)aebiom.org](mailto:Rechberger(a)aebiom.org)

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EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

► European Commission receives almost all nREAPs

The European Commission has received almost all national renewable energy action plans except Hungary. The European Commission's the final evaluation will not be finished earlier than the end of January or February next year as some of the nREAPs are very long which means that it will take time before the English version is ready for evaluation.

According to the results analysed in 23 national action plans, the largest contribution of renewable energy originates from electricity – 45% by 2020. The second largest contribution would be from renewable heating and cooling – 43% and renewable transport would account for 12%. This means that the renewable energy would grow by 6% annually in Europe.

In real terms, this means 23% renewable heating and cooling in 2020: the percentage of renewable energy sources in heating and cooling is forecasted to increase from 10% in 2005 to 23% in 2020. This figure is below the industry projections (RE-thinking 2050) of 28-29% share of renewable heat by 2020.

Regarding renewable electricity, 36% are planned to reach in 2020: in 2005, the share of renewable electricity amounted to almost 15% of electricity consumption according to Eurostat. According to 23 nREAPs, this percentage is planned to increase up to 36% in 2020. It is rather a low figure compared to the industry projections from the RE-thinking 2050 published by the European Renewable Energy Council which shows that 39% renewable electricity can be reached by 2020.

This also means that Europe with 11% of renewable transport would exceed the mandatory 10% RES transport target in 2020: renewable energy sources in transport with 3% in 2005 are forecasted to reach 11% of diesel and petrol consumption in 2020.

The analysis of the nREAPs shows that biomass would contribute to more than 50% of RES energy consumption in 2020 and more than 10% of the total energy consumption in 2020. This implies that biomass would contribute to at least half of an additional effort to reach 20% RES target. The use of agricultural and fishery biomass is expected to increase significantly whilst the waste biomass will only slightly increase and forest biomass is expected to decrease within the biomass share in 2020. Regarding the biomass supply side, the member states do not foresee enough biomass to meet their targets, therefore, this is still to be clarified as well as the amount of imported biomass that the member states would like to use in their respective countries.

EU member states are going to set up different support schemes to reach their national renewables target. For example, German Renewable Energy Heat Act requires new buildings to meet 50% heat demand from biomass or 30% by biogas in CHP, or 15 % from solar energy. Finland is going to support the thinnings by providing a subsidy (€18m increasing to €36m/ year) for 13cm diameter trees for energy use only.

[Access the nREAPS](#)

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► NER 300 call for proposals – tight deadlines for business opportunities

The European Commission has launched a proposal for projects (NER300 call for proposals) on 9 November. This is a great opportunity to fund bioenergy demonstration projects. The deadline to submit the proposals is extremely short! The projects have to be submitted to the Member States (not to the European Commission!) by 9 February 2011. The member states will select the projects and will submit it to the European Commission for financial due diligence to be performed by the European Investment Bank. However, one member state can have maximum 3 projects (out of 8 CCS and 34 RES project categories laid down in the call for proposals) and minimum 1 project funded.

The call for projects and all relevant documents can be downloaded from the following NER300 website: http://ec.europa.eu/clima/funding/ner300/index_en.htm an additional Q&A document on the NER300: http://ec.europa.eu/clima/funding/ner300/docs/updated_faq_en.pdf. AEBIOM can also send you a presentation from the European Commission prepared for AEBIOM that clarifies the NER300 call for proposals.

About NER300 call for proposals and eligible technologies

Emissions Trading Directive 2003/87/EC lays down that the fund (NER300) gathered from trading greenhouse gas emission allowances at EU level should be used to finance innovative RES and CCS pre-commercial demonstration projects. There will be 300 million EU emission allowances available until 31 December 31, 2015. Therefore, a substantial amount of funding will be available for RES projects.

Eligible projects are large scale energy producing pre-commercial demonstration projects (innovative projects!) of the following technologies:

1. Lignocellulose to intermediate solid, liquid or slurry bioenergy carriers via pyrolysis with capacity 40kt/y of the final product;
2. Lignocellulose to intermediate solid, liquid or slurry bioenergy carriers via torrefaction with capacity 40 kt/y of the final product;
3. Lignocellulose to Synthetic Natural Gas or synthesis gas and/or to power via gasification with capacity 40 M Nm³/y (million normal cubic metres per year);
4. Lignocellulose to biofuels or bioliquids and/or to power including via directly heated gasification with capacity 15Ml/y (million litres per year) of the final product or 100 GWh/y of electricity. Production of Synthetic Natural Gas is excluded under this Sub-category;
5. Lignocellulosic raw material, e.g. black liquor and /or products from pyrolysis or torrefaction, via entrained flow gasification to any biofuels with capacity 40 Ml/y of final product;
6. Lignocellulose to electricity with 48% efficiency based on lower heating value (50% moisture) with capacity 40MWe of higher;
7. Lignocellulose to ethanol and higher alcohols via chemical and biological process with capacity 40Ml/y of the final product;
8. Lignocellulose and /or household waste to biogas, biofuels or bioliquids via chemical and biological processes with capacity 6 mio (million normal cubic metres per year) Nm³/y of Methane or 10Ml/y of the final product;
9. Algae and /or micro-organisms to biofuels or bioliquids via biological and/or chemical processes with capacity 40 Ml/y (million litres per year) of the final product.

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► Belgium presidency launches EIBI

Long awaited European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative was finally launched under the Belgian Presidency on 15 November 2010 within the SET Plan Conference in Brussels.

The latest newsletter of the European Biofuels Technology Platform which can be found on: <http://www.biofuelstp.eu/newsletter.html> includes further details and links covering the EIBI and other recent EBTP activities, such as the SRA Update 2010, and recent biofuels reports and events.

However, AEBIOM would like to note that financing this initiative is unclear and deceiving so far.

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► The Commission's communication on energy strategy supports the renewable heating and cooling platform

The European Commission, on 10 November 2010, has published a Communication "Energy 2020 - A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy". This Communication defines energy priorities for the next ten years and sets the actions to be taken to increase energy savings and ensure a competitive energy market with good prices and secure supplies whilst boosting technological leadership.

AEBIOM is glad to see that this paper supports the Renewable Heating and Cooling platform. In this paper, under priority 4, action 1 it is stated that the European Commission "will promote the development of strategic energy research infrastructures in Europe as they strongly contribute to the shortening of the distance between research and technological development. It will also pursue other avenues with great potential, such as marine renewable energy and renewable heating and cooling".

On the basis of paper, the Commission will come forward with concrete legislative initiatives and proposals within the next 18 months. This communication also sets the agenda for the discussion by Heads of States and Governments at the very first EU Summit on Energy on 4 February 2011.

[Read the communication](#)

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AEBIOM POSITION ON EU ENERGY POLICY

▶ AEBIOM disapproving position on Indirect Land Use Change

AEBIOM has sent a response to the European Commission's public consultation on Indirect Land Use Change of biofuels, the deadline of which was the 30th October 2010. The Commission was seeking advice on whether the analytical work done on ILUC up to this date is sufficient to draw some conclusions on ILUC and asked whether the EU action is needed to address ILUC and if yes, what are the ways to address it.

In its' position AEBIOM stated that it does not think that the analytical work presented provides the necessary basis for regulation of ILUC at the present moment. As the literature review presented by the Commission in July 2010 rightly points out there is a number of major uncertainties in the research presented so far. Different studies propose a land use change factor between 6% and 64% depending on the counting methodology which has divergent assumptions on whether to include the co-products and at what extent. Most studies assume that with an increased demand for biofuels, there will be an increased demand for land, however, these studies hardly assume that growing biofuels prices will lead to higher yields and as a result there will be no negative ILUC effect. Furthermore, it is quite worrying that the studies do not consider a faster technological development. Regarding the land availability – this issue has not been studied in depth and there is no official data as how much unused agricultural land there is in Europe. Only in one small country of the EU - Lithuania, there is 1,45 million hectares of unused land.

AEBIOM does not think that the action is needed to address ILUC because the producers, affected by the regulation (a certain ILUC factor in g CO₂/MJ) would have no possibility to avoid such penalty not even by improving their production activities. The producers should only take responsibility for their direct actions as required by the Renewable Energy Directive. Furthermore, there is no point to punish all "first generation biofuels" based on theoretical and diverging ILUC calculations.

However, AEBIOM believes that indirect land use change exists with all types of land use (food, feed, fiber, urban development etc.) and has to be further analysed. An ILUC factor will not prevent deforestation to happen and would fail to include the neutral or positive ILUC impacts such as the use of by-products of biofuels production for feed sector.

AEBIOM, instead of an ILUC factor, proposes to deal with this issue via cooperation and bilateral agreements with the governments of the countries in question and thus ensure maintaining the biodiversity and forest areas whilst increasing the overall productivity of sustainable agriculture irrespectively of its' end use.

[Read the responses of all stakeholders](#)

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▶ AEBIOM position on LULUCF

AEBIOM has submitted a response to the European Commission's public consultation on Land Use Change and Land Use Change and Forestry.

The aim of the EC consultation on LULUCF (deadline was on 5 November 2010) was to collect views from stakeholders on how land use activities may contribute to climate change mitigation; if land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) should count towards the EU's greenhouse gas reduction commitment; and, if so, the ways in which this could be done. The EU has committed unilaterally to reduce its overall greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, and by up to 30% if conditions are right. Emissions and removals in the LULUCF sector are currently not part of the EU's commitment. However, in accordance with Decision 406/2009/EC (Articles 8 and 9), the Commission should consider whether to include the aforementioned emissions and removals in the reduction commitment and, if appropriate, make a proposal.

In its' position AEBIOM clearly expresses a disapproval to include LULUCF within the EU legislation for the following reasons:

- An inclusion of LULUCF would certainly undermine the efforts to reduce GHG emissions in other sectors. It would give member states arguments to be less eager to reduce emissions in energy sectors. Focus must be on reducing emissions from fossil fuels, and these emissions are in no way less harmful to the global climate if a country at the same time has good growth in the forests.
- The LULUCF removals and emissions are very low compared to the emissions from other sectors – only 8 percent for EU as a whole. Only one country (Estonia*) has a small LULUCF emission. The rest of the countries have removals thanks to the growth of the carbon stocks in European forests. Furthermore, the removals have increased since 1990. The statistics show that there is no urgent problem at hand.

- One strong reason to refrain from mandatory inclusion of LULUCF is that accounting, monitoring and verification is very difficult and the uncertainties are much higher than, for example, for emissions from fossil fuel combustion. Numbers for LULUCF are often revised and the margin or error for forest resource inventories can be as high as 30 percent. This makes it very difficult or even impossible to include LULUCF in greenhouse gas commitment, either through the Emission Trading System or in the Effort Sharing Decision (ESD).
- Another problem is natural disturbances like forest fires and strong storms. LULUCF is supposed to only account for man-made (anthropogenic) effects but it is very difficult to draw the line and to make an accurate account for each year. This is also a reason not to include LULUCF into ETS and ESD both of which require annual accounting.
- LULUCF is a relatively short term temporary aspect of carbon storage and management practices can annihilate such storage. Building up a more sustainable energy system is more sustainable.
- For the bioenergy sector it would be very harmful if the landowners were rewarded for additional carbon uptake. This would lead to lower activity in forestry and produce less biomass for energy both as residues from forestry as residues from industry and as recovered wood.
- In the short run it might be tempting to “save carbon” in the forests but in the long run this is not a wise policy. The forests will reach saturation (when the forest uptake the same amount of carbon as it emits) and will eventually degrade and release carbon in the atmosphere.
- Rewarding the landowners would also require a bureaucratic system of assessing the carbon stock of forests and soils with no guarantee that this system would be fair.

However, it is important to keep the carbon stock of forests and soils at least stable (there is a significant increased so far). Therefore, monitoring of LULUCF should continue through reporting.

EU should also increase its efforts to aid developing countries in protecting forests and carbon-rich soils and ecosystems, and to help developing sustainable systems for production of biomass for energy in these countries.

[LULUCF consultation website](#)

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PUBLICATIONS

► ECEEE publishes a policy brief on European Energy Performance in Buildings Directive

ECEEE published a policy brief on Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD). This Directive is the main legislative instrument that aims to improve energy use and efficiency in the EU buildings sector. The buildings sector consumes more than 40 % of Europe’s energy use. New and existing buildings provide a significant potential for cost-effective energy savings and CO2 emissions reductions. Originally adopted in 2002, the recast of the Directive was approved 19 May 2010.

The policy brief shows the content of the original and the recast directives. It explains key points such as cost optimality, energy performance certificates and net zero energy buildings.

[Read the publication](#)

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► Quo(ta) vadis, Europe?

Within Re-Shape project, supported by IEE, a comparative assessment of two recent studies on the future development of renewable electricity support in Europe was published in November 2010.

The Renewable Energy Directive sets the national RES targets but leaves a free will to the EU member states to choose the appropriate support mechanisms. This publication compares a couple of studies on the RES-electricity support schemes and tries to answer the question whether the harmonisation of the support schemes at EU level would be a good way forward.

[Read the publication](#)

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EU PROJECTS

► Greenpellets – first deliverables on agropellets combustion

The main objective of Green Pellets project (supported by Life+) is to demonstrate that new dedicated energy

herbaceous crops for solid biomass provide an effective, sustainable and eco-friendly bioenergy source for heating and significantly reduce the greenhouse gases emissions in Western France (Brittany and Loire Region). Crops dedicated to solid biomass have environmental advantages such as purification capacities or soil erosion prevention. Energy crops development must be carefully managed in order to reach an acceptable balance between food and non-food resources while avoiding any risks for the environment.

The project partners have published the first deliverables on combustion of pellets made from energy crops. One of the deliverables shows the results of combustion in the laboratory conditions with an aim to verify the combustion process and the emissions levels. The most competitive pellets will be tested in real conditions. The parameters such as combustion and boiler yields, CO, NOx, SO2, VOC, HAP and dust are monitored. One trial has already taken place and the other one will take place in 2011. The further information (in French for the moment) can be found via the link below.

[Access project deliverables](#)

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► **Biomass Trade Centres project – Wood Fuels Guidelines**

Within the Biomass Trade Centers project, supported by the IEE programme, the partners published "Wood Fuels Guidelines" that aim to create a transparent market for wood fuels. The guidelines show how to create a Biomass Trade & Logistic Centres (BL&TC) and thus ensure that the regional supply meets the demand. The main idea of the Biomass Trade & Logistic Centres concept is to create a single collectively owned rural marketing channel for wood fuels and in such a way provide an energy service for the EU market actors.

These guidelines are based on the activities of the project partners during the 3-years long project period. The publication explains how in only 3 main steps you can set up a regional BL&TC.

This deliverable is mainly addressed to the European private and public market actors with a high interest and possibilities to create a regional BL&TC.

The main focus of the BL&TC:

- ensure the security of biomass supply
- guarantee consistent quality standards (fuel and energy service) and decreasing emissions in the atmosphere (mainly fine dust)
- market biomass under a common word/image trademark which would associate with safety, security, reliability, regional value and quality.

[Project website](#)

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EVENTS

► **AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition on 29-30 June in Brussels**

AEBIOM is organising a high level European Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition (REECO group) on 29-30 June 2011. The event will focus on current EU legislation, recent developments of bioenergy market in Europe, the state of national RES action plans whilst providing a platform for market actors to exchange ideas and information as well as a discussion forum with policy makers.

The previous European Bioenergy Conference organized by AEBIOM in July 2010 with an exhibition organised by REECO group was a first success that brought together more than 300 experts to eight sessions of the conference and free pre-conference workshops to discuss biomass related topics.

This Bioenergy Conference will be a second European Bioenergy Conference with a focus on the following topics:

- EU legislation under preparation by the new Commission and the new Parliament
- Implementation of the national Renewable Energy Action Plans and national support schemes
- Sustainability criteria for biofuels and solid/gaseous biomass and certification
- Biomass supply, related issues
- Market developments of the following bioenergy sectors: pellets, biogas, small scale heat, electricity, biofuels, district heating, cogeneration
- Financial opportunities for bioenergy sector.

The conference announcement together with the sponsorship opportunities is available on the event website and via the link below.

[Read the announcement](#)

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► VICTAM International: Pellets for Bioenergy – the markets take off on 5 May 2011 in Cologne

The pellets conference will be held at Koeln Messe on 5 May in parallel with VICTAM INTERNATIONAL 2011, the international fair for animal & aquatic feed, petfood and bioenergy technology. More information can be found on www.victam.com.

The pellets conference aims at providing industry stakeholders with a state of play of the pellets markets and the related issues. In particular, the conference will cover the following topics :

- Overview of current pellets production and markets in Europe: the pellets production capacity is impressively increasing in Europe with large plants being built in USA, Canada and Russia. Pellets are becoming a significant energy commodity for large energy players. Several experts are expecting a tenfold increase of the market in 10 years' time, from roughly 7-8 million tons at present moment in Europe to over 80-100 million tons in 2020. The use of pellets in the power sector depends on support policies but if the latter are properly put in place the pellets use for power can increase extremely fast. Price indexes are under development in several market places to improve market fluidity and transparency of this global market.
- Biomass supply: the availability of biomass by-products is becoming problematic in some regions with substantial price increase of saw dust. Alternative raw materials should be sourced with sometimes specific problems of pellets quality.
- National actions plans for renewables and impacts on future pellets markets: according to the RES directive each Member State (MS) had to submit a plan for renewables with detailed objectives for heat, electricity and biofuels, as well as measures to reach these objectives. The evaluation of these plans highlights the priorities of the MS and gives a good indication on market potentials for pellets in each MS as well as sectoral preferences (residential heating, electricity, advanced biofuels, etc.).
- Sustainability aspects: sustainability criteria are mandatory for biofuels and the European Commission is currently analyzing whether it should be applicable to solid biomass. The increased amount of pellets imported to Europe is advocating for an advanced regulation. It is especially the power sector that is striving for clear rules.
- Standard and certification (new ENplus scheme): the CEN standard for wood pellets EN14961 will probably be published by the end of 2010. A new certification scheme called ENplus that aims at verifying and certifying the compliance with the standard has been launched in Germany and currently is under development in several other MS. The certification is managed by the European Pellets Council.
- New industrial developments: new technological developments will be presented such as agro-pellets or pellets from torrefied wood.

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► Fuels of the Future on 24-25 January in Berlin

AEBIOM member BBE together with UFOP is organizing an international conference on biofuels to be held on 24-25 January in Berlin, Germany. The conference will focus on the implementation of RED, along with strategies to minimise greenhouse gases emissions from the production of biomass and biofuels. The German government expects renewable energies to have a market share of 13.2 percent (from 5.4 last year) in the transport sector by 2020 – with biofuels expected to cover 12 percent of the market. Significant reasons for optimism include the use of biomethane as a fuel and the automotive industry in creating the technical conditions necessary to increase the amount of biofuel additives in diesel and gasoline fuel. The German government also expects a significantly positive impact from the hydrogenation of sustainably grown vegetable oils. They also expect as many as 1 million electric cars to travel German roads by the year 2020.

Germany is a leading country when it comes to comply with the EU's requirements to ensure biofuels sustainability; however, there are still a few question marks around this topic. Owing to national opinion, all member states face their own radically different challenges and strategic options. Therefore, there will be a debate over the requirements of the Renewable Energy Directive made to third countries concerning the import of biomass for producing biofuels and import of biofuels. The conference will also focus on present European and German targets and policies for biofuels as well as the problems to reach these targets and possible solutions to ensure the sustainable and smooth biofuels market development.

During the conference, the discussions with political decision makers and biofuels stakeholders will take place in order to find out ways on the best way to sustainably develop the biofuels sector.

Attention: AEBIOM members get a discount of 32 % to this event. Therefore, contact us at info@aebiom.org if you wish to receive this discount.

[Read the programme](#)

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► Central European Biomass Conference in Graz on 26-29 January 2011

After the 2nd successful Central European Biomass Conference in 2008 in Graz that attracted more than 1,000 participants from 50 countries worldwide, the Austrian Biomass Association together with the Klima and Energiefonds, the Styrian Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry, BIOENERGY 2020+ GmbH and in cooperation with the Messe Graz are pleased to announce the 3rd Central European Biomass Conference that will be held on 26 - 29 January 2011 in Graz, Austria.

The conference aims at providing an up-to-date overview on the latest political, economic and technological developments, covering the entire range of bioenergy related issues: resource availability, raw material supply, conversion technologies (heating, cooling, electricity and transportation fuels), integration in the energy system, industrial applications, financing of bioenergy projects, environmental impacts and market development as well as needs for political action.

The following topics will be covered:

- Strategies, legislation, interrelation between agricultural, energy and environmental policy
- Financing instruments and support schemes
- Biomass potentials (agriculture and forestry, by-products, waste), markets and market research
- Biomass mobilisation and production pre-treatment – organisation, technology, costs and quality standards (monitoring and quality assessment)
- Heat, cooling, electricity and transportation fuel from biomass and biogas / R&D, technological innovations, organisation models, costs and quality standards
- Bioenergy for industry and energy utilities
- Information, communication, dissemination

Attention: a discount is available for AEBIOM full members. Contact us at info@aebiom.org if you wish to receive this discount.

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► Biomass heating and cooling on 9-10 February in Lithuania

The workshop "Biomass heating and Cooling" organised within the EUBIONET III project (supported by the IEE) aims to analyse the biomass heating sector in Europe. It focuses on district heating and the actual status quo of the heating sector in Europe including the solid biomass standards and certification. The workshop is free of charge and the workshop language is English.

The target group of the workshop includes consultants, biomass boiler manufacturers, producers of solid biofuels, operators of heating plants, political stakeholders, etc. The workshop on Wednesday 9 February will be followed by a study tour on Thursday 10 February.

[Read the programme](#)

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► CEP Clean Energy and Passive house in Stuttgart on 10-12 February

The CEP® Clean Energy and Passive house will take place again in the new trade fair centre Stuttgart from February 10th - 12th 2011. In 2010 the CEP® attracted over 11.000 visitors, of which were 73% qualified visitors, over 200 exhibitors and more than 1.100 conference participants. This year an extra hall will be dedicated to the topic of bioenergy. Parallel to the exhibition, an international conferences will be taking place, amongst which - the 5th International Conference on Application of Biomass Gasification.

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► Biomass trade – focus on solid biofuels on 14 April in Finland

The workshop "Biomass trade" organised within the EUBIONET III project (supported by the IEE) in cooperation with IEA Bioenergy Task 40 will present the achieved results of the ongoing EUBIONET III project on biomass trade and utilisation. This event will take place in Espoo, Finland on 15 April next year and will gather the authorities and the stakeholders of biomass sector from all over Europe. The workshop topics will range from biomass trade to logistics, from sustainability to biomass production, standards and price indexes. A special focus will be dedicated to wood chips and trading of solid biofuels in the Baltic Sea Region.

The language of the workshop is English. The workshop is free of charge. Maximum number of participants is 100. Videoconference will be organised to Jyväskylä and other VTT's facilities in Finland.

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▶ **Bioenergy and the forest industry on 15 April in Finland**

The workshop "Bioenergy and the forest industry" will be organised in co-operation with the Finnish Forest Industries Federation in Espoo, Finland on 15 April next year.

Forest industry is the biggest provider and user of solid biofuels. About 55% of the fuels used in pulp & paper mills in Europe are renewable. Forest industry is actively taking part in developing new biofuels for transport sector based on woody biomass resources. Wood pellets represent one option for solid biofuels from forest industry. EUBIONET III event will focus on those opportunities which biomass can bring to the forest industry. The workshop will include the following topics: new biomass products from forest industry, production of wood pellets and torrefied biomass.

The language of the workshop is English. The workshop is free of charge. Maximum number of participants is 100. Videoconference will be organised to Jyväskylä and other VTT's facilities in Finland.

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▶ **EREC Policy conference on 23-24 May 2011 in Brussels**

The biannual European Renewable Energy Policy Conference organised by EREC (European Renewable Energy Council) will take place on 23-24 May 2011 in Brussels. This event will be the fourth edition of Europe's leading Renewable Energy Policy Conference which has grown ever since its first edition in 2004 and has become Europe's major platform for exchange and interaction between industry and policy.

Experts, industry leaders and policymakers will meet at the heart of European decision making to discuss market trends, legislative developments as well as future energy strategies.

EREC conference 2011 will:

- provide a reality check on the 2010 White Paper targets for renewable energy
- debate the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive
- outline energy pathways towards 2050

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