

Newsletter: December 2011

Bioenergy Voice in Europe

Highlights

AEBIOM NEWS

- ▶ New AEBIOM members
- ▶ AEBIOM workshop on Perennial Energy Crops within the CAP

EUROPEAN PELLET COUNCIL

- ▶ European Industrial Pellet Suppliers group is established under EPC
- ▶ Second EIPS group meeting on 10-11 January 2012, Brussels
- ▶ Sustainability requirements for pellets on 26 January, Brussels
- ▶ ENplus auditors training on 27-28 February 2012 – few places left!

EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

- ▶ Energy Roadmap 2050 – ambitious goals but inefficient strategy for heating
- ▶ Horizon 2020 – 7.5 % of the budget for non-nuclear energy

AEBIOM POSITION ON EU POLICY

- ▶ Perennial energy crops – combines CAP greening and economic growth
- ▶ Carbon tax - a cure for EU budgets and environment
- ▶ Energy Roadmap 2050: renewables crucial for decarbonisation
- ▶ EREC press release on Horizon 2020

PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ What happened since the National Renewable Energy Action Plans have been submitted?

PROJECTS

- ▶ RHC – Platform – innovative research activities in heating and cooling sector
- ▶ Qualicert project deliverables

EVENTS

- ▶ European Industrial Pellet Suppliers Group meeting, Brussels, 10-11 January
- ▶ PelCert workshop on sustainability, Brussels, 26 January 2012
- ▶ Teaming up for Renewable heating and cooling, Denmark, 26-27 April 2012
- ▶ 3rd AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference, Brussels, 25-27 June 2012
- ▶ Other events

10-11/01/2012

Second European Industrial Pellet Suppliers group meeting

26/01/2011

AEBIOM workshop on sustainability criteria to be included in ENplus pellet certification scheme

15/12/2011

Energy roadmap 2050 – electrification of the heating sector?

16/12/2011

Perennial Energy crops provide a solution for greening the CAP and economic growth

29/11/2011

Carbon tax – a cure for EU budgets and environment

15/12/2011

EREC press release on Roadmap 2050

25-27/06/2012

AEBIOM is organising third European Bioenergy Conference in Brussels

25-27/04/2012

Renewable Heating and Cooling event in Denmark



Dear readers,

In early December I had an opportunity to follow the World Bioenergy Association to Durban and COP17. We knew in advance that it would be almost impossible to reach an agreement on emission cuts. The meeting was, however, neither a success nor a failure. A total failure could have been if there was no agreement at all which might have resulted in European Member States questioning the EU strategy until 2020 and beyond. From this perspective, the Durban outcome was positive. It also gave clarity to the political problems that constitute barriers to solve the most important question of today. The agreement is needed urgently; however, the one that was reached is far from delivering the necessary outcome.

Nevertheless, the atmosphere and ambition at the meeting was positive. We could see that both economic growth and the engagement of African countries are developing rather quickly. I met companies installing biogas units to replace diesel for electricity production in rural areas. At a larger scale, there are plans for sugar cane and sustainable palm oil production to replace oil in transport sector. Domestic bioenergy production creates jobs, better trade balance and wealth.

The global emissions and the use of fossil fuels continue to rise and instead of carbon tax, fossil subsidies reached 409 billion USD in 2010 whilst subsidies for renewables were much lower. The IEA Energy Outlook show that the argument that subsidies for fossil fuels are important to poor people is not nearly true. Only 8% of the global subsidies for fossil fuels reach poor people. It is actually the other way around – carbon tax is mainly paid by rich and middle class people who afford to use their cars and consume more energy. Carbon dioxide tax has proven to be the most efficient measure to decrease carbon emissions and, as AEBIOM press release “Carbon tax - a cure for EU budgets and the environment” shows, provides a great opportunity to increase the Member States budgets.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2012!

Gustav Melin, president of AEBIOM

AEBIOM NEWS

► New AEBIOM members

AEBIOM warmly welcomes one new associate member:

- **Tuzetka** - the Belgian company Tuzetka supplies equipment and know how to process large quantities of biomass such as wood, agro waste and herbaceous biofuels. Current involvements include amongst others a transportable pelletizer (“mini mill”) and biomass trade centres. www.2zk.eu

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

► AEBIOM workshop on Perennial Energy Crops within the CAP

AEBIOM, on 14 December, has organized a workshop on Perennial Energy Crops within the reform of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), in cooperation with GreenPellets project supported by Life programme.

Mr Andreas Pilzecker from the European Commission presented the newly proposed CAP reform and highlighted the points relevant to bioenergy. Bioenergy is largely covered and strengthened by the new CAP; however, as it appeared from the presentations of the national stakeholders, this might not be enough to reach the RES targets by 2020 knowing that many EU member states are relying on the agricultural sector for biomass supply.

As a result of this workshop, AEBIOM has published a press release (see AEBIOM Position section) showing that perennial energy crops, amongst other benefits, provide an environmental value added and can contribute to the greening of the CAP whilst offering opportunities of sustainable economic diversification for farmers.

The presentations of the workshop are available online and accessible via [Read more](#) link.

[▲ Top](#)

[► Read more](#)

EUROPEAN PELLET COUNCIL

► European Industrial Pellet Suppliers group is established under EPC

During the last meeting in the Renewable Energy House in Brussels on 14 November 2011, the representatives of industrial pellet producers, traders and associations decided to establish a permanent working group within the European Pellet Council (EPC). The European Industrial Pellet Suppliers (EIPS) group will discuss and develop the position of pellet suppliers on specifications and sustainability requirements for industrial pellets. Other issues to be discussed are: standard contracts, best practices regarding safety and security, as well as public relations and lobbying issues of the sector.

In particular the EIPS intend to act as counterpart to the Industrial Wood Pellet Buyers group (IWPB) in defining the framework for the rapidly evolving industrial pellet market. The EIPS is open to European industrial pellet producers, traders and trade associations.

[▲ Top](#)

[► Read more](#)

► Second EIPS group meeting on 10-11 January 2012, Brussels

The second meeting of EIPS group will take place on 10-11 January 2012 in Brussels. The group will focus on: specifications and sustainability requirements for industrial pellets, contract issues and the working plan of EIPS group. The detailed agenda as well as the minutes of the first meeting of this EPC working group (including information on eligibility to join the EIPS group) can be found on www.pelletcouncil.eu/en/eips. Please register by 6 January 2012. For more information and the questions related to the membership of this working group, contact Peter Rechberger, General Manager of EPC rechberger@pelletcouncil.eu.

[▲ Top](#)

[► Read more](#)

► Sustainability requirements for pellets on 26 January, Brussels

AEBIOM is organizing a series of consultation workshops within the framework of the PelCert project. This second international workshop is particularly aimed at NGOs, certification bodies, researchers and other interest groups involved in the sustainability discussion. The sustainability principles established by the Initiative Wood Pellet Buyers would serve as a basis for the workshop (see www.pellcert.eu). Please register by 18 January 2012 at andronache@aebiom.org. The criteria developed during the consultation process will be incorporated within the ENplus certification scheme.

[▲ Top](#)

[► Read more](#)

► ENplus auditors training on 27-28 February 2012 – few places left!

This 2nd training course will be organized again by ofi in Vienna, right before the World Sustainable Energy Days in Wels (about 2 hours from Vienna). It is aimed at auditors of inspection bodies that wish to perform ENplus related audits of pellet production plants and pellet traders' facilities. The participation in this training is considered as an adequate proof of qualification for those that intend to audit pellet plants (see the requirements stated in the ENplus handbook which can be downloaded at www.pelletcouncil.eu). The participation is limited to 12 auditors; therefore, please register by 15 January at the latest or as soon as possible to ensure your participation (4 places left on 19 December 2011).

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

► Energy Roadmap 2050 – ambitious goals but inefficient strategy for heating

The European Commission, on 15 December 2011, has published the Communication "Energy Roadmap 2050". The EU aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050. In the Energy Roadmap 2050, the Commission explores 5 different pathways (energy efficiency, renewables, diversified technology, nuclear and CCS) aiming to decarbonise EU's energy sector. The paper states that irrespective the chosen scenario, decarbonisation is technically and economically feasible and that energy efficiency and renewable energy are critical elements to decarbonize the EU energy sector.

A worrying aspect for the heating sector, however, is that the paper (all scenarios) indicates that electricity will play a much greater role in decarbonisation of the heating and cooling sector. The heating and cooling sector, however, can be decarbonized rather easily, cost-effectively and efficiently with existing RES technologies such as biomass, solar and geothermal energy. Furthermore, the paper does not consider a combined renewables and energy efficiency scenario and makes pessimistic assumptions in the RES scenario, resulting in higher renewable energy prices (see "EREC press release on Energy Roadmap 2050" under AEBIOM Position chapter).

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

► Horizon 2020 – 7.5 % of the budget for non-nuclear energy

On 30 November, the European Commission unveiled its proposals for Horizon 2020 - the successor to the Seventh Framework Programme for Research - containing a proposal of about €6bn to be put towards non-nuclear energy research funding. Even though the budget for renewables has increased, it however does not represent the commitments of the EU to increase the renewable energy sources by 20 % by 2020.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

AEBIOM POSITION ON EU POLICY

► Perennial energy crops – combines CAP greening and economic growth

AEBIOM, on 16 December, has published a press release supporting the EC efforts to include bioenergy in the CAP reform, however, considers that the measures for perennial energy crops should be further strengthened and clarified taking into account the environmental value added of perennial energy crops.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read the press release](#)

► Carbon tax - a cure for EU budgets and environment

AEBIOM, on 29 November, has published a press release supporting the EC efforts to introduce a CO₂ tax and urging the EU member states to seriously consider the proposal of the Commission. The CO₂ tax, if introduced, will not only reduce CO₂ emissions and improve energy efficiency but will also significantly increase the member states budgets.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read the press release](#)

► Energy Roadmap 2050: renewables crucial for decarbonisation

EREC, on 15 December, has published a press release on the Energy Roadmap 2050 communication published on the same day. EREC welcomes the fact that the roadmap highlights the crucial importance of RES for EU energy future, however, criticises the roadmap saying that the EC has failed to merge renewables and efficiency in a joint scenario. The renewables industry calls for a binding 45% target by 2030 and this target should be based on such scenario. Furthermore, the impact assessment shows that the high renewables scenario would lead to higher electricity prices than the other energy sources after 2030. However, such high price is based on completely unrealistic assumptions such as running fossil and nuclear plans very infrequently. In reality no one is going to build a nuclear plant to run at 50% capacity. Other biased assumptions include overly high capital costs for renewables, insufficient energy efficiency, no infrastructure costs for CCS, and an oil price of \$70, when it is already over \$100 today.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read the press release](#)

► EREC press release on Horizon 2020

EREC, on 30 November, has published a press release on Horizon 2020. EREC regrets that a clear identity was not attributed to Intelligent Energy Europe programme, as well as a clear budget line, thus reducing its visibility. Furthermore, funding going to non-nuclear energy research represents roughly about 7.5% of the overall R&D funding. This percentage fails to reflect the increasing importance of RES as a political priority.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read the press release](#)

PUBLICATIONS

► What happened since the National Renewable Energy Action Plans have been submitted?

In the framework of the REPAP2020 project, EREC together with national renewable energy associations published an update on the implementation of the 2009/28/EC Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs) have been submitted by EU Member States in 2010. EREC together with the national renewable energy associations show the policy developments that happened since then in Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United-Kingdom. Each national briefing has been drafted by the corresponding national renewable energy association.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read the report](#)

PROJECTS

► RHC – Platform – innovative research activities in heating and cooling sector

The European Renewable Heating & Cooling Technology Platform (RHC-Platform) brings together industry and research stakeholders from the biomass, geothermal and solar thermal sectors to define a common strategy to increase the use of RES for heating and cooling in Europe. The RHC-Platform's Biomass Panel is currently finalizing its Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) which will reflect the sector's priorities for future R&D in renewable heating and cooling with biomass (click on read more to access the draft document). Research priorities were discussed during the third annual meeting of the Biomass Panel, which was hosted by the international bioenergy fair Expobioenergía, in Valladolid on 18 October 2011. This event showcased innovative research activities in industry. Micro-CHP, high efficient cogeneration, gasification, tri-generation, torrefaction and bio-oil were some of the topics addressed during the seminar. If you are interested in the activities of the RHC-Platform and would like to be informed on further actions, do not miss out on this opportunity and become a member of the RHC-Platform by registering on the RHC-Platform website www.rhc-platform.org!

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

► Qualicert project deliverables

The Qualicert project, supported by IEE programme, aimed to help to implement the Article 14 of the RES directive (2009/28/EC), requiring the Member States to develop and mutually recognize certification or equivalent qualification schemes for installers of small-scale renewable energy systems by December 2012. The Qualicert project has come to an end in December 2011 and the results were presented to a wide EU audience on 8 December in Brussels.

The project provided the guidelines for EU Member States on how to draft their national certification (or equivalent qualification) schemes. These recommendations are now provided as a number of key "success criteria" in a practical manual. They have been defined via the analysis of existing schemes and a widespread consultation in order to identify which criteria are applicable (or not) in a national context. The feedback was incorporated in the Qualicert Manual, which was presented to the major European stakeholders in high level steering group meetings, national roundtables (Poland, Italy, Greece, Austria and France) and implementation workshops. The implementation of certification schemes, however, will still face some challenges. The project results showed that the existing schemes vary greatly. Furthermore, concern was raised regarding both the cost and the administrative burden of a certification/equivalent qualification scheme.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

EVENTS

► European Industrial Pellet Suppliers Group meeting, Brussels, 10-11 January

The second meeting of EIPS group will take place on 10-11 January 2012 in Brussels. The group will focus on specifications and sustainability requirements for industrial pellets, contract issues and the working plan of EIPS group. Please register by 6 January 2012. The programme is accessible below, via [Read more](#). For more information, contact Peter Rechberger at rechberger@pelletcouncil.eu.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

► AEBIOM Working Group Sustainability, Brussels, 25 January 2012

This working group on sustainability of solid and gaseous biomass is open only to AEBIOM members. Sustainability of solid and gaseous biomass for heat and electricity is a key issue in Europe. Due to the disapproval of certain Member States, the European Commission has not yet decided to propose (or not) the harmonization of sustainability rules for solid and liquid biomass. Therefore, the next WG meeting on sustainability will take place on 25 January 2012 in the Renewable Energy House in Brussels. This working group will be coupled with an event on ILUC in the European Parliament on the same day and the ENplus pellet certification workshop on 26 January that will debate on how to include the sustainability scheme in their certification. Please register at andronache@aebiom.org.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

► PellCert workshop on sustainability, Brussels, 26 January 2012

AEBIOM and EPC are developing sustainability criteria in order to include it in ENplus pellet certification scheme. The consultation workshop on 26 January is particularly addressed to sustainability experts (NGOs, certification companies, scientific bodies, etc.). Please, register by 18 January 2012 at andronache@aebiom.org.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

► Teaming up for Renewable heating and cooling, Denmark, 26-27 April 2012

RHC-Platform together with Euroheat & Power are organising a joint annual conference under the auspices of the Danish Presidency of the EU. On this occasion, experts from all over Europe will gather to explore the possibilities for smart cities to use renewable energy and district heating and cooling to provide comfort to their citizens and foster the local economy.

Sessions and roundtable discussions will not only show-case best practices, but will also allow participants to learn about the latest developments in financing, market and technology developments, as well as the legal framework conditions.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

► 3rd AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference, Brussels, 25-27 June 2012

The AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference is one of the leading bioenergy conferences in Europe. The annual conference has grown ever since its first edition in 2010 and has quickly become Europe's major occasion for exchange and interaction between industry and policy. Focus of 2012: EU legislation, sustainable feedstock supply and market opportunities.

Only 4 weeks since the first conference announcement and AEBIOM is happy to announce its' first two Bronze Sponsors [CPM Europe](#) and [PUSCH AG](#) and the engagement of [22 supporting partners](#) and [16 media partners](#).

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

► Other events

International Biofuels Conference "Fuels of the Future 2012", 23-24 January

► [Read more](#)

Fieragricola 2012: International Agri-Business Show, Italy, 2-5 February

► [Read more](#)

Bioenergy Expo 2012, Italy, 2-5 February 2012

► [Read more](#)

Progetto Fuoco 2012, Italy, 22-26 February 2012	► Read more
World Sustainable Energy Days 2012 on 29 February - 2 March in Austria	► Read more
World Biofuels Markets, The Netherlands, 13-15 March 2012	► Read more
Bioenergy South-East European Forum, Bulgaria, 28-30 March 2012	► Read more
European Biomass to Power, UK, 11-12 April, 2012	► Read more
Argus European Biomass Trading, UK, 19-20 April 2012	► Read more
World Bioenergy 2012, Sweden, 29-31 May 2012	► Read more
NGV Bologna 2012, Italy, 19-21 June, 2012	► Read more
4th Nordic Wood Biorefinery Conference, 23-25 October 2012	► Read more