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German nuclear decision to phase out nuclear power completely by 2022 paves the way for more renewable energy. Combined with the Swiss decision to close the door to future nuclear power and the Italian referendum where the voters once again (like after Chernobyl) said no to nuclear reactors, the political fallout from Fukushima in Europe is rather significant.

The conclusion for investors can only be one: the political and economic risks associated with nuclear power are too high. Whenever a large nuclear accident occurs, wherever it happens in the world, there is a risk that democratically elected politicians will make the investments worthless.

Beside this political risk, the nuclear industry has to fight increasingly competitive renewable technologies. It can be clearly seen in the recent report from IPCC that the costs of RES per kWh are constantly falling: ([access IPCC report](#)). At the same time the costs for nuclear investments rise.

On a global scale the renewables show a great growth. Nevertheless, the contribution from renewable energy is often underestimated and misleading. For example, BP in its Statistical Review of World Energy writes that renewable energy's share of global energy consumption is only 1.8 % whilst the correct number is 12.9 % – BP has excluded all bioenergy use in industry and households.

On this note, I am looking forward to meet you all at our AEBIOM conference in Brussels on 29-30 June and I wish you a restful summer.

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. We are proud to announce our confirmed speakers such as Mr. **Peter Olajos**, Deputy State Secretary from the Ministry of National Development, Hungary, the MEPs **Lena Ek** and **Claude Turmes** as well as Mr **Hans Van Steen**, Head of Unit of the DG Energy and Mr. **Jose Sousa Uva**, Director at DG Agriculture from the European Commission.

The conference 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 **sustainability of solid and gaseous biomass** fuels, biogas, pellets, financing bioenergy projects. AEBIOM links this conference with a CHP/pellets study tour taking place on 28 June (more information is available under the events section).

The conference programme is available on the event website and via the link below. The conference is sponsored by - **Andritz** (www.andritz.com), **Vapo** (www.vapo.fi) and **Tractebel Engineering GDF Suez** (www.tractebel-engineering.com).

[Read the webpage](#)

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EUROPEAN PELLETS COUNCIL

► ENplus training for auditors on 10-11 October in Vienna

EPC is organizing training for the auditors from inspection bodies (listed by EPC) 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 who intend to audit pellet plants

(see the requirements stated in the ENplus handbook). The training will include an introduction to the relevant EN standards, the requirements of ENplus, practical training in defining physical parameters of pellets and audits of two modern pellet production plants. The training will take place on 10-11 October in Vienna, Austria. A detailed description of the training can be found via the link below.

Visit www.pelletcouncil.eu for more information on how to get listed as an inspection/testing body on the EPC website.

[Read the detailed description](#)

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► **ENplus video is released!**

This five minutes long video made by Austrians shows how the ENplus certification guarantees that only pellets of the highest quality are delivered to the final customer. Critical steps of the production and trade/delivery are explained. The video is available in German and Italian languages.

[Watch the video](#)

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► **ENplus certified pellets are already produced in 6 countries**

Croatian pellet producer Drvenjaca is the first company from outside the European Union that has been awarded the ENplus certification. Drvejaca joins the EN plus certified companies from Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Romania and the United Kingdom. For an updated list of all certified producers check the EPC website below.

[Access the EPC website](#)

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EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

► **EIBI: the EC publishes a call for expression of interest**

The European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI) is one of the six priority industrial initiatives of the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan that aims to provide funding opportunities to large scale bioenergy projects (seven innovative bioenergy value chains).

The EC has just published Call for Expression of Interest (EoI). EoI aims at gathering information regarding demonstration and flagship projects that would be ready to be launched and fulfil the basic EIBI eligibility criteria. By participating in the Call for EoI, industry will not only help to unlock additional support but also help to shape the future prioritization of value-chains and the design of selection procedures of projects. For documents related to this call of interest, please contact us at [info\(a\)aebiom.org](mailto:info(a)aebiom.org) or visit the EIBI website (EoI will be uploaded soon).

[Access the EIBI website](#)

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► **Energy Council discusses sustainability issues brought up by Nordic EU countries**

The Council that took place on 10 June briefly discussed the sustainability issues that were brought up by the Swedish delegation with support of Austria, Finland, Slovenia, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

The Swedish delegation prepared an information note presenting common points and concerns about the detailed and harmonized sustainability criteria for biomass. These delegations believe that any Commission's proposal on this topic must take into account the diversity in forestry and that detailed criteria could be defined at national level.

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► **European forests are increasing and offset 10% of EU GHG emissions**

The ministers responsible for forests, high-level representatives of 43 European countries, the European Community and observer countries and organizations have gathered together during the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference that was held on 14-16 June 2011 in Oslo, Norway. The conference provided an opportunity to discuss and take decisions on the future of the protection and sustainable management of forests in Europe.

During this conference, an international forest expert Christopher Prins presented a comprehensive and fact based report. The report shows that European forests are expanding whilst removing the equivalent of about 10% of European greenhouse gas emissions; the sector provides four million jobs and accounts for one percent of the region's gross domestic product; and the low carbon-nitrogen ratio in forest soils will be problematic in several locations.

The conference was an important event for the forestry sector as the conference participants adopted the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement (LBA) on Forests in Europe, as well as the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020, which outlines a vision, goals, targets and actions for Europe's forests. The negotiations on the LBA will most probably start later in 2011, and will conclude by mid-2013.

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► **EU budget for the years beyond 2013 aims to be greener than ever**

The EU is deciding on budgetary priorities for the years beyond 2013. The multiannual financial framework lays down maximum amounts (ceilings) for each broad category of expenditure (headings) for a clearly determined period of time (several years). The European Parliament, in its vote on June 8, 2011, made proposals for the new multiannual Financial Framework for the European Union. Amongst many other points, the EP is convinced that the energy's share in the next MFF should increase. EP believes that renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency and energy saving should be key priorities and calls for a corresponding increase of EU funding in these areas and calls for an appropriate action in this area. The next MFF will be more important for the environment and the sustainability of the European economy.

[Read the EP report on MFF](#)

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► **EP report on energy infrastructure priorities**

The European Parliament has published a report on 14 June on energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond. Amongst many notes, the report stresses the importance of decentralized energy production and priority access to the grid for renewables. The report also stresses the need to prepare and adapt grids for the production of forms of energy such as electricity and biogas from agriculture and forestry sources, as a result of a reformed common agricultural policy.

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► **EC proposes a directive on energy efficiency**

The European Commission on 22 June has published a proposal for a directive on energy efficiency. The energy efficiency directive outlines ways in which member states can reduce wasted energy. The EC notes that a mandatory CHP and district heating and cooling requirements for new electricity generation installations would significantly improve energy efficiency in generation. The proposal, however, suggests granting a priority access of high efficiency cogeneration to the electricity grid, meaning that fossil fuels will have a priority access to the grid as well. The paper counts a number of proposals on how to ensure a CHP and district heating development at all levels and thus save energy. The proposal indicates that member states should take necessary measures to develop these sectors and ensure energy efficiency by using renewable energy sources and waste heat.

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► **EU member states have clarified uncertainties in their nREAPs**

The EU member states have answered the EC's questions regarding the national renewable energy action plans, clarified some points and resubmitted their action plans if considered necessary (eg. Finland). All MS responses are available online.

[Read MS clarifications on nREAPs](#) [Top ↑](#)

AEBIOM POSITION ON EU ENERGY POLICY

▶ **AEBIOM and EBA pushes for sustainability criteria of solid and gaseous biomass**

AEBIOM together with EBA (European Biogas Association), on 30 May, published a position paper supporting the introduction of a harmonized European sustainability framework if such a scheme takes into account the particularities of biomass sector.

The paper highlights that a significant increase in imports by 2020 represent a higher risk of unsustainable biomass production which can be minimised by implementing a harmonized sustainability criteria. Nevertheless, a sustainability scheme should be flexible and take into account/include the existing national and regional legislation. Furthermore, the costs of such sustainability criteria should not become a burden for small bioenergy producers, thus, lighter administrative procedures should be applicable for small bioenergy players.

[Read AEBIOM position paper](#)

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PUBLICATIONS

▶ **IPCC publishes a report on renewable energy**

The IPCC has recently published a report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN). The publication presents an assessment of the literature on the scientific, technological, environmental, economic and social aspects of the contribution of six renewable energy (RE) sources to the mitigation of climate change. It is intended to provide policy relevant information to governments, intergovernmental processes and other interested parties. The chapter 2 is focused on bioenergy.

[Read the IPCC report](#)

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EU PROJECTS

▶ **EUBIONET III workshop on sustainability of solid and gaseous biomass and a publication on new and unexploited biomass resources**

The workshop "Sustainability of solid and gaseous biomass" organised within the EUBIONET III project (supported by the IEE) in cooperation with University of Utrecht and IEA Task 40 will focus on analysis of the existing sustainability schemes, positive and negative impacts of sustainability criteria for market players and the implementation particularities. The event will be chaired by Silvia Vivarelli from EACI and Giulio Volpi from the European Commission. The sustainability criteria will also be analysed from a perspective of the European Investment Bank. This, free of charge workshop, will be held within the European Bioenergy Conference on 29 June in Brussels.

The project partners have also issued a publication in May on new and unexploited biomass resources in Europe. The publication indicates that there are 54 new and unexploited biomass resources in Europe. The report shows that around 5.9 million tons dry matter of these new materials are used annually (1.9 – 2.4 Mtoe) whilst estimated potential reaches 18-22 million tons dry matter annually (6.5 – 7.9 Mtoe). The report can be found on eubionet.net website.

[Register to this event](#)

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▶ **AgriForEnergy workshop on bioenergy from Agriculture**

The workshop Bioenergy from Agriculture will be organized within the European Bioenergy Conference in Brussels on 29 June. The event will focus on the development of PVO, biogas and small scale heat in agriculture in Europe. The workshop will be chaired by Andreas Pilzecker from DG Agriculture, European Commission. The speakers include high level bioenergy experts such as Olivier Dubois from FAO, Christian Metschina from Styrian Chamber of Commerce, Valter Francescato from AIEL and Norbert Castan from EPPA.

[Register to this event](#)

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EVENTS

▶ **AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference & 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 Bioenergy Conference 2011 will be a second European Bioenergy Conference with a focus on the following topics:

- Sustainability of solid and gaseous biomass (Workshop I and Session IV)
- Pellets (Session I and Session IV)
- EU legislation and EU affairs (Opening Session)
- Financing projects (Workshop IV, Session II and nREAP)
- Biogas (Session III and nREAP)
- Other key topics: agriculture, modeling, trading, nREAP, technologies, etc.

Other networking opportunities:

* Dinner at the European Parliament: Experience the EU policy by attending the dinner in the prestigious European Parliament hosted by MEP Lena Ek on the 29 of June! It is a great opportunity to further discuss EU policy issues and network with conference participants.

* CHP/Pellets Study Tour: AEBIOM and Enviva cordially invite you to a study tour (sustainability discussion) on 28 June (8:15 – 14:00) in Wallonia. Valorbois, one of the most advanced cogeneration plants in Europe, is a combined heat & power (CHP) and wood pellet manufacturing facility located in Thimister-Clermont (BE). Click [HERE](#) to download the programme. Participation is free of charge; please register via email by 15 June to suzanne.schols@bm.com.

* Exhibition: around 30 international exhibitors from the fields of production, planning, and energy supply as well as experts from research and development, associations, media, governmental agencies and administrations are expected to participate in the exhibition. By presenting this (click here) card, AEBIOM members and non-financial supporters will receive one free entry to the exhibition.

[Read the announcement](#)

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▶ **International Nordic Bioenergy 2011 in Jyvaskyla on 5-9 September**

The Conference is organised by FINBIO – The Bioenergy Association of Finland in co-operation with SVEBIO (Sweden), NOBIO (Norway) and DANBIO (Denmark) and with hundreds of AEBIOM member organizations. The bioannual Nordic bioenergy conference will take place on 5-9 September in Jyvaskyla, Finland.

Nordic Bioenergy 2011 is the top conference to meet world's leading Bioenergy professionals, to get updated on the newest innovations and best practices as well as to make real business.

The Nordic Bioenergy Conference which is organized together with large International Bioenergy and Wood Exhibition and Trade Fair is the best place to get modern and up-dated information about bioenergy solutions, technology and logistic systems in practice. Several Technical Tours into the bioenergy and biofuel production sites and facilities are extra bonuses for conference participants.

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▶ **Forlener 2011 – Forest-Wood-Energy in Italy on 23-25 September**

FORLENER (Forest-Wood-Energy) is the first and main Italian fair exclusively focused on the forest-wood energy chain covering all its products and services: from forest management and plantations of fast-growth species to the utilization of wood as an energy source at all levels (household, communities, industries); stoves, boilers & chimneys; machinery and equipment for cut, pick-up and first manufacture of timber; anti-fire equipment and safe working devices.

Started in 2001, the 6th biannual edition of FORLENER returns to the Exhibition Centre "Biella Fiere", at Biella, Piedmont Region, North-west of Italy from 23 to 25 September 2011. A huge fair is enriched with a whole series of events such as: live demonstrations of agro-forestry equipment; workshops on bioenergy and heating with wood; guided tours to wood-biomass power plants in operation.

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► **Expobioenergia 2011 in Valladolid, Spain on 18-20 October 2011**

Expobioenergia 2011 is the 6th edition of the international conference and fair focussing on bioenergy. The event will be held in Valladolid on 18-20 October 2011. Expobioenergia, held annually, has already established itself as an important player in bioenergy field offering exhibitors and visitors the following: a high level of specialisation, an exhibition presenting the machinery in operation, business opportunities with opportunities to access the international market.

In parallel to the Exhibition, AVEBIOM organises the 6th International Bioenergy Congress where the latest innovations and developments in bioenergy sector will be presented. This year, the Congress will focus on boilers, pellets, energy crops, forestry, sustainability, CHP, gasification and biogas.

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► **World Sustainable Energy Days in Austria on 29 Feb - 2 March 2012**

The World Sustainable Energy Days, the largest annual conference in this field in Europe, offers a unique combination of events on sustainable energy production and use, covering energy efficiency and renewable energy sources for buildings and industry.

Since 19 years, experts and decision makers from all over the world flock to Upper Austria to attend the events - in the last years, the conference attracted more than 10,000 participants from 98 countries!

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