

## Newsletter: June 2012

### Bioenergy Voice in Europe

### Highlights

#### AEBIOM NEWS

- ▶ AEBIOM new members
- ▶ AEBIOM participates in EC meeting on EIBI

#### EUROPEAN PELLET COUNCIL

- ▶ ENplus license rights for Lithuania and United Kingdom
- ▶ European Pellet Report published
- ▶ Successful EUSEW workshop on sustainability and certification of pellets

#### EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

- ▶ EC communication on RES strategy
- ▶ Rapporteur Luis Capoulos Santos presents the draft reports on CAP in the EP

#### AEBIOM POSITION ON EU POLICY

- ▶ AEBIOM position on energy taxation
- ▶ EREC press release on EC communication on RES strategy
- ▶ EREC press release "Red card for Poland on Energy Roadmap"

#### PROJECTS

- ▶ CrossBorderBioenergy - results available!
- ▶ AgriForEnergyII - International Advisory Folders on PVO, bioheat and biogas
- ▶ Biomass Panel publishes Strategic Research Priorities for Biomass Technology
- ▶ Get you best ideas funded by EUROGIA+

#### EVENTS

- ▶ 3rd AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference, Brussels, 25-27 June 2012
- ▶ Other events

#### 06/2012

EPC – European Pellet Report is published

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#### 06/06/2012

EC presents its communication on RES strategy

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#### 19/06//2012

EP rapporteur Luis Capoulos Santos presents its draft reports on CAP

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#### 16/05/2012

AEBIOM publishes a position paper on energy taxation

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#### 6-15/06/2012

EREC publishes press releases on EC communication on RES strategy and on the failure of the Council to agree on Energy Roadmap 2050

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#### 06/2012

Results of CrossBorder Bioenergy are available

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#### 20/04/2012

Biomass panel publishes Strategic Research Agenda

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#### 25-27/06/2012

AEBIOM is organising a third European Bioenergy Conference in Brussels



*Dear readers,*

The European Football Championship is on TV every night. Last night I saw Poland playing Russia, a game where Poland played a lot better than, at least I, expected. However, on the playing field of renewable energy Poland does not impress at all. Poland blocks and damages all initiatives to make fossil fuels more expensive by introducing carbon tax or improving the European trading scheme for emission rights on carbon dioxide, ETS.

The Emission Trading scheme is a real failure. With its' current price it is a statement of bad policy worthy to laugh about. The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions allowances are currently traded at around €6 per ton of carbon dioxide. This shows that it is far easier and less expensive to change to renewable energy than most people believe (together with other reasons such as financial crisis in Europe and due to the fact that too many allowances have been handed out). The financing of N300

projects is especially interesting as it is based on the sale of emissions rights. Today the price of emission rights are less than a third of the expected price, and therefore, less than a third of the expected development support will be available. Not many of these projects will be financed. The system has not only lost its steering capacity towards renewable energy but has also taken away the support for several important development projects in the sector.

It is time for urgent political action to improve the ETS. We recommend a minimum price to be fixed at €20 per ton of carbon dioxide. It would correspond to the proposed level in the Energy Taxation Directive. Another possibility could be for the European Commission to buy emissions rights from the market and during next trading period collect the money back by not selling them for less than €20 at the planned auctions. There are many possible actions; the important part is that you act now!

In order to be successful, it is important that the whole team play towards the same goal. As a coach you are able to substitute players that have another agenda or another goal than the rest of the team. We cannot substitute different countries of the European Union. However, with good arguments we can try to convince Polish politicians and people that the country would only benefit from the development of renewable energy. Otherwise, Poland would be forced to import all new energy technology and Polish companies will most probably be out-competed in the long run by companies from countries that adapted earlier to new and more profitable solutions.

*Gustav Melin, president of AEBIOM*

## AEBIOM NEWS

### ▶ AEBIOM new members

AEBIOM warmly welcomes three new associate members:

- Drax - UK utility that operates the largest coal power plant in the UK (7% of UK's electricity) and is very active in co-firing and sustainability issues. They have plans to convert part of their plant to biomass! [www.draxgroup.plc.uk](http://www.draxgroup.plc.uk)
- CMI - CMI Energy is specialised in the design, supply, assembling and commissioning of steam generators for electric power generation and cogeneration units. One of the market leaders in Europe. <http://www.cmigroupe.com/en/p/boilers>

- Crops for Energy (C4E) - this company is one of the UK's leading independent authorities on energy crops and their use in biomass energy schemes. They offer consultancy and other services related to energy crops. [www.crops4energy.co.uk](http://www.crops4energy.co.uk).

[▲ Top](#)

[▶ Read more](#)

### ▶ **AEBIOM participates in EC meeting on EIBI**

AEBIOM, on 5 June, has actively participated in the European Industrial Bioenergy Conference held in Brussels. The conference aimed to enlarge the EIBI related discussion to external stakeholders and to address major issues like policy and financing of demonstration plants.

Claude Turmes, MEP insisted on necessity of sustainability criteria of solid and gaseous biomass. He also considers that bioenergy should take into account the iLUC factor. According to Claude Turmes, the strategy 2030 should integrate the cascading principle for the usage of biomass.

IUCN brought up the topics on bioenergy risks such as biomass availability, carbon neutrality/debt principle, land use change, biodiversity, competition with water, etc. whilst Bruno Schmitz from EC, DG Research presented EIBI. According to Bruno Schmitz, financing is a key to EIBI and would be possible via FP7, ERAnet Plus, NER 300 fund and new instruments under development such as Horizon 2020, ETS, Public Private Partnership.

[▲ Top](#)

[▶ Read more](#)

## EUROPEAN PELLET COUNCIL

### ▶ **ENplus license rights for Lithuania and United Kingdom**

Litbioma and the UK Pellet Council have been granted the ENplus licensing rights for Lithuania and UK, thus joining associations in Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland that are actively introducing ENplus certification in their country.

[▲ Top](#)

[▶ Read more](#)

### ▶ **European Pellet Report published**

The summary report prepared by the EU project PelCert has been published online and is available for download.

[▲ Top](#)

[▶ Read more](#)

### ▶ **Successful EUSEW workshop on sustainability and certification of pellets**

Three EU projects have jointly organized a workshop on 20 June during the Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels. "Sustainability and Certification of Wood Pellets and Solid Biomass" event provided information about the importance of standards for solid biomass ([www.solidstandards.eu](http://www.solidstandards.eu)), the implementation of wood pellet standards via ENplus ([www.pellcert.eu](http://www.pellcert.eu)), the planned sustainability scheme for ENplus as well as the quality certification for mixed biomass pellets ([www.mixbiopells.eu](http://www.mixbiopells.eu)). The event was kindly hosted by the European Commission and the presentations are available on the AEBIOM website.

[▲ Top](#)

[▶ Read more](#)

### ► EC communication on RES strategy

The European Commission, on 6 June, published a Communication on renewable energy policy entitled “Renewable energy: a major player in the European energy market”. The communication outlines RES policy options for the post-2020 phase.

In this communication, the Commission is calling for a more coordinated European approach in the establishment and reform of support schemes and an increased use of renewable energy trading among Member States.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

### ► Rapporteur Luis Capoulos Santos presents the draft reports on CAP in the EP

On 18-19 June, the EP committee of Agriculture and Rural Development held a meeting where the rapporteur Luis Capoulos Santos presented its reports on CAP: on direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the CAP and on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Regarding ecological focus area (EFA), the rapporteur is proposing that 7% rules should be applicable to holdings larger than 20 hectares. He also proposes that when an EFA lies next to a similar area on an adjacent farm, the percentage of eligible land to be used for that purpose should be lowered from 7% to 5%. He also believes that land planted with nitrogen-fixing crops should be allowed to count towards the percentage required for ecological focus areas.

As for crop diversification, Luis Capoulos Santos proposes that farms between 5 ha and 20 ha would have to have at least two different crops, neither of which may cover more than 90% of the arable land. The obligation for farms larger than 20 ha to have three different crops will not apply to farms smaller than 50 ha when 80% of the eligible agricultural area is covered by permanent grassland, historical pastures, or permanent crops. The rapporteur also includes historical pastures within the concept of permanent grassland.

As regards forests, the rapporteur is proposing that support for afforestation and the creation of woodland be extended from 10 to 15 years and support for the establishment of agro-forestry systems, from three to five years.

The rapporteur proposes some new measures such as: (a) areas covered by agri-environment measures will be eligible ipso facto for the greening component of direct aid; (b) environmental certification of farms, under conditions to be determined by the Commission, will be treated as an option carrying automatic entitlement to the greening component of direct aid etc.

The text proposes that Member States should use part of their national ceilings for direct payments to grant an annual payment for compulsory practices to be followed by farmers addressing, as a priority, both climate and environment policy goals. Those practices should be linked to agriculture such as crop diversification, maintenance of permanent grassland and historical pastures, of perennial crops associated with appropriate agronomic practices and of ecological focus areas.

In next couple of weeks (until 8-9 July), the European Parliament will make the amendments to this report and will vote for it later on.

▲ [Top](#)

► [Read more](#)

### ▶ AEBIOM position on energy taxation

AEBIOM, on 16 May, published a position paper on energy taxation supporting the EC proposal for revision of Energy Taxation Directive but calling for further improvements. The EC proposal provides a very good basis, however, it does not ensure adequate environment for renewable transport sector, namely biogas and biofuels.

▲ [Top](#)

▶ [Read the position paper](#)

### ▶ EREC press release on EC communication on RES strategy

EREC, on 6 June 2012 published a press release on the European Commission's communication on renewable energy issued the same day. EREC welcomed the Commission's focus on implementing and enforcing the 2020 target for renewables, but regrets its lack of ambition when it comes to a 2030 agenda. Renewable energy growth will slump after 2020 if a post-2020 policy framework is not developed, EREC warns.

The communication acknowledges that long-term policy clarity is a prerequisite for ensuring the necessary level of investment, but it remains vague with regard to a post-2020 framework. According to the Secretary General of EREC, Josche Muth "The accompanying Impact Assessment clearly shows binding targets for renewables as the option offering most security to the industry towards 2030, however, the communication itself falls short of bringing this to the fore of the political debate". EREC and its members are calling for a binding target of 45% renewables for 2030.

The press release points out that the communication fails to address the heating and cooling sector, where best practice examples of how to incentivise the sector through policy do exist today. It calls for a dedicated action plan for renewable heating and cooling to be proposed by the Commission.

▲ [Top](#)

▶ [Read more](#)

### ▶ EREC press release "Red card for Poland on Energy Roadmap"

EREC, on 15th June 2012, published a press release following Ministers meeting at the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (energy issues). The Council failed to adopt the conclusions on the Energy Roadmap 2050 as Poland did not support the Presidency on the Energy Roadmap 2050.

According to Josche Muth, Secretary General of the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC): "26 Member States are ready to provide a sign of confidence for the European industry, trade and research community towards 2050, but Poland tried to prevent this from happening, thereby impeding investors. Europe must recognise the need for a binding 2030 renewable energy target".

▲ [Top](#)

▶ [Read more](#)

## PROJECTS

### ▶ CrossBorderBioenergy - results available!

Evaluating new market opportunities for bioenergy in Europe is always challenging. Market conditions vary greatly from country to country with some of them being attractive for biomass availability, whilst others being more appealing in terms of the support schemes, etc. For this reason, AEBIOM developed an online tool to

benchmark bioenergy markets entitled: Cross Border Bioenergy. The tool allows to screen all countries and to understand why bioenergy markets are attractive or not just in a few minutes.

Different markets - biogas, biomethane, small scale heat, CHP, district heating, biodiesel and bioethanol were analysed via more than 300 market indicators. Results were compiled into indexes showing the attractiveness of the country via intuitive colour code. By refining the results by categories of indicators, the users can quickly see the strong and the weak points of the country.

The project is completed by a B2B tool online, so that companies can be in touch with local market players, and follow up with contacts in regions that are attractive for the development of their business.

[▲ Top](#)

[▶ Read more](#)

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### ▶ **AgriForEnergyII - International Advisory Folders on PVO, bioheat and biogas**

AgriForEnergyII project supported by the IEE programme focuses on fostering bioenergy business possibilities for farmers and forest owners to produce three types of bioenergy: pure vegetable oil, biogas and biomethane and biomass heating.

Project partners have recently produced International Advisory Folders on heat, biogas and PVO containing best practices on heat, PVO and biogas of every partner country.

The best practices were published in order to show the farmers and forest owners the possibilities to develop a wood energy plant, vegetable oil plant or biogas plant. Best practices were successfully used in study tours, face to face meetings and workshops to gain farmers' and forest owners' confidence in these markets and foster their cooperation to invest into setting up a biomass plant. Furthermore, the project partners helped the interested parties to establish a business plan and gathered together supply and demand side players of the potential biomass projects.

Available for download on [www.agriforenergy.com](http://www.agriforenergy.com):

- International Advisory Folder on Heat –best practices with information about the heating plants, wood supply, fuel consumption and cost, GHG emissions.
- International Advisory Folder on Biogas - best practices with information about the farms, integration of biogas in a farm, technical data of biogas plant, economic and financial analysis.
- International Advisory Folder on PVO – best practices on pure vegetable oil (PVO) with information on oil production in a specific oil mill, usage of the oil either in tractors or a CHP unit, cost benefit analysis.

Available under request to project partners:

- Feasibility studies of best practices.

[▲ Top](#)

[▶ Read the best practices](#)

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### ▶ **Biomass Panel publishes Strategic Research Priorities for Biomass Technology**

About 50% of the final energy is consumed for domestic hot water and space heating as well as for industrial process heat and cooling purposes across the European Union and heating with biomass represents 97% of all renewable heat production. Though the heat demand can significantly be reduced by efficiency measures, the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC-Platform) estimates at least half of this demand will persist and will have to be delivered by renewable energies in a low-carbon energy system. Substantial intensification of research and development activities is required to unlock the technological potential of the biomass to heat sector. The Biomass Panel the European Technology Platform on Renewable

Heating and Cooling (RHC-Platform) has recently published its Strategic Research Priorities for Biomass Technology, outlining key research and development needs of the sector.

Biomass is the most important short-medium term source of renewable heating and cooling. Since its availability is limited, sustainable, efficient and secure supply chains for dedicated biomass, including residues and wastes, must be developed, implying research in cultivation and harvesting practices, logistics, as well as processing and upgrading technologies. Substantial improvements in terms of emissions and efficiency are still required for biomass combustion technologies at all scales and research must particularly focus on:

- Reaching a 50% reduction target for real life emission (particles and volatile organic compounds) from fire wood stoves;
- Reaching a 20% increase of real life efficiency of small scale biomass central heating systems, including hybrid system application with other renewable heating and cooling technologies;
- Delivering a substantial improvement of load and fuel flexibility of medium scale combustion technologies whilst maintaining or even lowering emissions;
- Delivering a substantial increase of electric efficiency of large combined heat and power plants by increased steam parameters of the steam cycles;
- Ensuring an overall improvement of components and system design for district heating and cooling (DHC) as well as for industrial applications.
- Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems must be further developed to enhance the efficient use biomass. Small and micro scale CHP constitutes a high energy efficient solution. Co-generation and tri-generation (heat-power-cold) are promising concepts for industry and DHC networks. Highly efficient large-scale or industrial CHP with enhanced availability and increased high temperature heat potential should be developed.

[▲ Top](#)

[► Read more](#)

### ► Get you best ideas funded by EUROGIA+

EUROGIA+ is the EUREKA cluster for low-carbon energy technologies which addresses all areas of the energy mix, from renewable energy to efficiency, and reduction of carbon footprint of fossil fuels. It seeks collaborative, low-carbon energy related research and development projects. Since it's a bottom-up, industry-driven programme, companies, research centres and universities are submitting projects. If they are qualified, they receive the EUROGIA+ label that enables project participants to apply for funding in their respective country.

The Technical Committee will review the full project proposals which are ready to seek the EUREKA label and eligible for funding by national authorities. The projects submitted in the preliminary project outline format will also be reviewed by the Technical Committee and proposers will be provided the feedback and assistance necessary to move to the full proposal stage.

In 2011, 9 projects, representing about 50 M€, reached the full project proposal stage; 5 received the coveted EUROGIA+ label and were funded, while 4 are currently being improved to reach the required level of quality.

The process is one of continuous submission with 4 cut-off dates per year. The next call will open on 1 June 2012 and the deadline will be 14 September 2012. Projects submitted by that date will be reviewed by the technical committee on the 1st of October in Istanbul.

Applicable conditions and details of the submission process can be found online or by contacting the Eurogia+ Secretariat, [contact@eurogia.com](mailto:contact@eurogia.com), Tel: +32 2 502 1814.

[▲ Top](#)

[► Read more](#)

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

The **AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference** organized under the patronage of the **Danish Presidency** is one of the leading bioenergy conferences in Europe.

AEBIOM is eager to share with you the latest **conference programme**. We are proud to announce confirmed speakers of the Danish Presidency, four heads of unit of the European Commission, three members of the European Parliament, industry decision makers and leading scientists. We have also the confirmation from the European Parliament where a traditional after conference dinner will be held and hosted by an MEP Bendt Bendtsen.

AEBIOM is honored to announce the patronage of the Danish Presidency and its 8 sponsors: **Novozymes, BioAlgaeSorb, CPM Europe, PUSCH AG, Sistemas de Transferencia de Calor, Tapio** and **EP Dinner Sponsor Vattenfall** and large-scale visits sponsor, **VIGAN**. The main supporter of the event is the **Canadian Government**.

The event is supported by **34 associations** (Finbio, Cewep, Irbea, EBA, Cogen Europe, EREC, AEBIG, LITBOMA, Abstraction, AVEBIOM, SVEBIO, Bio-energieplatform, Euroheat&Power, Eustafor, ProPellets, AIEL Associazione, BioPlat, European Pellet Council, Wood Pellet Association of Canada, U.S. Industrial Pellet Association, RHC-Platform, NGVA Europe, EEN, IEE, Sintef, BTEC, Cordis, Brazilian Association Industry Biomass and Renewable Energy, World Bioenergy Association, Tweed, BBE, Valbiom, DI Bioenergy, Austrian Biomass Association, FEDARENE, and EDORA.

The conference will also benefit of the support of **22 media partners** (Argus Media, Bioenergy International, E-Energy Market, Forest Bioenergy Review, EnAgri, EcoSeed, Biomass-Events, Pipeline Clean Energy, RELP Renewable Energy, Law and Policy Review, Pellets News, Pellets Magazine, TimberWeb, Environmental Expert, Environmental Finance Magazine, PelletsHome, Bioenergy Insight, European Energy Innovation, Renewable Energy Database, Canadian Biomass Magazine, FOEX, Biomass Energy, Bioenergi, Renewable Energy Magazine, GoforWood, Ukrainian Biofuel Portal)

#### Register to the B2B Meetings

We invite you to register your company or association profile on the B2B platform provided during the AEBIOM Bioenergy conference. This occasion will give you a better chance to discuss relevant issues with certain conference participants.

Why participate?

- Explore collaborative opportunities
- The best way to network with the key players in the sector
- Meet and do business with the whole biomass supply chain
- Build strategic partnerships
- Meet potential business partners
- Plan your meetings in advance

▲ [Top](#)

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### ► Other events

**EU Sustainable Energy Week, Belgium, 18-22 June 2012**

► [Read more](#)

**NGV Bologna 2012, Italy, 19-21 June 2012**

► [Read more](#)

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<b>Waste to Energy City Summit, UK, 21 June 2012</b>	<b>▶ <a href="#">Read more</a></b>
<b>CEWEP Congress on Energy and Resource Efficiency, Germany, 6-7 September 2012</b>	<b>▶ <a href="#">Read more</a></b>
<b>European Biomass Market Forum, UK, 5-7 September 2012</b>	<b>▶ <a href="#">Read more</a></b>
<b>BOSTER 2012, Italy, 14-16 September, 2012</b>	<b>▶ <a href="#">Read more</a></b>
<b>Energy from Waste, UK, 17-19 September, 2012</b>	<b>▶ <a href="#">Read more</a></b>
<b>Expobioenergia 2012, Spain, 22-25 October 2012</b>	<b>▶ <a href="#">Read more</a></b>
<b>4th Nordic Wood Biorefinery Conference, Finland, 23-25 October 2012</b>	<b>▶ <a href="#">Read more</a></b>
<b>4th Venice Symposium on Energy from Biomass and Waste, Italy, 12-15 November</b>	<b>▶ <a href="#">Read more</a></b>

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