

To the attention of:

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nn June 2021

The indispensable role for bioenergy and biofuels in the Green Transition

Achieving a climate neutral and circular economy is one important goal of the European Green Deal. The bioeconomy which includes a major flow of bioenergy is part of this circular economy. By introducing well designed value chains, bioenergy has high potential to complement and add value while improving the sustainability of agriculture, forestry and other sectors. In addition, bioenergy can play a **vital role in rural development**, providing many jobs and income throughout Europe and facilitating the Just Transition Mechanism (JTM), and at the same time maintaining global leadership of European industry and scientific communities in all technology fields of bioenergy.

The transport sector which remains dominated by fossil fuels will need significant amounts of advanced biofuels, biomethane, electrofuels and hydrogen alongside electrification to achieve its decarbonization target. Europe **cannot afford to pick winners** among these options since **all options are needed**. Advanced biofuels will be of **utmost importance** in the near- and medium-term to defossilize aviation, shipping and long-distance heavy road transport, using biogenic carbon, where other options are less suitable. In addition, bioenergy is a key element in the electricity system for balancing variable forms of renewable energies, such as wind and solar. The **synergies with hydrogen** and BECCS/CCU of CO₂ are promising. BECCU is a promising option for carbon-neutrality, while BECCS can even achieve negative CO₂ emissions when using sustainably sourced biomass. BECCS is the only industrial-scale option for negative CO₂ emissions, while significantly reduced emissions can be achieved through innovative crop rotation schemes, cover cropping, and biochar deployment.

In recent times a toxic, unbalanced and misleading debate around biomass and bioenergy has questioned the validity of this energy source based on questionable sustainability concerns. When judging energy systems, it is crucial to have a **holistic and fact-based system approach** that recognizes the synergies and links between different resources, carriers and final uses. Bioenergy is today the most regulated energy sector when it comes to environmental protection under the RED and the bioenergy stakeholders are proactive leaders in reducing the GHG emissions of bioenergy while expanding its contribution to Europe's energy system.

As meeting the climate targets is a priority for all, it is now time to **focus on a constructive way forward**. Today, bioenergy is a central part of climate mitigation in Europe, representing over half of the renewable energy sources used. **And there can be no climate deal without biomass management and use.**

In order to achieve our ambitions under the Green Deal it is imperative to continue to build a strong bioenergy industry in Europe based on sound sustainability criteria, which take all considerations - including biodiversity, soil and water as well as employment, income and links with materials and chemistry - into account. It is also essential to foster the positive sustainability impacts bioenergy – and the bioeconomy as a whole - can have.

The undersigned participants of EUBCE (European Biomass Conference and Exhibition) urges all actors, including the European Commission, the European Parliament and national governments, to **ensure that the role of bioenergy is recognized and prioritized** consistently in the revisions of existing policies and directives as well as the development of new policies and strategies under the European Green Deal.

The views expressed here are purely those of the authors and may not, under any circumstances, be regarded as an official position of the European Commission.

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