A sustainable bioenergy policy for the period after 2020

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

EU Member States have agreed on a new policy framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets for the period between 2020 and 2030. The targets include reducing the Union's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40 % relative to emissions in 2005 and ensuring that at least 27 % of the EU's energy comes from renewable sources. They should help to make the EU's energy system more competitive, secure and sustainable, and help it meet its long-term (2050) GHG reductions target.

In January 2014, in its Communication on A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030,[1] the Commission stated that '[a]n improved biomass policy will also be necessary to maximise the resource-efficient use of biomass in order to deliver robust and verifiable greenhouse gas savings and to allow for fair competition between the various uses of biomass resources in the construction sector, paper and pulp industries and biochemical and energy production. This should also encompass the sustainable use of land, the sustainable management of forests in line with the EU's forest strategy and address indirect land-use effects as with biofuels'.

In 2015, in its Energy Union strategy,[2] the Commission announced that it would come forward with an updated bioenergy sustainability policy, as part of a renewable energy package for the period after 2020.

Bioenergy is the form of renewable energy used most in the EU and it is expected to continue to make up a significant part of the overall energy mix in the future. On the other hand, concerns have been raised about the sustainability impacts and competition for resources stemming from the increasing reliance on bioenergy production and use.

Currently, the Renewable Energy Directive[3] and the Fuel Quality Directive[4] provide an EU-level sustainability framework for biofuels[5] and bioliquids.[6] This includes harmonised sustainability criteria for biofuels and provisions aimed at limiting indirect land-use change,[7] which were introduced in 2015.[8]

In 2010, the Commission issued a Recommendation[9] that included non-binding sustainability criteria for solid and gaseous biomass used for electricity, heating and cooling (applicable to installations with a capacity of over 1 MW). Sustainability schemes have also been developed in a number of Member States.

The Commission is now reviewing the sustainability of all bioenergy sources and final uses for the period after 2020. Identified sustainability risks under examination include lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from bioenergy production and use; impacts on the carbon stock of forests and other ecosystems; impacts on biodiversity, soil and water, and emissions to the air; indirect land use change impacts; as well as impacts on the competition for the use of biomass between different sectors (energy, industrial uses, food). The Commission has carried out a number of studies to examine these issues more in detail.

The development of bioenergy also needs to be seen in the wider context of a number of priorities for the Energy Union, including the ambition for the Union to become the world leader in renewable energy, to lead the fight against global warming, to ensure security of supply and integrated and efficient energy markets, as well as broader EU objectives such as reinforcing Europe's industrial base, stimulating research and innovation and promoting competitiveness and job creation, including in rural areas. The Commission also stated in its 2015 Communication on the circular economy[10] that it will 'promote synergies with the circular economy when examining the sustainability of bioenergy under the Energy Union'. Finally, the EU and its Member States have committed themselves to meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

[1] COM(2014) 15.

[2] COM/2015/080 final.

[3] Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC (OJ L 140, 5.6.2009, p. 16).

[4] Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 1998 relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Council Directive 93/12/EEC (OJ L 350, 28.12.1998, p. 58).

[5] Used for transport.

[6] Used for electricity, heating and cooling.

[7] Biomass production can take place on land that was previously used for other forms of agricultural production, such as growing food or feed. Since such production is still necessary, it may be (partly) displaced to land not previously used for crops, e.g. grassland and forests. This process is known as indirect land use change (ILUC); see http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/renewable-energy/biofuels/land-use-change.

[8] See more details on the existing sustainability framework for biofuels and bioliquids in section 5.

[9] COM/2010/0011 final.

[10] Closing the loop – an EU action plan for the circular economy (COM(2015) 614/2).

1. General information about respondents

* 1.1. In what capacity are you completing this questionnaire?

- academic/research institution
- as an individual / private person
- civil society organisation
-

international organisation
- other
- private enterprise
- professional organisation
- public authority
- public enterprise

* 1.2. If you are a private or public enterprise, could you please indicate your principal business sector?

- Agriculture
- Automotive
- Biotechnology
- Chemicals
- Energy
- Food
- Forestry
- Furniture
- Mechanical Engineering
- Other
- Printing
- Pulp and Paper
- Woodworking

* 1.3. If you are a private or public enterprise, could you please indicate the size of your company?

(Medium-sized enterprise: an enterprise that employs fewer than 250 persons and whose annual turnover does not exceed EUR 50 million or whose annual balance-sheet total does not exceed EUR 43 million.
Small enterprise: an enterprise that employs fewer than 50 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance-sheet total does not exceed EUR 10 million.
Micro-enterprise: an enterprise that employs fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance-sheet total does not exceed EUR 2 million.)

- large enterprise
- medium-sized enterprise
- small enterprise
- micro-enterprise
- I don't know

1.8. If replying as an individual/private person, please give your name; otherwise give the name of your organisation

200 character(s) maximum

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Erzbischöfliches Rentamt, 1010 Wien, Wollzeile 2
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1.9. If your organisation is registered in the Transparency Register, please give your Register ID number.

(If your organisation/institution responds without being registered, the Commission will consider its input as that of an individual and will publish it as such.)

200 character(s) maximum

1.10. Please give your country of residence/establishment

- (●) Austria
- ( ) Belgium
- ( ) Bulgaria
- ( ) Croatia
- ( ) Cyprus
- ( ) Czech Republic
- ( ) Denmark
- ( ) Estonia
- ( ) Finland
- ( ) France
- ( ) Germany
- ( ) Greece
- ( ) Hungary
- ( ) Ireland
- ( ) Italy
- ( ) Latvia
- ( ) Lithuania
- ( ) Luxembourg
- ( ) Malta
- ( ) Netherlands
- ( ) Poland
- ( ) Portugal
- ( ) Romania
- ( ) Slovakia
- ( ) Slovenia
- ( ) Spain
- ( ) Sweden
- ( ) United Kingdom
- ( ) Other non-EU European country
- ( ) Other non-EU Asian country
- ( ) Other non-EU African country
- ( ) Other non-EU American country

* 1.11. Please indicate your preference for the publication of your response on the Commission's website:
(Please note that regardless the option chosen, your contribution may be subject to a request for

access to documents under Regulation 1049/2001 on public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In this case the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and in accordance with applicable data protection rules.)

- (●) Under the name given: I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication.
- ( ) Anonymously: I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication.
- ( ) Please keep my contribution confidential. (it will not be published, but will be used internally within the Commission)

Perceptions of bioenergy

2.1. Role of bioenergy in the achievement of EU 2030 climate and energy objectives

Please indicate which of the statements below best corresponds to your perception of the role of bioenergy in the renewable energy mix, in particular in view of the EU's 2030 climate and energy objectives:

- (●) Bioenergy should continue to play a dominant role in the renewable energy mix.
- ( ) Bioenergy should continue to play an important role in the renewable energy mix, but the share of other renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind, hydro and geothermal) should increase significantly.
- ( ) Bioenergy should not play an important role in the renewable energy mix: other renewable energy sources should become dominant.

2.2. Perception of different types of bioenergy

Please indicate, for each type of bioenergy described below, which statement best corresponds to your perception of the need for public (EU, national, regional) policy intervention (tick one option in each line):

	Should be further promoted	Should be further promoted, but within limits	Should be neither promoted nor discouraged	Should be discouraged	No opinion
Biofuels from food crops	(●)	( )	( )	( )	( )
Biofuels from energy crops (grass, short rotation coppice, etc.)	(●)	( )	( )	( )	( )

Biofuels from waste (municipal solid waste, wood waste)	◉	○	○	○	○
Biofuels from agricultural and forest residues	◉	○	○	○	○
Biofuels from algae	◉	○	○	○	○
Biogas from manure	◉	○	○	○	○
Biogas from food crops (e.g. maize)	○	◉	○	○	○
Biogas from waste, sewage sludge, etc.	◉	○	○	○	○
Heat and power from forest biomass (except forest residues)	◉	○	○	○	○
Heat and power from forest residues (tree tops, branches, etc.)	◉	○	○	○	○
Heat and power from agricultural biomass (energy crops, short rotation coppice)	◉	○	○	○	○
Heat and power from industrial residues (such as sawdust or black liquor)	◉	○	○	○	○
Heat and power from waste	◉	○	○	○	○

Large-scale electricity generation (50 MW or more) from solid biomass	○	○	◉	○	○
Commercial heat generation from solid biomass	○	◉	○	○	○
Large-scale combined heat and power generation from solid biomass	○	○	○	○	○
Small-scale combined heat and power generation from solid biomass	◉	○	○	○	○
Heat generation from biomass in domestic (household) installations	◉	○	○	○	○
Bioenergy based on locally sourced feedstocks	◉	○	○	○	○
Bioenergy based on feedstocks sourced in the EU	◉	○	○	○	○
Bioenergy based on feedstocks imported from non-EU countries	○	◉	○	○	○
Other	◉	○	○	○	○

Please specify the "other" choice

200 character(s) maximum

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In principle, research and development in the fields of bio-economy and
bioenergy should be cross-linked and expanded.
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3. Benefits and opportunities from bioenergy

3.1. Benefits and opportunities from bioenergy

Bioenergy (biofuel for transport, biomass and biogas for heat and power) is currently promoted as it is considered to be contributing to the EU's renewable energy and climate objectives, and also having other potential benefits to the EU economy and society.

Please rate the contribution of bioenergy, as you see it, to the benefits listed below (one answer per line):

	of critical importance	important	neutral	negative	No opinion
Europe's energy security: safe, secure and affordable energy for European citizens	●	○	○	○	○
Grid balancing including through storage of biomass (in an electricity system with a high proportion of electricity from intermittent renewables)	●	○	○	○	○
Reduction of GHG emissions	●	○	○	○	○
Environmental benefits (including biodiversity)	●	○	○	○	○
Resource efficiency and waste management	○	●	○	○	○
Boosting research and innovation in bio-based industries	●	○	○	○	○
Competitiveness of European industry	○	●	○	○	○
Growth and jobs, including in rural areas	●	○	○	○	○
Sustainable development in developing countries	○	○	●	○	○

Other	◉	○	○	○	○

Please specify the "other" choice

200 character(s) maximum

The production of conventional biofuels with high protein by-products would be important and would also support the EU's protein feed supply and replace soybeans imports.

3.2. Any additional views on the benefits and opportunities from bioenergy? Please explain

2500 character(s) maximum

The latest data show, that renewable energy is very important concerning employment in the EU, especially for the rural area. It gives 1.1 million people jobs. 500,000 workplaces fall on bioenergy production.
Biomass is one of the main renewable energy sources due to its practicability for all sectors, its reliability to generate energy at all times and its storage capacities. Therefore the Commission should refrain from new barriers for biomass expansion. Positive approaches should be established for biomass production because these create jobs in rural areas.
Due to the results of COP21 Member States should reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 to 95 percent till 2050 compared to 1990. This means a complete change of the energy systems in the EU within the next 34 years. Member states with a high proportion of renewable energy enabled the implementation of bioenergy in recent decades and simultaneously increased forest areas.
With new sustainability criteria for renewable resources the Commission always creates obstacles for the production of renewable energy and at the same time only very simplified comparators exist for the negative greenhouse effects of fossil fuels. It would be better, for example, to promote the production of biomass to reduce greenhouse gases and to cut subsidies for the production of fossil fuels and nuclear power.

4. Risks from bioenergy production and use

4.1. Identification of risks

A number of risks have been identified (e.g. by certain scientists, stakeholders and studies) in relation to bioenergy production and use. These may concern specific biomass resources (agriculture, forest, waste), their origin (sourced in the EU or imported) or their end-uses (heat, electricity, transport).

Please rate the relevance of each of these risks as you see it (one asnwer per line):

	critical	significant	not very significant	non-existent	No opinion
Change in carbon stock due to deforestation and other direct land-use change in the EU	○	○	○	◉	○
Change in carbon stock due to deforestation and other direct land-use change in non-EU countries	○	○	◉	○	○
Indirect land-use change impacts	○	○	○	◉	○
GHG emissions from the supply chain (e.g. cultivation, processing and transport)	○	○	◉	○	○
GHG emissions from combustion of biomass (‘biogenic emissions’)	○	○	○	◉	○
Impacts on air quality	○	○	◉	○	○
Impacts on water and soil	○	○	○	◉	○
Impacts on biodiversity	○	○	○	◉	○
Varying degrees of efficiency of biomass conversion to energy	○	◉	○	○	○
Competition between different uses of biomass (energy, food, industrial uses) due to limited availability of land and feedstocks and/or subsidies for specific uses	○	○	○	◉	○
Internal market impact of divergent national sustainability schemes	○	○	◉	○	○
Other	○	○	○	○	◉

Please specify the "other" choice

200 character(s) maximum

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High risk of IPOFF (Indirect Promotion Of Fossile Fuels) by again creating new
administrative burdens on bioenergy without adequately considering the
negative effects of fossile fuel consumption.
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4.2. Any additional views on the risks from bioenergy production and use? Please explain

2500 character(s) maximum

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Biomass is produced sustainably in the EU. Therefore there is no need to
continuously require sustainability criteria from member states.
The framework on national (forest laws) and international level (PEFC
certification for sustainable forest management) make sure that sufficient
biomass is produced in a sustainable way for all applications (food, feed,
fiber, fuel). Therefore, it would make no sense to create new sustainability
requirements for the specific use of biomass as bioenergy.
There is no real risk for a non-sustainable production of biomass in the EU.
But there is a big risk of high costs and market disturbances due to new
administrative costs by installing new sustainability criteria.
It is important for the future that the EU reduces the dependency on imports
of fossil fuels from the Middle East and Russia. The results are reduced
climate change, creation of more jobs in the renewable energy sector,
especially in the rural area.
The EC has to immediately concentrate on the main problems of the EU energy
system: Reduction of climate risks caused by burning oil, natural gas and
coal; Handling of unwarranted externalities from production, supply and use of
fossil fuels; Elimination of devastating environmental pollutions by line
losses from pipelines of some supplying countries; Handling of compliance of
human rights, corruption in oil and gas supplying countries.
The EC very quickly has to bring serious solutions for the risks of energy
systems, particularly in regard to fossil fuels. The EU should not prevent the
development of bioenergy with senseless policies.
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5. Effectiveness of existing EU sustainability scheme for biofuels and bioliquids

In 2009, the EU established a set of sustainability criteria for biofuels (used in transport) and bioliquids (used for electricity and heating). Only biofuels and bioliquids that comply with the criteria can receive government support or count towards national renewable energy targets. The main criteria are as follows:

- Biofuels produced in new installations must achieve GHG savings of at least 60 % in comparison with fossil fuels. In the case of installations that were in operation before 5 October 2015, biofuels must achieve a GHG emissions saving of at least 35 % until 31 December 2017 and at least

50 % from 1 January 2018. Lifecycle emissions taken into account when calculating GHG savings from biofuels include emissions from cultivation, processing, transport and direct land-use change;

- Biofuels cannot be grown in areas converted from land with previously (before 2008) high carbon stock, such as wetlands or forests;
- Biofuels cannot be produced from raw materials obtained from land with high biodiversity, such as primary forests or highly biodiverse grasslands.

In 2015, new rules[1] came into force that amend the EU legislation on biofuel sustainability (i.e. the Renewable Energy Directive and the Fuel Quality Directive) with a view to reducing the risk of indirect land-use change, preparing the transition to advanced biofuels and supporting renewable electricity in transport. The amendments:

- limit to 7 % the proportion of biofuels from food crops that can be counted towards the 2020 renewable energy targets;
- set an indicative 0.5 % target for advanced biofuels as a reference for national targets to be set by EU countries in 2017;
- maintain the double-counting of advanced biofuels towards the 2020 target of 10 % renewable energy in transport and lay down a harmonised EU list of eligible feedstocks; and
- introduce stronger incentives for the use of renewable electricity in transport (by counting it more towards the 2020 target of 10 % renewable energy use in transport).

[1] Directive (EU) 2015/1513 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 amending Directive 98/70/EC relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (OJ L 239, 15.9.2015, p. 1).

5.1. Effectiveness in addressing sustainability risks of biofuels and bioliquids

In your view, how effective has the existing EU sustainability scheme for biofuels and bioliquids been in addressing the risks listed below? (one answer per line)

	effective	partly effective	neutral	counter-productive	No opinion
GHG emissions from cultivation, processing and transport	○	●	○	○	○
GHG emissions from direct land-use change	○	●	○	○	○
Indirect land-use change	○	○	○	●	○
Impacts on biodiversity	○	○	●	○	○
Impact on soil, air and water	○	○	●	○	○

Any additional comments?

2500 character(s) maximum

The discussion of the EC on the creation of additional sustainability criteria for biomass production for energy purposes is a major obstacle for the development of bioenergy. The use of wood and forests is already properly regulated by law. There is also the possibility of voluntary certification. Additional certification systems cause an even greater administrative burden and therefore are costly for the forestry and farmers, and also upset the much needed investors, who wish to invest in bioenergy, and therefore would create new jobs in the green sector.
The Commission constantly establishes new obstacles for biomass production by exceedingly working out sustainability criteria of renewable resources.
Not a lot has been done on the part of the EC concerning dealing with green house gas emissions. Therefore distinct and imperative regulations concerning a more substainale fossil fuel production as well as legal compliances in the producing countries are necessary. Any support and subsidies for burning fossil fuels need to be phased out immediately without replacement. The EC has to also focus on implementing common rules in the EU to phase out all subsidies for nuclear energy. As long as the true costs of fossil fuels and nuclear energy are not visible in the energy market, there will be unfair market conditions for renewables, hindering the successful transformation of our energy system.

5.2. Effectiveness in promoting advanced biofuels

In your view, how effective has the sustainability framework for biofuels, including its provisions on indirect land-use change, been in driving the development of 'advanced' biofuels, in particular biofuels produced from ligno-cellulosic material (e.g. grass or straw) or from waste material (e.g. waste vegetable oils)?

- ○ very effective
- ○ effective
- ○ neutral
- ◉ counter-productive
- ○ no opinion

What additional measures could be taken to further improve the effectiveness in promoting advanced biofuels?

2500 character(s) maximum

One focus of the EC is to create a stable environment for investments in facilities within the EU which promote the additional production of biofuels. There should be no need for additional sustainability criteria for bioenergy and instead new green jobs in rural areas should be created.
During the time period an assessment is very detrimental to the further

development of renewable energy technologies.

The EC has been obviously influenced by market actors who try to implement the right of first retrieval at lowest prices for their specific needs. Under the smokescreen of the “cascading principle” there are unqualified attempts to create planned economy rules for biomass. The EC has to immediately stop these misleading concepts, since market conditions have in the past and will in the future optimize the flow of raw material in the EU.
Additionally non-justified discussions about feedstock curtness and attempts to inhibit competition for renewable sources are not compatible with market rules. The EC should initiate new investments in bioenergy by submitting concepts to utilize the production potential of the forests and agricultural area in full within the EU.
In place of increasing counterproductive burdens for the already high standards of biomass production in the EU, the EC has to focus on giving better guidelines for very harmful production methods in the field of fossil fuels and nuclear energy. Furthermore, the internalization of all externalities from fossil fuel production need to be managed and included in their prices in full.
The Commission has to focus on implementing common rules in the EU to phase out all subsidies for fossil fuels and nuclear energy. As long as the true costs of fossil fuels and nuclear energy are not visible in the energy market, there will be unfair market conditions for renewables, hindering investments in renewable energy.

5.3. Effectiveness in minimising the administrative burden on operators

In your view, how effective has the EU biofuel sustainability policy been in reducing the administrative burden on operators placing biofuels on the internal market by harmonising sustainability requirements in the Member States (as compared with a situation where these matter would be regulated by national schemes for biofuel sustainability)?

- ○ very effective
- ○ effective
- ◉ not effective
- ○ no opinion

What are the lessons to be learned from implementation of the EU sustainability criteria for biofuels? What additional measures could be taken to reduce the administrative burden further?

2500 character(s) maximum

During the time period an assessment is very detrimental to the further development of renewable energy technologies. With new sustainability criteria for renewable resources the Commission always creates obstacles for the production of renewable energy and at the same time only very simplified comparators exist for the negative greenhouse effects of fossil fuels. It would be better, for example, to promote the production of biomass to reduce greenhouse gases and to cut subsidies for the production of fossil fuels and nuclear power.

The implementation of sustainability criteria for biofuels shows that the administrative burden and the costs have increased dramatically to meet the criteria, especially for the feed producer. Without added value for sustainable biomass production the administrative expenses increased.
Any feedstock which has been produced within the EU according to the international, national or voluntary certification systems, such as PEFC, has to be conceded sustainably manufactured without causing additional costs for the administration.

5.4. Deployment of innovative technologies

In your view, what is needed to facilitate faster development and deployment of innovative technologies in the area of bioenergy? What are the lessons to be learned from the existing support mechanisms for innovative low-carbon technologies relating to bioenergy?

2500 character(s) maximum

To promote further investments in innovative technologies a stable legal framework is needed beyond 2020. Therefore the bioenergy policy and the RED II need to be connected in a single, simple sustainable technology framework.
The first and most important step would be the immediate abolition of subsidies for fossil fuels and nuclear energy. Through the sharp decline in the EU oil and gas production, the EU has the best conditions to become a pioneer in phasing out subsidies for fossil fuels. This way fair competition conditions for renewable energy are created.

To show the difference to local renewable energy sources a labeling system for all fossil fuels, stating its origin concerning e.g. war regions, human rights and corruption index, would be very helpful.
Electricity consumers should be better informed where their electricity comes from and what options they have regarding the use of renewable energy sources.

6. Effectiveness of existing EU policies in addressing solid and gaseous biomass sustainability issues

6.1. In addition to the non-binding criteria proposed by the Commission in 2010, a number of other EU policies can contribute to the sustainability of solid and gaseous bioenergy in the EU. These include measures in the areas of energy, climate, environment and agriculture.

In your view, how effective are current EU policies in addressing the following risks of negative environmental impacts associated with solid and gaseous biomass used for heat and power? (one answer per line)

	effective	partly effective	neutral	counter-productive	No opinion

Change in carbon stock due to deforestation, forest degradation and other direct land-use change in the EU	◉	○	○	○	○
Change in carbon stock due to deforestation, forest degradation and other direct land-use change in non-EU countries	○	◉	○	○	○
Indirect land-use change impacts	○	○	○	◉	○
GHG emissions from supply chain, e.g. cultivation, processing and transport	○	◉	○	○	○
GHG emissions from combustion of biomass (‘biogenic emissions’)	○	◉	○	○	○
Air quality	◉	○	○	○	○
Water and soil quality	◉	○	○	○	○
Biodiversity impacts	◉	○	○	○	○
Varying degrees of efficiency of biomass conversion to energy	○	◉	○	○	○
Competition between different uses of biomass (energy, food, industrial uses) due to limited availability of land and feedstocks	○	○	◉	○	○
Other	○	○	○	◉	○

Please specify the "other" choice

200 character(s) maximum

There is absolutely no sense in trying to apply new sustainability standards for specific use paths of biomass. Forestry and agriculture are producing sustainable renewable feedstocks in the EU.

6.2. Any additional views on the effectiveness of existing EU policies on solid and gaseous biomass? Please explain

2500 character(s) maximum

The discussion about creating additional sustainability criteria for biomass production and its use for energetic purposes is an extreme obstacle in order to speed up investments in bioenergy production.
New sustainability criteria for the use of certain tree parts or qualities of trees do not make sense. Biomass is abundant in most EU regions. The EU measures must therefore focus on activities that will mobilize the forest biomass. The legislation should not encourage the cascade principle in favor of selected market participants. Cascade use should be optimized by the market conditions and not by planned economy.
The EU should support the pan-European MCPFE process, as it is a vital reference for the sustainable use of forest resources as well as being part of the production of renewable energy sources. The principle of carbon neutrality of forest biomass must be maintained in line with existing international rules.
The use of agricultural commodities for energy purposes should not be outlawed by legislation. Agricultural biomass from agricultural holdings which are eligible for the CAP should be considered as complying with sustainability criteria.
Additional certification systems cause an even greater administrative burden and therefore are costly for the forestry and farmers, and also upset the much needed investors, who wish to invest in bioenergy, and therefore would create new jobs in the green sector.
The EU bioenergy policy is not a legislation that can resolve the environmental problems in Third Countries. The EU has to encourage the introduction of effective environmental legislation in Third countries in order to prevent land use change through international agreements, as is suggested by the EP Resolution of 15th March 2012 under point 44 of the roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy by 2050.

7. Policy objectives for a post-2020 bioenergy sustainability policy

7.1. In your view, what should be the key objectives of an improved EU bioenergy sustainability policy post-2020? Please rank the following objectives in order of importance: most important first; least important 9th/10th (you can rank fewer than 9/10 objectives):

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Contribute to climate change objectives	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○
Avoid environmental impacts (biodiversity, air and water quality)	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○
Mitigate the impacts of indirect land-use change	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
Promote efficient use of the biomass resource, including efficient energy conversion	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○
Promote free trade and competition in										

the EU among all end-users of the biomass resource	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
Ensure long-term legal certainty for operators	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Minimise administrative burden for operators	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Promote energy security	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Promote EU industrial competitiveness, growth and jobs	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○
Other	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○

Please specify the "other" choice

200 character(s) maximum

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One of the megatrends of the future energy system is decentralization. The
high potential of bioenergy to contribute to more green jobs in rural areas
has to be acknowledged properly.
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7.2. Any other views? Please specify

2500 character(s) maximum

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There is hardly a risk for non-sustainable biomass production in the EU, but a
significant risk of market disturbances and additional administrative costs by
creating new sustainability criteria without added value.
The reduction in imports of fossil fuels from the Middle East and Russia will
be a challenge for the EU. Thus the objectives of the COP 21 can be achieved
and at the same time new jobs are created in rural areas.
The EC has to immediately concentrate on the main problems of the EU energy
system: Reduction of climate risks caused by burning oil, natural gas and
coal; Handling of unwarranted externalities from production, supply and use of
fossil fuels; Elimination of devastating environmental pollutions by line
losses from pipelines of some supplying countries; Handling of compliance of
human rights, corruption in oil and gas supplying countries.
The most important future action will be to end subsidies for fossil fuels and
nuclear energy and to make the actual cost of these visible. This would
increase the competitiveness of renewable energy significantly.
The EC very quickly has to bring serious solutions for the risks of energy
systems, particularly in regard to fossil fuels. The EU should not prevent the
development of bioenergy with senseless policies.
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8. EU action on sustainability of bioenergy

8.1. In your view, is there a need for additional EU policy on bioenergy sustainability?

- (●) No: the current policy framework (including the sustainability scheme for biofuels and bioliquids, and other EU and national policies covering solid and gaseous biomass) is sufficient.
- ( ) Yes: additional policy is needed for solid and gaseous biomass, but for biofuels and bioliquids the existing scheme is sufficient.
- ( ) Yes: additional policy is needed on biofuels and bioliquids, but for solid and gaseous biomass existing EU and national policies are sufficient.
- ( ) Yes: a new policy is needed covering all types of bioenergy.

8.2. In your view, and given your answers to the previous questions, what should the EU policy framework on the sustainability of bioenergy include? Please be specific

5000 character(s) maximum

9. Additional contribution

Do you have other specific views that could not be expressed in the context of your replies to the above questions?

5000 character(s) maximum

Austria is a member state of a leading role in the fields of renewable energy and sustainable forest management.
Austria, Sweden, Finland and Latvia are model countries for the development of the bioenergy sector. Over decades they suceeded to implement positive developments of bioenergy as well as to increase the forest area under strict sustainability requirements.
In order to achieve the objectives of Cop21 and create new green jobs, it is very important that there are no further unnecessary administrative burdens in the field of biomass sector within the EU.
The EC should immediately focus its resources on solving the main problems of the common economy and should refrain from causimg additional costs by creating senseless new burdens on well-functioning areas such as the sustainability of biomass production. This is especially necessary due to the supply risks for fossil energy because of wars in oil producing countries, the increase of the dependency of the EU on gas supplies from Russia and the risk of social peace in the EU because of lack of adequate budgets for effective employment programs, which leaves more than 25 million EU citizens (especially young people) unemployed.

Finally, you may upload here any relevant documents, e.g. position papers, that you would like the European Commission to be aware of.

Thank you for participation to the consultation!

Contact

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