

To: President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B- 1040 Brussels

CC: College of Commissioners

Brussels, 27 May 2014

Dear M. President of the European Commission,

On Wednesday 28 May 2014, the College of Commissioners will consider the European Energy Security Strategy, called for by the European Council of 21 March 2014. The undersigned associations and companies representing all the steps of the EU biofuels chain from farming, trade and processing to the production of ethanol and biodiesel, are calling for recognition of the role played by renewables in the transport sector in contributing to Europe's energy security.

Over-reliance on energy imports hampers EU competitiveness by leaving businesses at the mercy of price increases and supply shortages beyond their – or their governments' – control. In 2013, the EU's oil import bill topped EUR 310 billion, almost the size of the entire Greek debt, and contributed to a significant deficit in the EU energy trade balance of around 2% of its GDP<sup>1</sup>. The recent crisis in Ukraine has brought home the fact that Europe is over-reliant on foreign oil, with the EU importing over 30% of its crude oil and also of refined fuels from Russia.<sup>2</sup> In the EU transport sector, the situation is even more critical, with a 94% dependence on oil<sup>3</sup>, 84% of which is often imported from politically unstable regions.

Against this background, European biofuels, produced and marketed on a large scale, contribute to strengthening Europe's energy security by diversifying its energy mix with a renewable and domestically produced energy source:

- Since the introduction of the 2020 climate and energy package in 2009, the use of biofuels has grown to 5% of the total energy use in EU transport, and has helped to soften energy prices and their spikes, e.g. those associated with the Arab Spring.
- In 2013, EU biofuels producers have generated 15 billion litres of domestically produced green transport fuel, replacing the need for 82 million barrels of oil and saving the EU oil bill EUR 6,6 billion in the process.

European biofuels already represent a strong asset for EU energy independence and will have an increasingly important role to play in a more energy secure European Union. This was clearly recognised in various European Commission's documents.<sup>4 5</sup> A Communication that would fail to

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<sup>1</sup> EU crude oil imports, European Commission DG ENER, 2014

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> European Commission, DG MOVE

<sup>4</sup> Accompanying document to the Communication on Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond -A Blueprint for an integrated European energy network, European Commission

<sup>5</sup> The Green Paper 'Towards a European strategy for the security of energy supply' set the objective of 20 % substitution of conventional fuels by alternative fuels in the road transport sector by 2020.

recognise biofuels' existing contribution and potential would not represent a sound basis for a comprehensive plan to reduce Europe's energy dependence.

We therefore call upon you and the College to ensure that the forthcoming Communication on energy security reflects the importance of European biofuels in the transport sector, and calls for an ambitious 2030 Climate and Energy framework to ensure their continuous uptake.

Yours sincerely,



Pekka Pesonen  
Secretary-General Copa-Cogeca



Rob Vierhout  
Secretary-General ePURE



Raffaello Garafalo  
Secretary-General EBB



Nathalie Lecocq  
Secretary-General Fediol

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