

EBB Press Release

ILUC Common Position approved today by the Council: lights and shades



The Energy Council approved this morning its final first-reading Common Position on the ILUC legislative proposal

EBB welcomes the final agreement of the EU Council on a 7% minimum threshold for existing biofuels and fully support the point of view expressed this morning by a large number of Member States that any attempt to decrease the 7% objective would pose a threat to EU agriculture and EU economy.

In this context it is not useless to remind that all the biodiesel produced today in Europe has anyhow to be considered as "ILUC-free" or at least as "low-ILUC-risk-Biofuel" according to the new concept introduced in the Council agreement, since the EU volumes of production are stable since 2011 and no change or impact on land use has recently occurred or will occur because of EU biodiesel production covered in the 7% target.

Additionally, biodiesel imports from deforestation countries such as Indonesia and Argentina have decreased exponentially and have been blocked by anti-dumping duties for the next five years, thus improving all biodiesel sustainability indicators.

EBB also highlights that the EU Council today clearly recognised that current values for ILUC (to be used only for indicative reporting) are only a provisional outcome of a "questionable methodology". We express the hope that this compromise will mark the start of a work to fully re-consider ILUC methodology and the overall doubtful concept and accounting of "ILUC".

Finally, EBB expresses its strong concern on the overwhelming efforts added in the compromise to reward electricity use in transport and especially in rail, while excluding used cooking oils from the advanced biofuels target.

"EU authorities are forgetting that electricity is not an energy source – as biodiesel – but only an energy carrier: since most of electricity is produced from fossil sources, electricity promotion in transport will have no direct impact on promoting renewable energy sources" - said EBB Secretary General Raffaello Garofalo, who strongly defended the concept that recycled waste oils should be accounted in the new advanced biofuels target instead.

EBB is also strongly worried by the idea of rewarding, with a 2,5 multiple counting mechanism, electricity used in rail. "Electric trains are a technology developed in the midst of the XIX century and it is hard to understand why they should be promoted as innovative transport: this is a non-transparent discount created to avoid fulfilling serious renewable energy and GHG targets in transport" - added Mr. Garofalo.

Note to editors:

European Biodiesel Board (EBB) is a non-profit organisation established in January 1997. Today, EBB gathers nearly 80 members across 21 Member-States, which represents 75% of the European output. Biodiesel is the main European solution to reduce emissions from transport and dependence on imported oil. EBB aims to promote the use of biodiesel in the European Union and is committed to fulfil the International standards for sustainability in GHG emissions and sustainable feedstock. EBB is constantly working towards the development of improved and greener technologies.