

EBB Press Release

**TODAY'S ENVI COMMITTEE VOTE FULLY REFLECTS
GROWING CONCERNS OVER PROGRESS IN EU ILUC RULING**



Today, the European Parliament ENVI Committee refused to give ILUC Rapporteur Ms Lepage a mandate to start negotiations with the Council of the EU in view of an early second reading.

The European Biodiesel Board, representing the main advanced and conventional biofuels industry in Europe, takes good note of the EP ENVI vote stopping a new attempt to come to hasty emotional decisions on the ILUC file.

This vote comes as a result of growing concerns over emotionally pushed attempts to progress in EU ILUC ruling. Months of excessive pressures to hurry up crucial decisions on EU industrial policy, generated an opposite effect and the ENVI majority that supported Ms Lepage report last July in ENVI has disappeared. "After the publication of up to date authoritative studies on ILUC a widening range of decision makers supports a more prudent and open-minded approach" said Mr Garofalo, EBB Secretary General. "Even MEPs close to Ms Lepage realised that early second reading would not have provided sufficient time to assess the relevance of science used in policy", he continued.

Recent scientific inputs have shown that further investment in research on ILUC modelling, elasticity and data is needed. By correcting yield assumptions, based on FAO historical trends and forecasts, the French institute on Agricultural research (INRA) concluded that ILUC factors for biodiesel would amount to around 10gCO₂eq/MJ. This represents an 80% decrease compared to the fatal 55 grams set by the highly contested IFRPI findings and set in the current proposal. A GTAP study performed by a US scientific team of experts further estimated ILUC values to 2 grams due to accurate analysis of land conversion. Even international ISO representatives are raising important doubts on legislative ruling based on ILUC modelling results which show a room for incertitude of 300% among various studies.

EBB defends the interest of both the largest EU producers of advanced and conventional biodiesel. Our common wish is that the vote of today will open a new season where EU green industrial policy will not be subject to sudden U-turn based on emotional fears. We need to rethink ILUC and EU biofuels policy in a genuine international perspective, looking to US and Brazilians approaches and to ISO indications. A mature and open confrontation on the real facts about ILUC will provide much more certitudes to investors than last-minute attempts to get to hasty decisions.

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.

The **French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA)** and titled *The land use changes of European biodiesel: sensitivity to crop yield evolutions* examines how the different models – IFRPI, GTAP-BIO as well as FAPRI and AGLINK- COSIMO factor in the evolution of the increasing yield of cultivated areas in the EU. It concludes that these models use very low values for increasing yields, which contradicts previously observed data trends and are much lower than assumptions used in the production forecasts put forward by international institutions such as the FAO.

The **US study** *Land Use Change Greenhouse Gas emissions of European Biofuel Policies Utilizing the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP)* evaluates land us changes for several biofuels pathways and policies. It concludes that the 95% decrease is mainly due to improved understanding as regards land use and crop yields. Suggestions for further improvements are also provided like regionalisation of the analysis and crop specificity of yield. To view the reports in English, please contact us.