

EBB Press Release

**Phase-in of advanced biofuels should
build on the existing European biodiesel production**



Next week the European Commission is expected to publish its long-term strategy to reduce emissions from transport and provide the blueprint for incentives for the transition to a low-carbon mobility economy. Within this strategy, it seems that the Commission is looking at the possibility of a gradual phase-out of food-based biofuels, while betting everything on advanced biofuels.

The European biodiesel industry recognizes the growth limits of food-based biofuels, already controlled by the 7% cap established in the EU ILUC Directive ⁽¹⁾. Nevertheless, **sustainable long-term decarbonisation of transport can only be achieved with the help of all renewable energies, including sustainable biodiesel, which also contributes to food security and rural development.**

As recognized by the European Commission ⁽²⁾, renewable energy in transport reduced carbon emissions by 35 million tonnes in 2013, **with most of these savings coming from the use of biofuels**. Moreover, biodiesel production also helps the food and feed outlet, through the production of proteins as main biodiesel co-product, as the EU is still relying on 70% of imports of proteins.

To reinforce the **importance of biodiesel for the European agricultural sector**, the last 10-year Outlook ⁽³⁾ of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concluded that **the recent period of high agricultural commodity prices is most likely over**. The outlook stated that **the increased demand for food and feed for a growing and more affluent population is projected to be mostly met through productivity gains**, with yield improvements expected to account for about 80% of the increase in crop output.

Going into the same direction, a recent report ⁽⁴⁾ co-authored by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), World Bank, Delft University, amongst others, concluded that concerns over food supply insecurity, as a result of cultivation of biofuels feedstock, are largely misplaced. Actually, the report states that **comprehensive and well-designed biofuels programmes can simultaneously improve food security in countries with populations at risk of under nourishment**, while providing stable income to farmers in developed economies.

Speaking on behalf of the biodiesel supply chain, Raffaello Garofalo, Secretary General of the European Biodiesel Board (EBB), stated: *"concerns over high food prices are now being dismissed by the FAO and OECD. Phasing-out conventional biofuels would be irresponsible. The disbandment of the existing industry would negatively impact rural development, the food and feed outlets, and lead to a halt in investments in advanced biofuels, since the same companies are investing in both solutions to decarbonise transport fuels."*

¹ [Directive \(EU\) 2015/1513](#), of 9 September 2015,

² [European Commission Renewable Energy Progress Report](#) (COM(2015) 293 final).

³ [OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2016-2025](#), published on July 4th 2016, projects inflation-adjusted agricultural commodity prices will remain relatively flat overall in the coming decade.

⁴ [Reconciling food security and bioenergy: priorities for action](#), published on July 16th 2016.

"Recognizing the existing limits to the expansion of food-based biofuels from the EU ILUC Directive, the European Biodiesel industry is proud to contribute to the decarbonisation of the European transport sector, alongside with advanced biofuels, and we urge the European Commission to give sustainable biodiesel a role in the fuel mix after 2020, in particular for light and heavy duty vehicles, aviation and navigation (where electrification is not a viable option)"; concluded Mr Garofalo.

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*The **European Biodiesel Board (EBB)** is a non-profit organisation established in January 1997. Today, EBB gathers 60 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 International standards for sustainability in GHG emissions and sustainable feedstock. EBB is constantly working towards the development of improved and greener technologies.*