

PRESS RELEASE

Outcome of 2009 EBB General Assembly meeting

EBB priorities for 2010: undistorted international trade and implementation of EU sustainability rules

On November 24th, the European Biodiesel Board (EBB), representing the majority of EU biofuels producers, held its annual General Assembly meeting in Brussels. Participants from all over Europe gathered to exchange views on the past year and look into the industry's priority in 2010.

A number of important events marked the year 2009 for EU biodiesel producers. Chief amongst them was the successful outcome of EBB legal action against unfair US biodiesel imports ("B99"), which were threatening the viability of EU biodiesel producers since 2007. In March 2009, the EU decided to impose robust anti-dumping and countervailing measures on US biodiesel. EBB welcomed these measures re-establishing the legitimate right of EU biodiesel producers to operate in a level-playing field.

Circumvention patterns, however, started materializing soon after the imposition of the EU duties. Five months after the publication of definitive EU duties, there are strong and consistent indications that US subsidised and dumped biodiesel continues to enter the EU market, either via triangular trade with third countries based on fraudulent declarations of origin, or through blends (at a B19 or lower level) specifically designed to circumvent the EU anti-dumping and countervailing duties in force.

Against the background of persisting circumvention practices, the EBB General Assembly decided to proceed with the lodging of an anti-circumvention complaint to the EU trade authorities. *"This timely decision comes as the necessary reaction to trade practices undermining the remedial effect of the EU anti-dumping and countervailing duties. Market players need to be aware that EBB will oppose circumvention and fraud by all means. If and when established, these practices will lead to heavy and retroactive financial penalties"* indicated EBB Secretary General Raffaello Garofalo.

The EBB General Assembly also discussed the plight of Argentinean DETs scheme and unfair biodiesel exports to EU, about which an action plan was established.

Biofuels sustainability was identified as another key priority for the 2010 biodiesel agenda. While the EU biodiesel industry will continue to work towards the highest sustainability standards in line with the recently adopted Renewable Energy Directive, clear and comprehensive EU guidelines need to be released without delay to bring the necessary legal certainty for operators. It is equally essential that the practical implementation of biofuels sustainability rules takes into account the reality of industry practices and the day-to-day functioning of the biofuels supply chain. At the same time, only a harmonised implementation of the sustainability requirements at national level will ensure that sustainable biofuels production is effectively rewarded.

The 2009 EBB General Assembly renewed the mandate of Mr. Bernard Nicol (Diester Industrie) as EBB President, acknowledging the important results achieved over the last two years, amid difficult times for the EU biodiesel industry. The EBB Vice-Presidents and Board members in charge were also confirmed, with the addition of Mr. Claudio Rocchietta (Oxem) and Mr. Tomas Hagström (Perstorp).