

### PRESS RELEASE

## Priority to swift and seamless transposition of the Renewable Energy Directive along Commission biofuels guidelines

The European Biodiesel industry welcomes today's publication of two landmark Commission documents supporting the national implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive (the RE-D).

The Communications provide essential clarifications on the interpretation of the biofuels sustainability scheme. This covers in particular biofuels greenhouse gas calculations, land-use requirements for biomass cultivation, as well as rules governing the auditing of the biofuels supply chain.

Amongst the many issues subject to further EC guidance, EBB strongly welcomes the Commission approach to the "mass balance" system of chain of custody management. Greenhouse gas and sustainability information can be reported at the level of the industrial site and over "an appropriate period of time". This definition reflects the nature of the biodiesel and biofuels production and trading, as long advocated by EBB. In addition, the chain of custody is defined as covering all steps in the production chain, from feedstock production to final consumption, which is consistent with the life-cycle approach retained under the RE-D.

Building on the Commission guidelines released today, it is now essential that the RE-D is implemented without delay in all EU Member States by December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. A fully harmonised implementation will be the key success factor in making the objectives of the Renewable Energy Directive a reality for biofuels operators and EU consumers.

Member States progress in implementing the Directive will be first measured in their National Action Plans due for end of June. In completing these reports, national authorities must establish a credible path towards the 2020 10% target for renewable energy use in transport, where biofuels will obviously play the largest part.

In parallel to the national transposition process, more guidance is expected from the Commission regarding essential provisions of the Renewable Energy Directive, such as the definition of highly biodiverse grasslands and the update of biofuels greenhouse gas data. EBB welcomes the EU's engagement towards ambitious biofuels sustainability standards and is dedicated to actively contribute to their definition. At the same time, there is a need to ensure the right balance between sustainability concerns and operationality imperatives. In other words, the most efficient and fraud-resistant sustainability system is primarily a workable system.

The Renewable Energy Directive implementation should be placed in the wider context of the climate/energy package adopted in 2008. In this perspective, consistent treatment of fossil fuels and biofuels must be secured without delay in the framework of the parallel implementation of the Fuel Quality Directive 2009/30. It would not be conceivable that competing fuel sources are submitted to different greenhouse gas accountancy rules. Instead, transparent and consistent emission calculation methodology have to be defined, together with an appropriate peer-review of the EU reference study on fossil fuels and biofuels greenhouse gas performances (the "JEC" well-to-wheel study), this time involving stakeholders from the biofuels and farming community.

*«Sustainability considerations are fundamental for today's policy-making. However, sustainability requirements have to apply to all types of fuels without neglecting the huge externalities linked to fossil fuels use, transport and extraction, if the EU really aims to achieve its climate change objectives»*, pointed out Raffaello Garofalo, EBB Secretary General.