

PRESS RELEASE

BIODIESEL INDUSTRY REMAINS A KEY PLAYER IN EUROPEAN GREEN ECONOMY

EBB remarks on Committees opinions as regards Commission proposal on ILUC amending the Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28 and the Fuel Quality Directive 2009/28



The European Biodiesel Board (EBB) supports MEP Vidal-Quadras suggestions and expresses its concern about the consistency of Ms Lepage's proposed EU transport decarbonisation strategy.

Following the publication of parliamentary reports on ILUC and specifically those of Ms Lepage and Mr Vidal-Quadras, the European Biodiesel Board intends to highlight that all these opinions agree on:

- the importance of guaranteeing the investments that have been made on the basis of EU legislation adopted in 2003 and 2009 and the absolute need for regulatory certainty,
- the contribution of world leading EU biodiesel industry in terms of EU jobs and security of energy supply,
- the need to avoid a rise in the protein deficit in the EU, which would be negatively affected by the reduction of current and planned biodiesel production;

The EBB strongly believes that the draft opinion of MEP Vidal-Quadras (ITRE) is fully consistent with its own conclusions when it comes to the proposed amendments to the Commission proposal. In our views the work of MEPs Vidal-Quadras deserves strong support from those committed to promote EU economic recovery and GHG reduction.

EBB also takes note that Ms Lepage proposes to loosen and delay the reduction of GHG emission from fossil fuels under the FQD deferring measures till 2025, while tightening and anticipating ILUC penalties and GHG reduction measures from biofuels. "*Such mix of proposed additional urgent penalties against biofuels and further delays for alleviating the burden of fossil fuels producers looks as a very self-contradictory strategy for reducing GHG emission in transport*" said today Raffaello Garofalo, EBB Secretary General.

EBB insists once again on the fact that ILUC factors as proposed should not be included in the revised EU law. Scientific consensus does not exist on ILUC and even less on the level of any proposed factor, whose translation in terms of GHG values shows serious shortcomings.

All reports mention the importance of advanced biofuels for which a positive and constructive support is needed. The efforts and investments made by EU industrialists to increase biodiesel production from waste and residues and decrease GHG impact should be acknowledged. "*We cannot continue to tell the public opinion that advanced biofuels will appear overnight: the existing biodiesel and biofuels industry is the largest and most credible investor in advanced biofuels technologies*" continued Mr Garofalo. A certification scheme ensuring that support is really and exclusively given to advanced technologies is also a must.

EU biodiesel producers are committed to ensure Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions savings from the transport sector, expected to represent 40% of CO₂ emissions in Europe in 2050.

However, if approved as such, or worsened by further penalties against biofuels, the present legislative proposal will only serve to discourage green investments in biofuels and undermine much needed industrial and investment predictability as the EU economy strives to find a way out of the economic crisis.