## Newsletter: September 2014

### The bioenergy voice in Europe

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Dear readers,

The winter is coming closer. It is not cold yet, but it will be. We start to consider our heating options at home. But will it also work this year? Are we depending on oil, natural gas, district heating or possibly electricity for direct heating or a heat pump? How will the prices develop? Will Russia turn off the gas deliveries for several weeks or not at all? Will the nuclear reactors run normally?

These are certainly some issues to take into consideration. If things go well and the war in Ukraine stops, it will probably be a normal winter. But what if things don’t go according to the plan? There is always a risk to keep in mind, and we are safe to say that the risk in the energy sector has increased during the last year. To reduce risks, we need to buy insurance. And the best insurance we have is to enhance investments in biomass for heating. There is no doubt that the European bioenergy has a great advantage on the long term and that it provides sustainable energy at a relatively low cost. Bioenergy is the most competitive renewable in the heating sector, and strong in power production especially in combined heat and power.

At every conference I attend, I hear that the volumes of biomass are limited and thus the potential of bioenergy is limited. This is true, but to me, as an agronomist, with a great deal of knowledge in forestry, it’s only true on a philosophical level. It is similar to a question like: How many potatoes are there in the world? Please stop here and consider it! I propose the answer to be: Not more than farmers grow because they expect us to buy. This doesn't mean that the volume of potatoes is globally limited. It is only a matter of demand and supply. Today’s problem is not that biomass volumes are limited, but the lack of demand for decreased carbon emissions in the heating sector and the lack of demand for bioenergy. Sustainable biomass potential is high and bioenergy companies in Europe have solutions to make us independent from fossil heating: a solution that is quick and better both for the climate and for the heat in our homes.

Gustav Melin
AEBIOM President

Sustainable bioenergy backs European economy- High level event

Did you know that you can reduce your heating bill by half using woody biomass?

Did you know that you need only biomass to make beer?...both for the raw material and for the brewing process?

Did you know that biomass will count for more than half of Europe’s 2020 renewable energy objective?

On the 3rd of December 2014 from 10.00-13.00, the European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) is organizing a high-level, high-visibility forum followed by a networking reception entitled “Sustainable biomass backs European Economy.” The event will take place in the Residence Palace, International Press Center, Brussels. This event will bring key stakeholders together to share their views on the growing role of bioenergy in the context of the EU energy security and economic crisis.

Over the past year, AEBIOM and its members have voiced their concerns about how the EU is threatened by its long-standing dependency on fossil fuel imports from unstable regions. In addition to this, the EU still faces a major economic and social crisis. Renewable energy including bioenergy provides the potential to boost markets, create jobs and decrease costs. Thus, biomass counts and you can count on biomass!
Against this background, AEBIOM expects to welcome representatives from European Institutions, EU general media and stakeholders interested in both biomass and EU affairs. The panel discussion and debate will be followed by a networking reception.

Please mark this date on your calendars. The draft agenda and registration details will follow shortly. Attendance to this event is on an invitation-only basis.

The 6th AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2015

The AEBIOM Bioenergy Conference 2015 will be the sixth edition of the growing series. The conference is a key occasion on the bioenergy events calendar since 2010. It has become Europe’s major occasion for discussion and networking amongst important industry leaders and policy makers. Bioenergy is the largest renewable energy source in Europe and we expect around 300 industry representatives to be present at this event which is one of the leading bioenergy conferences in Europe.

The 6th edition will be co-organized with the European Pellet Council (EPC), the European Industry of Pellet Suppliers (EIPS) and the International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC).

Please see HERE the promotional video of the conference. For more information please go on www.aebiom.org/conference.

AEBIOM moves to new offices

On September 26th, 2014, AEBIOM will be leaving the Renewable Energy house. Our new offices address will be: Place du Champ de Mars 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium. This will be well indicated in all e-mail signatures of our staff and on our website.

EU POLICY AND AEBIOM POSITION

Biomass sustainability

On July 28th, the Commission published a report on the “State of play on the sustainability of solid and gaseous biomass used for electricity, heating and cooling in the EU”, accompanied by a scientific report from JRC on the default and input values for GHG emissions of biomass. AEBIOM welcomes the fact that this report, initially due by the end of 2011, was finally published and welcomes the efforts of the Commission to summarize the state of play on the sustainability while clearly recognizing the benefits bioenergy sector for the EU, including its role in decarbonizing the EU economy. However, AEBIOM is of the views that the decision to postpone the decision on a possible EU legislation after 2020 does not bring a stable and predictable regulatory framework to stakeholders involved in this sector. This maintains the climate of uncertainty for investors who need a clear view on regulatory developments beyond 2020 when they make an investment decision today.

Energy security and EU 2030 climate and energy policy

At the next meeting of the European Council (23-24 October 2014), Heads of States and Governments will take a position on the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies set by the Commission in its Communication published in January. The EU renewable energy sector considers that the 27% EU renewable energy target does not reflect the potential of renewable energy sources which are, in combination with energy efficiency sources, the only sustainable way to increase EU energy independency, tackle climate change and strengthen our economy. The European renewable industry is therefore calling EU Policy makers to set a more ambitious target, binding at national level and giving the renewable energy sector the attention that it deserves. This message was recently recalled at the conference “Rescuing Europe from energy dependency: the role of renewables”, organized by AEBIOM in collaboration with 5 other EU renewable energy associations.
Ecodesign and Eco labelling

Lot 15 (solid fuel boilers) and Lot 20 (local space heaters) will be discussed and possibly be submitted to vote at the next Regulatory Committee (RC) that will be held on 13-14 October. It’s been several months that the Commission and Member States are discussing this file. AEBIOM has followed this file very closely in partnership with its members and will continue to do so as it will strongly impact the industry manufacturers and the sector as a whole through increasing manufacturing standards and requirements, with a potential impact on prices. As far as Eco labelling is concerned, no further discussion is envisaged as there seems to be a sufficient support on the Commission’s proposal after discussions a few months ago. These rules would only be adopted after a positive vote on the Ecodesign regulations on solid fuel boilers and local space heaters.

EPC- EUROPEAN PELLET COUNCIL

LATbio Becomes the Newest EPC Member

The European Pellet Council is proud to announce the Latvian Biomass Association (LATbio) as our newest member. We warmly welcome LATbio and its representative Didzis Palejs to the group and look forward to a fruitful collaboration going forward.

LATbio is an AEBIOM member and has been working on the development of the Latvian bioenergy industry since its creation in 2008. LATbio’s main goal is to protect the interests of the Latvian wood energy sector, particularly against the strong fossil fuel lobbies. Latvia is a forested country with 60% of the country covered by forest. There is an annual growth of 20 million m³ of wood, of which only 10 million m³ is used. Pellet production capacity in Latvia is 1.600.000 tonnes, and LATbio’s members account for about half of that. LATbio aims to work to promote the local domestic use of pellets for heating, believing it would be better to promote the local use of wood rather over the current situation of exportation.

With LATbio’s accession, Latvia becomes the 18th country with a member on the European Pellet Council, as EPC continues to grow and strengthen in its representation of the international pellet sector. For further information, we invite you to visit http://www.latbio.lv

ProPellet France takes over as National Licenser in France

Following months of hard work and preparation, Propellet France has commenced operations as a full ENplus National Licenser. An AEBIOM and EPC member since 2010, Propellet will now manage the licensing of the ENplus scheme in France as ENplus continues to expand and progress in its aim to improve the quality of the pellets traded on the European Market and beyond. There are currently 7 certified producers and 2 certified traders in France with further applications pending or expected before the end of the year. 2014 will see around 400.000 tonnes of certified production, accounting for about one third of all French production. Propellet will collaborate with FCBA, which has recently been accepted as an ENplus certification body.

Founded in 2008, Propellet France brings together the stakeholders of the French pellet sector to promote heating with wood pellets by developing a common message, providing communication tools, and offering support for institutional communication. The association and its members are committed to ensuring that the highest standards and certifications for fuel, heating equipment and installation are reached in the French pellet sector. The director of Propellet France is Eric Vial. For further information, we invite you to visit www.propellet.fr
New addition to the AEBIOM team

We are pleased to welcome Catalina-Elena Dumitru to the ENplus team in the role of Administrative Assistant.

EIPS- EUROPEAN INDUSTRY OF PELLET SUPPLIERS

EIPS to participate at the 13th Pellet Industry Forum in Berlin

The EIPS group will participate at the 13th Pellet Industry Forum in Berlin (14-16 October). On Tuesday 14 October afternoon, Ludger Spohr, EIPS Chair, will moderate a panel discussion on “The Interactions between industrial and residential pellet markets: Challenges, opportunities & outlook”.

IBTC- INTERNATIONAL BIOMASS TORREFACATION COUNCIL

New IBTC website

IBTC has launched its new website which includes the latest events, news and increasing members. If you did not get a chance to look at the growing activities of IBTC, please access http://www.biomasstorrefaction.org/.

PROJECTS

BASIS: Mapping bioenergy plants using wood chips all over Europe

After almost a year-and-a-half data collection lead under AEBIOM guidance, the first outcomes of BASIS will be display in November. This project aims at interacting with bioenergy project developers and investors, providing them a comprehensive view on the sustainable supply and the competition for wood used in wood chip boilers. Information on the wood supply potential combined with the existing use of wood chips (for plants above 1 MW using wood chips), as well as sustainability aspects influencing the supply, has been aggregated in an intuitive GIS tool. With a map of bioenergy plants that will contain information on roughly 2500 installations all over Europe, no doubt that Basis will help in the identification of optimal locations for new projects and will contribute to increase wood chips market transparency.

The GIS will be ready in November here: www.basisbioenergy.eu

LogistEC Project: Free Technical Visits and Event on Impact of Energy Crops

The LogistEC project is organizing various activities at the moment. On November 12, 2014, ECN are organizing a technical visit on Advance feedstock treatment and densification, in Pellen, The Netherlands. The tour will focus on the ECN experimental facilities, which include a pilot torrefaction plant and the Torwash lab. If you would like to register write an e-mail to olaru@aebiom.org. More information can be found on the LogistEC website.

Moreover, on December 2, 2014, AEBIOM is organizing a workshop in Brussels on the Impact of Energy Crops. This workshop aims at raising the awareness of major NGOs on lignocellulosic crops and summarizing their expectations, so that their recommendations may be taken into account when implementing these crops. Speakers will include project experts, NGOs and scientists from the LogistEC project and experts on food vs. non-food and indirect land-use change issues. The target participants are NGOs and research institutes. A factsheet will be produced, addressing the best way to take environmental requirements on board, when developing bio-based projects. Further information about LogistEC and this workshop can be found at www.logistecproject.eu.
### EVENTS

#### AEBIOM events

- **IBTC Meeting during the 5th Biomass Pellets Trade & Power, Seoul, 23-27 Sep 2014**
- **Sustainable bioenergy backs the European Economy, Brussels, 03 Dec 2014**
- **6th AEBIOM Bioenergy Conference 2015, Brussels, 04-06 May 2015**
- **International Pellets Conference- Challenges and innovation for the market, VICTAM, Germany, 01 June 2015**

#### Other events

- **Biofuels International Conference 2014, Belgium, 24-25 September 2014**
- **Conference of the European Biogas Association 2014, 30 September-2 October 2014**
- **13th Pellets Industry Forum 2014, Germany, 14-15 October 2014**
- **SGC International Seminar on Gasification 2014, Sweden, 15-16 October 2014**
- **Expobiomasa 2014, Spain, 21-23 October 2014**
- **Biogas 2014, Germany, 22-23 October 2014**
- **European Pellet Conference 2015, Austria, 25-26 February 2015**
- **Conference & Exhibition for S-E Europe on Green Energy & Environment, Bulgaria, 11-13 March 2015**
- **37th European & Power Congress, Estonia, 27-28 April 2015**
- **2nd International Conference on Renewable Energy Gas Technology, Spain, 07-08 May 2015**
- **COGEN Europe Annual Conference & Dinner, Brussels, 19-20 May 2015**
- **FIAAP/VICTAM/GRAPAS International 2015, Germany, 01-11 June 2015**