FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2015

Highlights

Editorial from the AEBIOM President

The AEBIOM President wrote an article entitled "This is the right moment for Governments to take the low price of oil as a window of opportunity to act against fossil carbon emissions". Click HERE.

1st event organized by the Biomass Counts Campaign

On the 16th of March 2015 from 14.00-17.00, AEBIOM is organizing a workshop entitled "Biomass- an economic asset for people and business" dedicated to the positive role of biomass in tackling energy poverty and strengthening EU economic competitiveness. Register Now >>.

EU Policy and AEBIOM Position

Medium Combustion Plant directive proposal- Final vote in mid-April

In 2013 and in the framework of the air quality package, the European Commission proposed a new directive to limit air pollutant emissions (sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter) from combustion installations with a thermal input between 1 and 50 megawatts (MW). In December 2014, the Council agreed on a position and proposed an amended version that will now be revised by the European Parliament ENVI Committee. In February 2015, a draft report from the European Parliament rapporteur (Andrzej Grzyb) was published. The final vote is to take place mid-April 2015. AEBIOM is supporting the overall initiative and has taken a position on this file through an internal technical working group.

Energy Union for a secure, sustainable and competitive Europe

On the 25th February, The European Commission launched its "Framework strategy for a resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy" which goal is to give EU consumers secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. AEBIOM, together with EGEC and ESTIF, regrets the lack of reference on renewables for heating and cooling. A common reaction has been published, expressing the views of the renewable heating and cooling sector and proposing additional action points.

EU Energy Security Strategy- a work in progress

In response to concerns surrounding the delivery of Russian gas via Ukraine, the EU launched its EU energy security strategy in 2014. It lays out measures such as increasing energy efficiency as well as...
indigenous energy production or completing missing infrastructure links to redirect energy to where it is needed during a crisis. The European Parliament is now working on elaborating its position on energy security through an initiative report which is to be voted in May. According to AEBIOM, the role of renewable energy sources (in particular within the heat sector) should be better endorsed in this report and has worked in that direction.

The Role of Renewable Heating and Cooling Sector in the EU Energy Transition

In order to achieve the EU's climate and energy goals by 2020, 2030 and 2050, the European Commission is willing to look into the potential of the heating and cooling sector that should become highly energy efficient and largely based on local, sustainable energy sources. On 26th-27th February 2015 a conference took place in Brussels which discussed the ways in which the heating and cooling sector can take part in the EU's energy transition. In his opening speech, Commissioner Cañete confirmed that the Commission will prepare a European heat strategy in the coming months. AEBIOM welcomes these initiatives and represented the renewable heating and cooling sector at the opening of the conference. The common messages of the renewable energy sector delivered during the opening of the Commission conference are available HERE. In addition, AEBIOM organized a side event on renewable heating on 25th February with its partners EGEc and ESTIF.

EPC- European Pellet Council

EPC/proPellets Austria sponsor the EUFores Inter-Parliamentary Meeting in Vienna on 13-14 March

EUFores is a European cross-party network of Members of the European Parliament as well as of the EU28 national and regional Parliaments of which core objective is the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The inter-parliamentary meeting will take place in Vienna, where EPC, proPellets and AEBIOM (member of EUFores) will promote pellets towards policy makers. A pellet factsheet will be prepared for this event and will be available HERE.

ENplus recognized by the US Environmental Protection Agency

ENplus is a quality certification program for wood pellets in the heating market. AEBIOM is the owner of the license rights of the ENplus system and EPC, as a part of AEBIOM, is responsible for the management of the certification system. At the beginning of February 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published on its website a final notice regarding the Standards of Performance for New Residential Wood Heaters. This document states that ENplus is officially recognized as a quality assurance programme for pellet fuel in the U.S. More information HERE.

LatBio and CZPC accepted as National Supporting Associations
AEBIOM can allow associations, accepted as ENplus National Licensers, to grant the ENplus license to certify companies in their country. ENplus National Supporting Association represents a transition process before becoming a National Licenser. EPC has recently voted and made a decision about the acceptance of the 2 following ENplus National Supporting Associations: Latvian Bioenergy Association (represented by Didzis Palejs) and the Czech Pellet Cluster (represented by Vladimir Stupavsky).

**Revision of scheme for ENplus certified pellets in progress**

The ENplus certification programme is covered in the “Handbook for the certification of wood pellets for heating purposes”. EPC is currently in the process of updating the ENplus scheme, in consultation with the stakeholders and experts in the field, which is leading to the publication of the ENplus handbook 3.0. The process started in November 2014 and the new ENplus Handbook 3.0 is scheduled for July 2015. (gauthier@pelletcouncil.eu)

**EIPS- European Industry of Pellet Suppliers**

**How to maintain the pellet quality along the supply chain?**

EIPS is a platform of European companies focused on the wood pellet business. EIPS will organize a debate on how to maintain the pellet quality along the supply chain in parallel to the Argus conference on 14th April 2015 from 16.30 to 18.30 pm. This debate, intended for EIPS members only, will be led by two pellet experts: Martin Englisch (BEA) and Richard J Farnish (Wolfson Centre). If you wish to become an EIPS member and benefit from such services please contact: gauthier@aebiom.org.

**IBTC- International Biomass Torrefaction Council**

**IBTC visibility during the World Biomass Power Markets**

World Biomass Power Markets, one of the World’s Premier Biomass for Power events focused in its 2015 on the technical and strategic developments for optimizing the potential of biomass power. Updates on political development, the overall topic of sustainability and the discussion of results and experiences from applications as well as potential ways forward where the key topics of the event.

In this framework, the IBTC President Michael Wild has provided an update on the status of torrefaction and discussed the numerous cost advantages which can be caused by the uptake of torrefied biomass in power production.

**Workshop: Thermally Treated Biomass- a highly promising route to the large-scale implementation of bioenergy**

IBTC, in collaboration with the RHC-Platform and the European Biofuels Technology Platform, will be holding a joint workshop on torrefaction on 04th May in Brussels prior to the opening
of the AEBIOM Annual Bioenergy Conference. Registration to the workshop is available HERE.

Projects

How to use biomass resources efficiently, while avoiding sustainability risks and competition?

The AEBIOM Biomass Policies project which deals with the development of integrated policies for the mobilisation of “resource efficient” indigenous bioenergy ‘value chains’ in order to contribute to achieving the 2020 bioenergy targets, has published three briefings summarizing the first project outcomes. These findings will be further discussed in the Biomass Policies workshop taking place on 5th May, 2015 in Brussels after the AEBIOM Annual Bioenergy Conference. The participation is free of charge. To register click HERE.

Harmonising calculations of GHG emissions Workshop

The BioGrace-II project seeks to harmonise calculations of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for electricity, heating and cooling from biomass. The project will contribute to EU policies and priorities by facilitating the formulation of sustainability criteria for solid and gaseous biomass. AEBIOM is organizing the 3rd BioGrace-II Public Workshop which is taking place in Brussels on 4th March, 2015. The participation is free of charge. The detailed agenda is available and registration is HERE.

Integration of energy crops in agriculture-Workshop

The LogistEC project aims to develop new or improved technologies of the biomass logistics chains. Its last workshop in Brussels on the 30th of March will evaluate under which conditions energy crops would be integrated in agriculture, with proposals to policy makers, at regional, national and European level. The participation is free of charge. See Programme and Register Now >>

ABOUT AEBIOM

The European Biomass Association is the common voice of the European bioenergy sector with the aim to develop the market for sustainable bioenergy and ensure favorable business conditions for its members.

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