Wood pellets: a booming sector!

Pellet production in Europe and North America started when the oil crisis occurred in 1973 and 1979. Today, wood pellets are seriously considered by large energy market players. In 2010, just 1 million tonnes of pellets were traded in the European Union compared to 19 million tonnes by the end of 2012! Worldwide, there are now 760 pellet production plants with a total capacity of 42 million tonnes. Europe is consuming around 80% of the pellets produced worldwide. It is possible to identify three different market orientations: power-oriented market, heating-oriented market and mixed-oriented market. Countries such as the UK and The Netherlands clearly have power-oriented markets, which are mainly based on imports. The main flow is coming from North America (USA and Canada). However, there are also other countries growing as exporters, including Russia, Brazil and Australia.

Countries such as Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Finland and Norway have a heating-oriented market. Germany, Austria and France currently have sufficient domestic production to cover their consumption requirements. This is not the case for Italy, which relies mostly on imported pellets. Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and Poland have a mixed-oriented market with consumption being shared between power and heating.

The wood pellets heating sector is growing rapidly in the EU with an increase of one million tonnes of pellets being consumed every year since 2011. Today, the heating market represents around eight million tonnes of the 19 million tonnes consumed in the EU.

With this fast-growing market, there is a need to guarantee the quality of wood pellets. This is one of the reasons why the ENplus certification, introduced by Germany in 2010, is becoming very successful. Today, more than four million tonnes of pellets are ENplus certified, which represent around 50% of the EU heating market.

The European Pellet Council (EPC) and the European Industrial Pellet Suppliers (EIPS), both founded by the European Biomass Association (AEBIOM), will publish a statistical report on pellets by the end of November, which will be available free of charge on the AEBIOM website: www.aebiom.org

1. IEA Bioenergy, Task 40, Large Industrial users of Energy Biomass
2. Arqus

SAVE THE DATE
AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2014
Renaissance Brussels Hotel
12-14 May 2014

The AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2014 is the fifth edition of the growing series. The annual conference has grown ever since its first edition in 2010 and has quickly become Europe’s best occasion for discussion and networking amongst important industry leaders and policy makers. The conference returns with the same relevant programme, networking activities, such as cocktail and buffet dinner at the Brewers’ House, B2B meetings and organized visits.

The conference will bring together 300 valued participants amongst which: Bioenergy producers (electricity, heat and advanced biofuels), Biomass suppliers (pellets/chips producers, traders), National policy decision makers, EU institutions, Financial institutions, Project developers, Trade associations and consultants, Research stakeholder and NGOs.

Benefit from a 10% discount by Early Bird Registration before 17 March 2014.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.aebiom.org/conference
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GENERAL INFORMATION
- Date: 12-14 May 2014
- Location: Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Belgium

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSION AT THE EVENT:
- Sustainability: EU and national legislation, implementation, impact for companies and business
- Pellets: Industrial/domestic market trends, quality issues
- Terrefactio: Technology and market developments

REASONS TO ATTEND
- Be part of an interactive networking platform for bioenergy market actors and policy makers
- Get an update on current and coming EU legislative matters
- Get an overview of future market opportunities for bioelectricity, bioheat, pellets
- Discuss biomass feedstock supply and their sustainability
- Experience some industrial bioenergy examples in and outside of Belgium
- Attend matchmaking meetings