“2013 European Bioenergy Outlook”
AEBIOM REPORT

The European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) has just published the 5th edition of its annual statistical report.

Need for good data
The complexity of the bioenergy sector makes it difficult to have a clear overview about the situation of the sector and future potential. A wide variety of biomass raw materials and conversion technologies, final energy use, European legislation affecting the RES sector, competition of raw material and the development of related sectors are a few examples of the complexity of the bioenergy sector.

The information related to all these issues is scattered around different sources and sometimes the figures are not even consistent. This is why AEBIOM publishes this collection of data on biomass in order to contribute to a better understanding and further successful development of the sector in Europe.

Pellets section
Besides the general overview of RES and bioenergy situation in Europe, the report consists of two main parts. The first part provides basic information about the biomass resources originated from forest, agricultural and waste streams. The second part is structured according to its end use: electricity, heat and transport.

One more special chapter, more extensive than in previous editions is dedicated to the pellet sector. These pellets statistics have been collected by the European Pellet Council (EPC) and the European Industry of Pellet Suppliers (EIPS), both founded by AEBIOM.

Note. The report is available free of charge on www.aebiom.org For inquiries contact Cristina Calderon calderon@aebiom.org

Update on Eco-design requirements for lots 15 and 20
The EU Ecodesign Policy aims at reducing the environmental impact of products, including the energy consumption throughout their entire life cycle. It consists in mandatory requirements for selling a product on the market. Boilers and local space heaters are subject to this policy in lots 15 and 20.

Too strict proposal
In September, the Commission proposed a draft Regulation for each lot for Member States to vote on. According to AEBIOM (European Biomass Association), EPC (European Pellet Council) and other EU based organizations, the proposed levels of requirements were far too strict and could seriously undermine bioenergy developments.

These concerns were taken into account by several Member States and the vote was postponed in order to leave more time for consultation with experts before making a final decision.

Joint statement on cascade use of wood
On September 25th, AEBIOM, EIPS, CEPP, COPA-COGECA, ELO and EUSTAFOR issued a joint statement on the cascade principle. According to this principle, wood should be used in the following order of priority: wood-based products, re-use, recycling, biomass and disposal. In this statement, the concerns originated that they fully support resource efficiency.

However, in their view, the cascade use principle should not be made legally binding, as there is no economic or practical justification that such provisions will promote the competitive and sustainable use or supply of wood.

Instead, more efforts should be made to increase wood mobilization in Europe. This question was discussed during a workshop on the efficiency of use of biomass resource organized on November 26th in Brussels under the IEE project “Biomass Policies” which gathered EU policy makers, scientists, NGOs, as well as representatives from the paper, wood-based panels and bioenergy sectors.

www.biomasspolicies.eu Fanny-Pomme Langue Policy Director fanny.langue@aebiom.org
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BTEC continues effort to pass 2013 BTU Act

The BTU Act of 2013 seeks to recognize biomass thermal energy as clean, renewable, and viable source energy. Biomass thermal energy currently does not qualify for investment tax credits for capital costs incurred in residential and commercial installations; this legislation systems by including biomass thermal energy in the investment tax credit portfolio. In November, “Dear Colleague” letters were circulated by the Bill’s co-sponsors to other Members of Congress encouraging their support and sponsorship of the BTU Act of 2013.

(D-ME) and Collins (R-ME) in the Senate and Representative Michaud (D-ME) in the House, and call for Members of Congress to formally support the bill.

BTEC and the Pellet Fuels Institute (PFI) jointly called on their members to contact their Members of Congress to continue to debate tax reform and energy policy, especially as the Producer

These continued efforts on behalf of BTEC members and the bioenergy industry have increased exposure, awareness, and growth of the biomass thermal energy sector. Leading into 2014, Congress will continue to debate tax reform and energy policy.