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In this newsletter, we have a pleasure to inform you on the following topics:

- On 30 June and 1 July 2010, AEBIOM has successfully organized the European Bioenergy Conference in Brussels with more than 300 participants.
- On 1 July, ten national pellets association joined AEBIOM and created (within AEBIOM) the European Pellets Council (EPC) that will be responsible for the implementation of the ENplus pellets standard in Europe and will coordinate the lobbying activities and a better market introduction of pellets in Europe.
- In June 2010 the European Biogas Association (EBA) joined AEBIOM and this will ensure a closely coordinated lobbying work between EBA and AEBIOM on biogas related issues at European level.
- Other important companies joined AEBIOM in the last months, which make us a stronger common voice of the European bioenergy industry, as formulated in a new mission statement of AEBIOM.

The member states were supposed to submit their national Renewable Energy Actions Plans (nREAPs) by the end of June 2010 to the European Commission. Only eleven nREAPs were submitted in national languages by 19 July. Therefore, a complete analysis of these plans can only be presented in the next Newsletters.

Discussions about sustainability, land use and land use change and forestry (LULUCF) and carbon neutrality of biomass are becoming more and more intensive in Brussels as it is recognized that the European Union can only achieve its 20% RES target on if bioenergy is growing rapidly. Therefore, AEBIOM is planning a workshop to present a clear position on these important land issues.

AEBIOM also contributed to an important publication prepared by EREC "Rethinking energy" – this publication shows the way to a 100% renewable energy supply by 2050. Europe needs ambitious targets and therefore AEBIOM strongly supports the recent British-French-German initiative to go for a 30% CO₂ reduction target in Europe by 2020. Renewables are becoming the Mega-trend and bioenergy will be an important part of this trend.

AEBIOM NEWS

► European Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition 2010

AEBIOM organized the first AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference in Brussels on 30 June -1 July 2010. More than 300 participants attended the event to get the most updated information on current political, economic and technological developments in the bioenergy sector. In 8 parallel sessions the following topics were discussed: Biomass supply, Sustainability and certification, Financing bioenergy, Bioenergy and climate change, Biogas, Electricity and district heating, Biorefineries and 2nd generation biofuels and small scale heat. Excellent speakers from all over Europe informed the audience about the state of the art on these subjects. The conference presentations are available online: www.renexpo-bioenergy.eu but restricted to conference participants. If you did not attend the conference and wish to purchase the access to these presentations, please contact us at conference@aebiom.org.

Simultaneously with the Conference, REECO has organized an interesting exhibition. In addition, four bioenergy workshops were organized by different European projects.

In the opening sessions speakers from the European Commission underlined the great importance of bio-energy in achieving the political targets and informed about various programs to support bioenergy. It became clear that agriculture will have to contribute a much bigger share to the energy supply in the future than it did in the past.

By the end of June, only a few national action plans have been submitted to the Commission, the analysis of these plans and their expected impact on the bio-energy industry will be a major task in the next months.

In the field of biomass supply some new developments were presented: the take-off of energy crops in some regions, torrefaction as a new technology to increase the energy content of solid biomass per unit and make it easier to blend biomass with coal, the growing production of pellets but also the increasing importance of

biogas in some European countries. The sustainable production of solid biomass and its certification will remain a main issue in the months ahead. The Commission will prepare a new report on sustainability by the end of 2011; it seems like that especially bigger users of biomass are in favor of a mandatory certification system for solid biomass. Interesting presentations on second generation fuels made clear that the breakthrough of these technologies depends among others from a stable political and economic support. On the other hand, district heat and CHP is developing in countries with adequate framework conditions. Small scale heat from biomass based on chips or pellets is growing rapidly in a few countries like Italy, also driven by new technological improvements and in the future by new incentives as in the UK. Altogether the Conference offered an excellent overview over the state of art of bioenergy in Europe except biofuels for the first generation, which are covered in many other conferences.

Further information on our conference and exhibition: www.renexpo-bioenergy.eu

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► **New AEBIOM members**

Quite a few companies/associations/platforms have recently joined AEBIOM as associate members. AEBIOM warmly welcomes:

- **Polytechnik GmbH, AT** - Polytechnik provides air and heating technology plants and is well known for planning and delivery of turn-key plants. www.polytechnik.com
- **Pure Energy Professionals Ltd, UK** - PEP offers advisory services and consultancy for renewable energy projects – from technology to financing, risk assessment and more. www.peprenewables.com
- **European BioEnergy Services – EBES, AT** - EBES supplies various solid biomass all over the world and is experienced in both water and land transportation. www.ebes.at
- **Intrinergy Operating LP, USA** - Intrinergy operates pellets as well as CHP plants in the US and is one of the largest industrial and residential pellets producers/suppliers in Europe, www.intrinergy.com
- **Norton Rose LLP, UK** - This large law firm has an extensive experience with large renewable energy projects – including biomass. <http://nortonrose.com>
- **Thermya S.A., FR** - THERMYA is an engineering company dedicated to design, develop and build plants to produce Carbon and energy from “distillation” of organic solids. THERMYA offers innovative and environmentally-friendly alternatives for the recovery or recycling of wood, viscose, bagasse, chicken litter, etc. www.thermya.com
- **European Biogas Association, EU** - EBA is a non-profit organisation aiming to promote sustainable biogas production and use in Europe. It brings together 26 national biogas associations, institutes and companies from all across Europe. www.european-biogas.eu
- **European Pellet Council, EU** - Pellet associations from Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland have joined AEBIOM in order to form (together with existing members) the European Pellets Council – see dedicated article in this newsletter for details.

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► **Establishment of the European Pellets Council in Brussels**

The wood pellets – dried and densified sawmill residues are one of the fastest growing forms of upgraded biomass in Europe and worldwide. They can be used for both residential and commercial heating and for power production. Global markets are exceeding 12 million tons of annual production in 2010 and could grow up to over 100 million tons by 2020. Europe is currently the largest market for pellets.

Due to significantly increasing role of pellets as a source of renewable energy, national pellet associations from Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland have decided to establish a common European platform – the European Pellet Council (EPC) which is going to be organized within the framework of AEBIOM.

The constitutional meeting of the European Pellet Council took place on 1 July during the AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference in Brussels. Christian Rakos from proPellet Austria was unanimously elected as a first president of EPC and announced the following: „Pellets offer great opportunities for expanding the use of renewable energy in Europe. Pelletization is amongst the most economic and energy efficient ways to convert biomass into a fuel with high energy density and consistent quality. Europe is a global in terms of market size

and in terms of technologies. This means, that increasing pellet use is not only beneficial for the environment but also for the economy. Few people know that heating with pellets currently costs only half as much as heating with oil".

The European Pellet Council has the following main objectives:

- To communicate significant contributions that the European pellet sector can make to increase the use of renewable energy in Europe and to discuss with European policy makers on how policies could be improved to facilitate a rapid market development.
- The European Pellet Council will also form a platform for the pellet sector to discuss the issues that need to be managed in the transition from a niche product to a major energy commodity. These issues include standardisation and certification of pellet quality, safety, security of supply, education and training, and the quality of the pellet devices.

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▶ **Austrian renewable energy plan—let's withdraw from promoting RES!**

Austria is one of the 10 Member States that has submitted their national Renewable Energy Action Plan (nREAP). The result, however, is disappointing for the renewable energy industry. Austria has already reached a share of 31% RES in 2010 due to the rapid development of RES over the last years and due to the new methods of counting the RES which helped to increase the actual number from 25 to 31% within 5 years. However, the Austria's RES target for 2020 is only 34%. This is not by any means an ambitious target for Austria. Within the nREAP, Austria proposes to stabilize the energy consumption at the level of 2008 and decided to use only a small part of the RES potential to reach the 34% target (and not more) by foreseeing a few additional hydropower stations and windmills. According to the submitted plan, bioenergy, solar thermal and photovoltaics energy will barely grow anymore.

On the other hand, the Austrian Minister of Environment is now worried that the nREAP will not be sufficient to meet Austria's GHG emission reduction commitment and the associations for renewable energy published their own nREAP, showing that Austria could reach 50% RES by 2020.

The development of the next years will demonstrate who is right: the modest figures of the government plan or the ambitious targets of the renewable community. In any case, such a backwards development should not be ignored by the European Commission. Otherwise such plans in some countries will be by no means a guideline for the RES industry but deliver arguments to slow down the possible dynamic development of RES and favor fossil fuels instead.

[Read the Austrian nREAP](#)

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▶ **European Platform on RES heating-cooling—100% RES heat by 2050!**

The biomass panel of the RHC-Platform (European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling) has presented its vision for "Biomass for heating and cooling" during the AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference on 30 June. The document addresses crucial issues of the most important renewable energy today (heating from biomass covers around 50% of all renewable energy in Europe!) and gives an outlook on future development and research priorities.

Kari Mutka, a chairman of the biomass panel says: "Even if biomass for heat application is fully commercial, we still need to continue more than ever to improve our efforts towards more efficient and environmentally sound technologies. That is the aim of this Vision. Together with industry and R&D community stakeholders we would like to pave the way to our future heat supply for 2020 and beyond. More concretely in the short term we would like to establish guidelines for the future European support to R&D. We are now living in a crucial period for biomass to heat development and we should not miss this opportunity offered by the Biomass Panel of this new European Technology Platform".

Download the brochure [here](#) and visit www.rhc-platform.org to join this initiative free of charge.

[Access the Platform website](#)

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EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

▶ **The EU Commission set the rules for biofuels sustainability**

The European Commission, on 10 June, has published a package of documents (2 communications and a decision) encouraging industry, governments and NGOs to set up certification schemes for all types of biofuels, including those imported into the EU. The rules for certification schemes laid down in this publication

are part of RES directive's guidelines. This package will help businesses and Member States to implement the Renewable Energy Directive, according to which, only biofuels that meet the EU's sustainability requirements can count towards the renewable energy targets.

- **Sustainable Biofuel Certificates:** The Commission encourages industry, governments and NGOs to set up "voluntary schemes" to certify biofuel sustainability – and explains that the standards must be met to gain EU recognition. One of the main criteria is that they have independent auditors which check the whole production chain, from the farmer and the mill, via the trader, to the fuel supplier who delivers petrol or diesel to the filling station. The Communication sets standards requiring this auditing to be reliable and fraud-resistant.
- **Protecting untouched nature:** The Communication explains that biofuels should not be made from raw materials from tropical forests or recently deforested areas, drained peatland, wetland or highly biodiverse areas – and how this should be assessed. It makes it clear that the conversion of a forest to a palm oil plantation would fall foul of the sustainability requirements.
- **Promote only biofuels with high greenhouse gas savings:** The Communication reiterates that Member States have to meet binding, national targets for renewable energy and that only those biofuels with high greenhouse gas savings count for the national targets, explaining also how this is calculated. Biofuels must deliver greenhouse gas savings of at least 35% compared to fossil fuels, rising to 50% in 2017 and to 60%, for biofuels from new plants, in 2018.

[Read the package](#)

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► **The LULUCF – what is coming up?**

The European Commission has organized an informal working group on LULUCF (Land use, land use change and Forestry). The LULUCF term was first brought up by [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) and is all about storing/saving carbon within the forestry sector and via 'improved' land use activities. According to UNFCCC: "activities in the LULUCF sector can provide a relatively cost-effective way of offsetting emissions, either by increasing the removals of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere (e.g. by planting trees or managing forests), or by reducing emissions (e.g. by curbing deforestation). However, there are drawbacks as it may often be difficult to estimate greenhouse gas removals and emissions resulting from activities of LULUCF. In addition, greenhouse gases may be unintentionally released into the atmosphere if a sink is damaged or destroyed through a forest fire or disease."

The European Commission intends to include the LULUCF within the European legislation. The public consultation will be launched by the end of July.

During the last informal European Commission's meeting in mid July, different options were considered on how to include the LULUCF into the GHG reduction legislation. It was considered whether it would be better to include the LULUCF within Efforts Sharing Decision (ESD), Emissions Trading Scheme or come up with a new legislative framework. Due to so many uncertainties, none of these options seemed appropriate enough.

Furthermore, the main question whether the LULUCF would work and contribute to emissions reductions, remains unanswered as there is not enough scientific evidence on this topic. The LULUCF can be included internationally, at EU or at EU Member state level but if it is not possible to monitor and count the impact of it (due to the different methodologies and un-predictive side of nature, the inaccuracies can vary from 30 to 40% and in some cases the uncertainty for a change in carbon sink can be even up to 92 percent %), it should not be ignored and more importantly, the incentives/obligations could not be build on such inaccuracies.

If we take into account the substitution principle (if we do harvest the forest, we save carbon by not using fossil fuels or other materials), the proposed practices such as prolonged tree life by 10-20 years and reduction of the harvest would not result in a proper gain as the forest after some time saturate or starts to decompose and emit the carbon back to the air while the fossil fuels carry on emitting the GHG emissions. Furthermore, Nordic countries argue that by properly/sustainably managing our forests, we can harvest the forest and still increase the carbon stock in the forest. Therefore, such practices would be counterproductive.

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► **The EC aims to strengthen bio-waste sector but does not consider a new legislation necessary**

The European Commission, on 18 May, published a communication which lays down the steps to improve the management of bio-waste in the EU. Contrary to the European Parliament wishes to come up with a new bio-waste legislation. the Commission does not consider that there are gaps within the EU legislation on this issue

and thinks that instead of a new legislation, the existing one should be strengthened and a clear guidance to member states ensured.

The biowaste accounts for 88 million tons of municipal waste each year and has major potential impacts on the environment and provides a potential as a renewable source of energy and recycled materials. The Communication promotes actions to unlock this potential by making the best use of existing legislation while giving Member States discretion to choose the options best suited to their individual circumstances. Supporting initiatives at EU level will also be necessary.

The most promising approaches within this communication include the prevention of bio-waste and biological treatment with the production of compost and biogas. If biological treatment of waste was maximized, the most visible and significant benefit would be avoided greenhouse gas emissions – estimated at around 10 million tons of CO₂ equivalent in 2020.

About one-third of the EU's 2020 target for renewable energy in transport could be met by using biogas produced from bio-waste, while around 2% of the EU's overall renewable energy target could be met if all bio-waste was turned into energy.

Good quality compost and digestate from anaerobic digestion would improve resource-efficiency by partially replacing non-renewable mineral fertilizers as well as by maintaining the quality of EU soils.

Full implementation of existing policies supported by improved bio-waste management should deliver environmental and economic benefits estimated at between €1.5 and €7 billion, depending on the ambition of recycling and prevention policies.

Priority actions include rigorous enforcement of the targets on diverting bio-waste away from landfills, proper application of the waste hierarchy and other provisions of the Waste Framework Directive to introduce separate collection systems as a matter of priority.

Supporting initiatives at EU level – such as developing standards for compost – will be crucial to accelerate progress and ensure a level playing field across the EU. This will involve specific guidance and indicators for bio-waste prevention with possible future binding targets, as well as compost standards and guidelines on the application of life cycle thinking and assessment in the waste sector.

[Read the communication](#)

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► **The RES within the UK renewable energy action plan – “there is no evidence it happening”**

The UK Renewable Energy Association REA has published a press release on 2 July straight after the UK government has submitted the national renewable energy action plan (nREAP). According to Gaynor Hartnell quoted in this press release: “We have heard that this government intends to be the greenest ever and we certainly welcome that sentiment, but there is a limit to how long the industry can hold its breath. The Government needs to prioritise renewables policy and there is no evidence this is happening. There are still many questions hanging in the air – can new power projects move ahead in confidence that their revenue streams won't be undermined by a move to feed in tariffs? Can businesses start planning for the introduction of a renewable heat policy next April? Will new homes have to be zero carbon by 2016? The industry needs to know, and soon. This document could have set out commitments, but it simply lists those areas where key decisions are still to be made”.

The UK's target of 15% RES by 2020 is rather ambitious compared to 1,5% RES in 2005 and around 3% of RES used in 2009. Such an ambitious target requires a real push for all types of RES, however, as it appears from the REA's press release “there is no evidence it is happening”.

[Read the press release](#)

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AEBIOM POSITION ON EU ENERGY POLICY

► **EREC common position on Energy Strategy**

The European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) has provided an input to the public consultation on “Towards a new Energy Strategy for Europe 2011-2020”. Within this paper, EREC recognizes that there are a number of initiatives at EU level promoting renewable energy, however, points out that the funding for the renewables is largely insufficient as in European Economic Recovery Plan. Furthermore, EREC addresses other RES related issues such as the lack of political measures for RES heating and cooling, a lack of policy support for district heating and cooling and combined heat and power. Amongst others, EREC also advocates a rapid launch of the European bioenergy initiative within the SET plan

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PUBLICATIONS

► Renewable Energy snapshots

The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission has released a publication entitled "Renewable Energy Snapshots". The aim of the Renewable Energy Snapshots is to monitor how the development of renewable electricity generation is developing and whether the 2020 targets can be reached.

Regarding the electricity from biomass, the paper forecast that "if the current growth of electricity generation from biomass continues, bioelectricity generation could be around 200 TWh in 2020 up from 108 TWh in 20083. However, the authors point out that an uncertainty in this estimation is clearly the competitive use of biomass for other energy uses like heat and transport fuels. To what effect this will change the development of bioelectricity is not yet clear. Bioelectricity generation, especially via biogas or CHP has the big advantage that biomass is storable and the electricity can be generated on demand. This variable dispatchability is extremely important for a renewable energy supply and increases the value significantly".

Regarding the biomass for heat, AEBIOM thinks that this sector was overlooked. The authors count the bioheat from DH and CHP, but forget to count the biomass for heating in households and industry.

[Read the publication](#)

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EU PROJECTS

► Agriforenergy – national reports on biogas, heat and PVO online

Agriforenergy project supported by the IEE programme and launched in July 2009 focuses on fostering bioenergy business possibilities for farmers and forest owners to produce three types of bioenergy: pure vegetable oil, biogas and biomethane and biomass heating. The project partners have recently published national reports on the state of biogas, heat and PVO sectors in project partner countries (Italy, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Finland and Sweden). These reports are available on new Agriforenergy website www.agriforenergy.com in national languages as well as in English (most of them). Furthermore, three international reports on heat, PVO and biogas were published in English. These reports provide an overview of the aforementioned sectors in project partner countries.

As a next step, the project partners will organize workshops, study tours and face to face meetings in order to gain farmers/forest owners confidence in these markets and foster their cooperation to invest into setting up a biomass plant. The targeted regions of this project are: Styria (Austria), Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lombardia, Toscana (Italy), south east and east part of Slovenia, Lower Saxony (Germany), north Bulgaria, south east Sweden and central and western Finland. Furthermore, the project partners will help the interested parties to establish a business plan and gather together supply and demand side players of the potential biomass project. Project aims at 50 wood energy plants installed, 13 pure vegetable oil plants set up (3000 t oil/year used for transport purposes) and 11 biogas plants built (1.1 – 5.5 MWe installed) and 2-3 million m³ of biomethane used in the filling stations. This would represent about 30 000 CO₂ saved. In order to make this project a long lasting initiative, 25 regional bioenergy coordinators will be trained so that they could centralize all relevant information and provide a free information service to bioenergy market actors and potential end users on bioenergy opportunities. Regional bioenergy coordinators will act and as facilitators and catalysts for the investments in the bioenergy sector. Further information on project deliverables and future events is available on project website.

[Project website](#)

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► Qualicert deliverable on existing certification schemes

The Qualicert project that aims to develop a common approach to accreditation and certification of installers of small-scale RE systems for five EU Members States has published a report on certification schemes. This report gives an overview on those countries where an accreditation/certification scheme does not exist yet, at the same time showing the main characteristics of those schemes that are already in place.

[Project website](#)

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EVENTS

▶ **AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference – presentations available!**

The presentations of the European Bioenergy Conference that was organized by AEBIOM and took place on 30 June -1 July are available online on: <http://www.renexpo-bioenergy.eu/index.php?id=conference>. The presentations cover all 8 parallel sessions: Biomass supply, Sustainability and certification, Financing bioenergy, Bioenergy and climate change, Biogas, Electricity and district heating, Biorefineries and 2nd generation biofuels and small scale heat. AEBIOM would like to thank all the participants for making this conference a success. If you have any further questions regarding this conference, please don't hesitate to contact us at conference@aebiom.org.

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▶ **BBE conference on wood energy, Augsburg, Germany, 24-25 September**

The BBE conference on Wood Energy has successfully established itself as the leading event on the wood energy market in Germany and is considered to be a trend-setting in the European development. This year's two-day conference will focus on the German amended renewable energy law, how it is going to affect the wood energy markets and what are the possible improvements to further boost the wood market. The conference will also discuss how the EU policies and decisions affect the wood to energy market and analyse what kind of opportunities for the bioenergy from wood as well as the barriers the EU legislation will provide. The conference will also give an overview on the latest innovations and development on the heat and electricity technologies using biomass, will show the opportunities of the wood sector in the rural areas and will provide an update on the competition between different wood uses.

[Read the programme](#)

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▶ **Forest Bioenergy 2010 in Tampere, Finland on 31 August – 4 September**

The 5th International Bioenergy 2010 Conference will take place in Jyväskylä, Finland on 31st August - 4th September 2010. The Conference will focus on:

- Analysis of national Renewable Energy Action plans
- EU forest energy resources
- Financial aspects of bioenergy plants
- New developments in bioenergy sector
- And many others such as raw materials, biomass fuels standards, biomass supply chain etc.

The Study Tours will be organised to show the modern biomass-based power, heating and CHP plants and technologies from farm scale up to the world's largest construction. Practical fuel procurement systems, energy technologies, logistics, know-how and experiences, international training possibilities, combustion and harvesting systems and R&D results will be presented.

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▶ **A Belgian EU presidency conference on Sustainable Biomass for Europe on 29-30 November**

A Belgian EU presidency is organising a conference entitled "Sustainable Biomass for European Energy". It will take place in the Committee of the Regions in Brussels on 29-30 November. The conference will focus on issues surrounding the achievement of the 2020 national targets for renewable energy in the final energy consumption and will provide an opportunity to meet the key EU players of the sustainable energy sector, including policy makers, public officials, environment experts and other stakeholders.

The event will try to answer to the following questions:

- Is there enough biomass to realise the 2020 target for renewable energy?
- How can the local production of biomass be increased and is imported biomass an issue?
- How to use biomass in the most optimal way - heat, electricity or biofuels? Are second generation biofuels the answer for transport, or should we focus on electric vehicles?
- Should sustainability criteria for stationary bioenergy be enforced through regulation? Is there a need for a European framework?

The second day of the conference, there will be an excursion organised to innovative biomass facilities in Flanders and Wallonia. The programme with further details will be announced by the end of August 2010.

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▶ **International Bioenergy Conference in Valladolid on 27-29 October**

The fifth international bioenergy conference and fair will be held in Valladolid on 16-18 October 2008. This conference is one of the most important bioenergy events at international level. The success of the previous editions has made Expobioenergía a unique meeting place for bioenergy industry and a point of reference at international level.

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► **Central European Biomass Conference in Graz on 26-29 January 2011**

After the 2nd successful Central European Biomass Conference in 2008 in Graz that attracted more than 1,000 participants from 50 countries worldwide, the Austrian Biomass Association together with the Klima and Energiefonds, the Styrian Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry, BIOENERGY 2020+ GmbH and in cooperation with the Messe Graz are pleased to announce the 3rd Central European Biomass Conference that will be held on 26 - 29 January 2011 in Graz, Austria.

The conference aims at providing an up-to-date overview on the latest political, economic and technological developments, covering the entire range of bioenergy related issues: resource availability, raw material supply, conversion technologies (heating, cooling, electricity and transportation fuels), integration in the energy system, industrial applications, financing of bioenergy projects, environmental impacts and market development as well as needs for political action.

Abstracts to be submitted by 4 June 2010 are expected to cover the following topics:

- Strategies, legislation, interrelation between agricultural, energy and environmental policy
- Financing instruments and support schemes
- Biomass potentials (agriculture and forestry, by-products, waste), markets and market research
- Biomass mobilisation and production pre-treatment – organisation, technology, costs and quality standards (monitoring and quality assessment)
- Heat, cooling, electricity and transportation fuel from biomass and biogas / R&D, technological innovations, organisation models, costs and quality standards
- Bioenergy for industry and energy utilities
- Information, communication, dissemination

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