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### Highlights

04/2009 European Parliament signs the RES directive

04/2009 European Parliament votes on the amendments of the Buildings directive

15/04/2009 AEBIOM organises a kick-off meeting of European Technology Platform for Renewable Heating and Cooling

01/06/2009 AEBIOM-EUBIONET call for the input on sustainability

24/04/2009 European Commission publishes a report on Renewable Energy progress

22/06/2009 AEBIOM workshop on biomass district heating and cooling

21-22/09/2009 AEBIOM conference on energy crops in Pulawny, Poland

08-09/2009 International Bioenergy 2009 conference in Jyvaskyla, Finland
Dear Readers,

It is quite recent that the European Parliament has sealed the RES directive by signing it in the April’s plenary session. The Renewables directive will enter into force in June 2009 and will have to be transposed to the national legislation by November 2010. In the meantime, the focus of our work in Brussels remains on the renewable action plans. AEBIOM has organised a workshop on the template of national action plans and a kick off meeting of European Technology Platform for Renewable Heating and Cooling which will become a driver for R&D in the RES heating sector in Europe.

Further to this, the European Parliament has recently voted on revision of Buildings directive that includes not only efficiency measures but also the RES use in buildings. This is a very important step as 40% of Europe’s energy use is consumed in buildings. The directive will be crucial to increase the use of RES heating in buildings.

Heinz Kopetz – President

AEBIOM NEWS

New AEBIOM members

A few companies have recently joined AEBIOM as associate members. AEBIOM warmly welcomes:

- Helius Energy focussing on installation and operation of medium (5-8) and large scale (60 MW) power generation plants
- Novus Modus (a part of ESB, Ireland) is an investment fund providing capital, support and knowledge to companies, projects and management teams in RES (focus on biomass) and energy efficiency sectors.

Become a member of a new RES Heat Technology Platform - RHC-ETP

Companies and research centres in Europe are welcome to join the biomass panel of the renewable heat technology platform (RHC-ETP). It is a unique opportunity to influence the European R&D policy. The platform is an important step to help accelerate the development of RES heating technologies so that it can quickly become a significant energy resource, meeting heating and cooling demands in Europe. The platform provides a possibility for the stakeholders to define research and development priorities, timeframes, action plans on strategically important issues.

AEBIOM has organised a kick off meeting on RES Heat Technology Platform on 15 April. The roots of this platform date back in 2005 when European Solar Energy Federation ESTIF together with European Renewable Energy Centres Agency EUREC and other stakeholders has created a solar heating platform ESTTP. This platform is still running with 200 members.

In 2008, the stakeholders of this platform requested the Commission to be officially recognised as a RES platform for heating and cooling. The European Commission agreed to endorse such a platform with a condition that it is enlarged to other renewable energy sources such as biomass and geothermal. Therefore, ESTTP invited AEBIOM to manage the biomass panel of the enlarged platform.

During the kick-off meeting, the structure of the biomass panel was defined. Biomass panel will be divided into 5 Issue groups (IG): Biomass Fuels (IG leader: Eija Alakangas); Technologies for residential heating (IG leader: Walter Haslinger); Technologies and Industries and DH (IG leader: Panagiotis Grammelis), Market and Policies (IG leader: Josef Viglasky); and Communication/Training (IG leader: Simone Landolina). The panel will be managed by AEBIOM. Please access the website bellow to read the minutes of the kick-off meeting. On the platform webpage you will also find the invitation to join the platform. The next Platform meeting will take place on 1 October 2009.
AEBIOM workshop on template of National Action Plans

AEBIOM has organised a workshop on 19 March on a template of national action plans to be published by the European Commission by 30 June 2009. Ms Andrea Hercsuth from DG TREN (European Commission) has presented the requirements for national renewable action plans that are laid down in the RES directive. The directive requires these NAPs to contain the national renewable energy targets for heating/cooling, electricity and transport as well as a forecast of the potential of biomass resources and precise measures to reach the target. The measures can vary from RES obligations to various subsidies and training measures. Ms Hercsuth informed that there is a draft template of national RAPs prepared by the European Commission that is circulating within the Member States. According to her, Member States find these templates too detailed. AEBIOM, however, thinks that these details are necessary to ensure the achievement of the national targets.

The biomass part is one of the most complicated issues within these NAPs due to the variety of biomass fuels and production routes and various types of final energy such as heat, electricity and biofuels (or cogeneration, or combined production of few types of energy). Further to that, biomass can be imported or exported. Such variety makes it difficult to count the actual use of biomass resources. Therefore, during the workshop, statistics methodology was discussed. The statistics showing the origin and quantity of biomass to be mobilised is necessary. Member states should reflect and get figures on the following:

- A comparison of the gross inland consumption of biomass and the gross final energy consumption;
- An evaluation of primary (or inland or domestic) production of biomass according to its origin;
- An evaluation showing how the primary production contributes to the gross inland consumption through imports, exports and stock changes;
- Land use aspects.

During the workshop a table was presented enabling MS to evaluate the total biomass resources that should be used in the country. Member States should clearly distinguish the difference between inland and final energy consumption.

Another table focussing on the domestic bioenergy production was presented. This table would enable the MS to calculate the share of various biomass resources.

Besides biomass statistics, another important aspect of NAPs will be the measures to achieve the RES targets. The chapter in the NAPs would require the MS to indicate the status of existing policies and financial measures including legal, institutional, socio-economic and environmental aspects. If this information shows that it is impossible to reach the target with existing measures then these measures could be left as they are. Otherwise, changes should be introduced in the national support schemes.

The future policies and measures should be presented in the table together with the responsible institution for it, defined budget and implementation period, monitoring system as well as environmental impacts, jobs expected, gathered investments, renewable energy produced etc. Targets should be as precise as possible to make the support measures transparent and comparable.

Furthermore, the tables were proposed for specific measures for heating and cooling, electricity and biofuels sectors as well as for the accompanying measures required in the articles 13, 14 and 16 of the RES directive. These measures include the need to extend and/or to reinforce existing infrastructure to facilitate the integration of large amount of renewables needed to reach the 2020 national target, to accelerate the authorisation procedures, to reduce non-technological barriers and other measures in Article 21 of RES directive. The concrete details will be needed on certification of installers, standards implementation, district heating development, implementation of monitoring instruments etc.

Several examples of measures to improve the mobilization of biomass were presented during the workshop such as intensifying forest management, development service centres to advise forest owners on forest management etc.

For more information, please visit the website: www.bapdriver.org

Contact us to receive detailed information

EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

Renewables directive sealed by the European Parliament

Justice and Home Affairs Ministers have adopted the RES directive (without any review of it) on 6 April and the directive was subsequently signed by the European Parliament during the plenary session on 21-24 April. The directive will be published in the Official Journal in a few days (first half of May) and will come into force...
Today the European Commission’s focus switched to the implementation of the directive and especially to two main elements of it: elaboration of the template of the national renewable action plans and sustainability criteria. The Commission has already prepared quite a detailed draft template for national renewable action plans that are currently being viewed by the Member States governments. The template will be published by 30 June 2009 and then member states will have one year to draft the national renewable action plans. AEBIOM has organised a workshop on the template of these National Action Plans (see the chapter above). The Commission has recently published the RES progress report and Staff Working Paper including information on the implementation of the action plan of biomass. According to this report, it is obvious that the MS will not reach the existing 2010 targets for electricity and biofuels (see Publications chapter).

Further to NAPs this year the Commission is working on other issues such as:

- implementation guidelines of the directive for member states
- certification of biofuels and will come up with proposals on how the MS could integrate the certification in the national renewable action plans
- a guide on a carbon stock - how to define the carbon stock in primary forest, via map?
- biodiversity
- definition of degraded land
- definition of biodiverse grassland
- more details regarding the reporting requirements for the member states
- updating the default values of CO2 emitted by various biofuels
- bioenergy sustainability criteria other than biofuels and bioliquids - a report on various options will be produced by the Commission by 31 December 2009.

### Emissions Trading Scheme: 300 mln allocations for RES and CCS

The European Parliament has adopted a directive on emissions trading scheme where it sets the maximum CO2 emissions level to be emitted in Europe and translates these emissions into allowances. The EU Cap is at 20% below 1990 levels translating into a 21% reduction for ETS sectors compared to 2005 emissions. This directive installs the auctioning system instead of free allocations system that was in place until now. Free allocations means that the large industries under ETS receive free allowances – the rights to emit a certain amount of CO2 for free. From now on industries will have to buy these allowances from their governments; therefore, this system represents better the polluter pays principle. Therefore, there will be no more free allocations until 2027 with an exception of some Eastern European countries. It is up to the member states to decide how they spend this income; nevertheless, 50% of it should go to climate-change related solutions.

A very important point for the biomass sector in this directive is that the biomass use is counted as 0 emissions within the ETS scheme. This is a strong incentive for biomass use. The directive also stipulates that 300 Mio allowances from the new entrants’ reserve (NER) should be allocated for free to up to 12 CCS (carbon capture and storage) demonstration plants and to demonstration projects of innovative renewable energies that are not yet commercially viable. This can be an excellent opportunity for bioenergy plants.

### EP votes on Buildings directive


The amendments include the requirements that all new buildings should be net zero energy by 2018. According to the EP amendments, the Member States will have to promote the net energy houses in their national plans. Furthermore, Member States shall set targets for the minimum percentage of buildings.

The European Parliament adopted Ms Ticau’s (the rapporteur for the EP report) proposal to create an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund by to support the gradual increase of energy efficient new buildings that use/produce renewable energy. The fund would be based on contributions from the Community budget, the European Investment Bank and Member States to act as a leverage for increasing private and public
investments for energy efficiency and RES projects in buildings as from 30 June 2012. The directive also sets the minimum energy performance requirements by 30 June 2015. Furthermore, member states shall not provide incentives for the construction or renovation of buildings or parts thereof which do not comply with minimum energy performance requirements. The EP report clearly includes RES for new buildings: Member States will require the use of minimum levels of on-site energy from renewable sources.

The Parliament’s report requires the European Commission to bring forward in 2010 legislative proposals considering reduced VAT-rates for services and products linked to renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as fiscal incentives and other financial instruments.

The European Energy Programme for Recovery proposed by the Commission aims to help the EU’s energy sector during the economical crisis whilst ensuring the energy supply especially due to the recent gas crisis. The plan provides a list of actions that will be funded by 3.5 bn EUR from the EU budget for energy technology. According to the draft legislation 3.5 bn EUR will go to Carbon Capture Storage (80% funded by EC), offshore wind (50% funded by EC) and gas and electricity interconnected projects. The budget is foreseen for CCS and wind power to be used up by 2010 (in one year). It is rather obvious that it will not be possible to spend all the money before the end of the next year. Therefore, during the informal tria dialogue meeting, the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on 16 April have agreed that in case it is not possible to use all funds by the end of 2010, the unspent money will be used to fund renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The Parliament will vote on it during its May Plenary Session. If this is adopted, the Commission will be establishing the eligibility criteria (in September 2009) to spend this budget on res, energy efficiency etc projects. The call for proposals should be published in 2010.

AEBIOM POSITION ON EU ENERGY POLICY

EREc press release on the EP vote on Buildings directive

EREc (European Renewable Energy Council) has recently published a press release on the EP voted amendments on the EPBD directive. EREC welcomes the amendments of the European Parliament on this directive including the vote on the minimum requirements for new buildings and the financial instruments. Nevertheless, EREC regrets that the plenary vote deleted the obligation to consider and take into account the feasibility of renewable energy sources in new buildings from the entry into force of the Directive – which was voted by ITRE committee beforehand.

AEBIOM-EUBIONET III call for the input on sustainability on biomass

The EU-funded EUBIONET III project is currently looking for the comments from various bioenergy players. The opinions are welcome from all European stakeholders especially industry on how sustainability of bioenergy can be best secured. These inputs are necessary in helping to establish feasible sustainability criteria. The questionnaire takes approximately 20 minutes to fill in and can be downloaded on: http://www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=1146730. The consultation is open until 1 June 2009.

PUBLICATIONS

European Commission report on Renewable Energy Progress

The European Commission on 24 April has published a progress report on renewable energy (res electricity and biofuels) focusing on the Member States progress made so far as compared to the EU 2010 RES electricity and biofuels targets. The report provides the reasons/barriers for this and explains how the new RES directive will help to tackle these barriers and increase the RES share within the EU. The report states that EU member States could reach a 19% share in electricity by 2010, rather than 21%
defined in the RES electricity directive and 4% share in biofuels instead of 5.75% set by the Biofuels directive (2003).

The report contains a table where the progress made by the EU member states is seen. The report also notes the need for further activity in the biomass sector in particular. The reasons for the uneven progress are not new. Despite the Commission launching infringement proceedings against various Member States, the current legal framework does not provide an adequate basis for supporting solid growth in renewable energy use. Known barriers remain - surrounding administrative procedures, grid access, and guaranteeing adequate support and measures from Member States to ensure that growth occurs. This report therefore highlights the ongoing need for a new and stronger legislative framework, which is precisely what is provided by the new Directive on renewable energy. This Directive, agreed by Member States and Parliament in December as part of the energy and climate package and due to enter into force in May, addresses all these known concerns. Further details of the analysis summarised in the progress report are contained in the Staff Working Document accompanying the report.

Read the report

Read the staff working document

EU PROJECTS

▶ BAPdriver – workshop on template of nBAPS

The Renewables Directive contains provisions for mandatory national renewables action plans. Bioenergy, representing 2/3 of renewables will play a key role in these plans. The process of developing country-specific biomass action plans is the starting point of the European project BAPdriver. Energy agencies and institutions from eight European countries together with the biomass industry association AEBIOM and a consultancy firm named Eclareon formed a European biomass policy group in order to exchange ideas, transfer knowledge and build capacities on biomass strategies and policy options. The participating countries are Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Romania and Greece.

Some example of activities:
- Expert meetings: a meeting of experts in the field of cost-effective support of bioenergy, sustainability criteria and energy from waste was organized on 9 April 2008. The second meeting was held on 10 December 2008 in Berlin. Conclusions and presentations are available on the project website.
- National meetings are organized within the eight countries mentioned above. The national partners are available for various requests.
- A European Best Practice Guidelines document was recently published (available on the website) to help national coordinators of the biomass action plans. It contains a benchmarking of existing bioenergy plans and initiatives in 12 member states.
- AEBIOM together with the European Commission organised an event on National Biomass Action Plans on 9 February 2009 within the Sustainable Energy Week. Presentations are available on the AEBIOM web site.
- AEBIOM has organised a workshop on the template of National Action Plans on 19 March 2009

Project deliverables can be downloaded from the project website, managed by AEBIOM: www.bapdriver.org

▶ IEE call for proposals 2009

The IEE call for proposals has been published in late March this year with a deadline to submit project proposals before the 25th of June. About € 65 millions are available to support European projects promoting energy efficiency and a greater share of renewables. The call text and additional guidance is published on the IEE website.

Under this call for proposals there are 5 main key actions: Heating and Cooling, Electricity, RES for transport sector, RES in buildings and Bio-Business.

The priorities for RES this year are:
- heating and no more focus on electricity only;
- especially district heating including CHP;
- biogas as vehicle fuels.

A priority will be to improve procedures, planning, and exchange of best practices as well as to strengthen entrepreneurship in SMEs serving DH. The European Commission would like to see the institutionalized training which means that not only ad hoc training but the training which would be recognized or accredited
by the accreditation authorities for installers to become certified. In general this call looks for the solutions to existing weaknesses such as a lack of qualified installers etc. This call looks not only the supply side but also at the demand side of RES.

In addition, a relatively new key action Bio-Business will have the following priorities:
- Strengthening the supply for solid biomass resources for heating and cooling
- Efficient supply chains and markets for solid biomass
- Promotion of bioenergy standards whilst creating market confidence
- Planning – integrated development for biomass action plans at regional and local level: different possibilities for biomass development, potential competition with food, pulp etc.
- Measurable impact should be a result of the project which should be built on what has been done already – contacts with the past projects developers to benefit from their work are desirable.

If you plan to submit an IEE project proposal under this year's call, if you are an energy manager looking for ways in which your company could reduce its energy bill or if you want to find methods for developing a local CO₂ reduction plan in your community, then the new Intelligent Energy e-library www.iee-library.eu will help you find these and other resources you need. Its searchable web catalogue gives an access to a large variety of manuals, tools and guidebooks for intelligent energy developed with the support of IEE and other programmes. It covers the following themes: energy efficiency in industry, local and regional energy management, renewable energy, and transport.

IEE call website

Project CHEUBIO was a specific support action within the European Commission’s Sixth Framework Programme. Two year duration project that started in November 2006 concerns the ‘development of co-firing power generation market opportunities to enhance the EU biomass sector through international cooperation with China’. The overall objective was to determine and establish the basis by which the EU industrial companies might enter the co-firing power generation market in China, which offers very significant potential.

This project has ended in November this year and key project deliverables (on biomass potential in China, possibilities for EU companies to introduce their technology in China, Chinese legislative framework etc) are made available on the AEBIOM website www.aebiom.org/CHEUBIO. Those organizations that either require further information and/or wish to engage with the Chinese stakeholders should contact Edita Vagonyte at AEBIOM.

Bioenergy in Motion project – a movie on heating and cooling

In order to promote the deployment of biomass heating and cooling technologies, a movie was made available in June 2008 showcasing successful applications and flagship projects. This movie is now available in two separate DVD versions: both are in the following languages: EN/CZ/EE/BG audio; on top of that one will have EN/FR/DE/ES subtitles, and the other EN/LT/LV/RO/PL/HU/SLO/HR/RO/EL/PT/IT subtitles. This movie addresses practical potential and possibilities, investment opportunities, and the policy context of biomass heating and cooling. The movie covers applications in individual households and large buildings, block heating and district heating systems, and industries.

The core of the movie consists of implemented projects, interviews with key stakeholders, and information on national and EU policy targets and instruments. Three country-tailored versions of the movie are made, covering Bulgaria, Estonia and the Czech Republic respectively. Each of these movies is made in the national language and in English, plus subtitles in various other languages (mentioned above).

The project is co-ordinated by BTG (The Netherlands) and financed under the Sixth Framework Programme. Further information is available on the project website www.bioenergy-in-motion.com.

EUBIONET project activities

EUBIONET III is a project focused on important to biomass sector issues such as biomass trade, biomass fuels prices, sustainability criteria, standards etc. EUBIONET III is a continuation of the EUBIONET II project.

AEBIOM organised an expert meeting on biomass trade within the EUBIONET III project. The aim of this event was to identify the most important current market barriers and to develop strategies and solutions to overcome those barriers. Biomass trade was especially highlighted, as large amounts of biomass are often not available at the place of demand, and thus trade may play a pivotal role in increasing bioenergy use. The aim
was also to bring together stakeholders of new industrial sectors where biomass can be potentially used. The new industrial means the non-biomass based sectors such as metal and construction material industries, etc. They expressed their views on current situation and future prospects (especially in light of CO₂ emissions reduction requirements that these industries have to comply with). The objective was to find out the reasons why new industries aspire to increase bioenergy utilization and which difficulties they face in practice. Likewise, if industries decide not to use biomass as an energy source, what are the main reasons for doing so?

There are clearly opportunities for biomass use in "new industries". Currently, mainly waste-streams are used (tyres, sewage sludge, animal meal, fats). Both the cement and food-processing industries (the main industries present at the workshop) have ambitions to further increase their utilization of biomass for energy. However, during the presentations and following discussions, a number of issues were raised that currently hamper the increased use of biomass:

- Economic recession
- Frequently occurring competition for feedstocks with other industries that do benefit from subsidies (feed in prices, green certificates)
- Lack of visibility on biomass availability (utilization and trade statistics are hard to find)
- Legislation and public opinions are the factors not to be underestimated

More information can be found on www.eubionet.net.

RESTMAC project deliverables

RESTMAC project has come to an end and all project deliverables can be found on AEBIOM website including three AEBIOM brochures on pellets, energy crops and forest residues. AEBIOM was one of 11 partners for the RESTMAC project, which was coordinated by EREC (European Renewable Energy Council). The project, developed by a consortium of European renewable energy industry research associations, aimed at developing and implementing a concise, well targeted and thematic approach to ensure the dissemination and uptake of selected RES technologies by the market.

EVENTS

Upcoming AEBIOM workshop on biomass district heating on 22 June 2009 in Brussels

AEBIOM is organizing a workshop on “Biomass district heating and cooling” on 22 June 2009. District heating and cooling (DHC) will play an important role in reaching ambitious renewable energy targets by 2020. This workshop will focus on the framework of DHC, current DH status in Europe, latest technologies and market development. At the end of this workshop a recommendation list will be established and made available to the Member States for setting up their national renewable energy action plans as well as for the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling. The event is of interest to DHC plants, national authorities dealing with energy matters, energy companies, European Commission, energy utilities etc.

AEBIOM also offers an attractive sponsorship package for this workshop – see announcement/invitation for details.

AEBIOM conference on energy crops on 21-22 September 2009 in Pulawy, Poland

As part of European ENCROP project, AEBIOM together with POLBIOM (Polish Bioenergy Association) are organising a conference on energy crops for heat, electricity and biogas production purposes in Europe. The two days conference will focus on policy issues/ support schemes with a stronger emphasis on different possibilities to use these crops for bioenergy as well as practical issues such as contracting, logistics, etc. Beside that, agronomic aspects of energy crops will be discussed. A study tour to the Kozienice power plant (co-firing of coal and energy crops) and an energy crop trial site will take place on the second day.

This conference aims at producers, project developers, scientists, bioenergy users, farmers and companies interested in energy crops.

A simultaneous translation Polish/English will be provided. You can find an invitation on the project website.
Bioenergy 2009 in Finland on 31 August – 4 September 2009

The 4th International Bioenergy 2009 Conference will take place in Jyväskylä, Finland on 31st August - 4th September 2009. The Conference will focus on:
- Bioenergy in Agriculture and Food Industry
- Bioenergy in Heating, Cooling and CHP
- Biofuels and technologies in Transport Sector

Besides that modern technologies and business solutions including logistic systems, management, procurement chains, the impacts of the energy market and other trends affecting forestry, agriculture, industry and climate will be discussed. 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 constructions. 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.

Read more

World Bioenergy 2009 – Clean Vehicles & Fuels on 16-18 September, Sweden

The World Bioenergy 2009 Conference will take place in Stockholm, Sweden on 16-18 September. Under the Patronage of H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, the conference will focus on the following topics:
- Socio-economic drivers behind the implementation of bioenergy projects
- Integration of energy recovery into solid waste management regimes
- Impact of international trade in biofuels – securing sustainable supply and demand
- Emergence of bio-refineries: co-production of fuels, chemicals, power and materials
- Development of markets for clean vehicles and fuels

The event combines the world’s premier bioenergy convention with the leading European event for sustainable transport solutions. The result is an integrated conference, excursion and tradeshow programme unlike any other. Three intensive days focusing on the practical implementation of bioenergy and sustainable transport systems. The exciting excursions highlight a variety of commercial examples from Sweden and the greater Stockholm area.

Read more

4th Edition International Bioenergy Fair on 21-23 October, Spain

The fourth international bioenergy conference and fair will be held in Valladolid on 21-23 October 2009. 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.

Expobioenergia’08 offers a wide range of activities that will take place in parallel with the exhibition:
- 4th International Bioenergy Congress
- 3rd edition of the 'Activa Bioenergy' business workshop: companies from Europe and Latin America will be showing professional demonstrations in the exhibition
- Forestry demonstrations and visits to facilities for the production and use of biofuels
- Series of specific work sessions
- 4th Technological Innovation Awards

Read more


This RES conference, organized by REECO will focus on energy efficiency in buildings and the following bioenergy topics:
- Biomass heating system: pellets, wood chip, firewood, Stirling Motors
- Block Heat and Power Plant, MHKW for gas use, cogeneration
- Measuring and automatic control
- (Turnkey) Biogas plant
- Liquid Biofuels, measuring and automatic control
- Stirling-Motors

Read more