



AEBIOM NEWSLETTER

October 2009

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22/06/2009 FP7 call for proposals is published!

28-29/04/2010 AEBIOM European Bioenergy conference in Brussels, Belgium

16-17/11//2009 International Renewable Energy policy conference in Brussels, Belgium



In the last month, the developments in the European Institutions are expected to bring many changes for the European policies including the European Energy Policy. It is not easy, however, to predict the direction of renewable energy policy without knowing the owner of the European Energy Commissioner's portfolio.

In the meantime, at a national level, the Member States are starting their work on the preparation of the National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAP).

The European Commission published the template for NREAP, as foreseen, late June. This template gives the Member states a binding framework on how to define the sub-targets for renewable heat, electricity and fuels and the corresponding measures in order to achieve the targets. These NREAPs will play an important role in the future development of bioenergy. They have to be submitted to the Commission by June 2010.

AEBIOM will organize the European Bioenergy Conference in Brussels on the 28-29 April 2010 in order to support the establishment of the national Renewable Energy Action plans.

Another important issue related to biomass is the ongoing discussion on the sustainability of biomass. AEBIOM has recently published a position paper on this topic.

As follow up of our workshop on biogas AEBIOM has also published a road map for biogas. Together with the roadmap on pellets these publications should support the governments in their work on the NRNAPs.

Heinz Kopetz –President

AEBIOM NEWS

► New AEBIOM members

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

- Franxinex, a French company, focusing on environmental technology and equipment and specializing on exporting breeding and biogas equipment to China www.franxinex.com
- Charmont Investments Ltd is a UK based investment fund focusing on wood value chain industry and timberland www.charmontinvestments.com
- Benet is a Finish company that offers bioenergy expert services for every step in the bioenergy production chain, ranging from biomass fuel potential studies and initial feasibility studies all the way to planning heat and electricity production and investment implementation. www.benet.fi

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► Biogas should be fully considered in the national action plans –AEBIOM Biogas Roadmap

AEBIOM has published the Biogas roadmap on 8 October. The roadmap presents the biogas sector in Europe including the basics of biogas, current use, biogas potential, economics of biogas and a chapter on the biogas within the national Renewable Energy Action Plans.

Biogas represents around 40 Mtoe as primary energy in Europe in 2020. This potential can be derived from agricultural by-products and waste such as organic waste from households and industries, sewage sludge, manure, catch crops, landscape cleaning. Many European countries have already set up favourable conditions for electricity production from biogas such as feed-in-tariffs. Germany has a leading role in Europe with almost 4000 biogas plants, most of them set on farms for cogeneration production. New legislation often requires the use of heat as well in order to reach a better efficiency.

While the biogas sector grows impressively every year, it hasn't received the same attention as for example liquid biofuels for transportation. So far only Sweden has established a market for biomethane-driven cars. Due to its relatively low prices for electricity, Sweden has traditionally used biogas for heat production (today around 50 % of biogas) and focused less on electricity (8 %). About 25 % of the produced biogas is upgraded and used as vehicle fuel (the rest is flared or used for other applications). The upgraded biogas is injected into

the existing natural gas grid in 7 sites with an injection capacity of 220 GWh (replacing 2 % of the natural gas in the system).

Renewable Energy directive provides a wonderful opportunity for biogas to be included in the National Action Plans for the production of heat and electricity or the transport fuels. At the end of the brochure, AEBIOM provides recommendations on what could be done at a national and regional level in order to overcome the existing barriers for biogas use.

[Read the Biogas Roadmap](#)

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► **Energy crops take-off in Poland**

AEBIOM has organized a workshop on energy crops within the ENCROP project on 21-22 September. The project supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme aims to promote the production and use of energy crops in Europe. The conference in Pulawy/Poland attracted more than 80 international and Polish participants.

Poland has recently set new laws and green certificate schemes that encourage bioenergy use in Poland. The recent biomass for electricity law sets the maximum percentage of forest biomass (75%) to be used in 2010 for electricity production in co-firing plants (the current law requires at least 95% of forest biomass to be used (out of all biomass fuels used) in the co-firing plants). It means that at least 15% should come from energy crops and various agricultural residues as biomass fuel. Further to that, the Common Agricultural Policy identified renewable energy as a new challenge and Member States had to include the renewable energy in their national Rural Development Plans. The EC co-financing for such purpose has increased to 75-90% and there is an additional amount of 3,2 billion Euros for 2010-13 within the Rural Development programme.

The workshop speeches covered the whole spectrum of topics from crop cultivation, logistics, to contracting and the final use of energy crops. Speakers from Nordic countries presented well developed crops such as reed canary grass (19.000 ha in Finland) and willows (13.000 ha in Sweden). Polish scientists, on the other hand, explained the different ways to cultivate and use agricultural biomass in Poland. Currently Poland amounts for about 6000ha of willows plantations.

On the second day technical visits were organised. The first tour was on the large coal power plant (2,8 GWe) in Kozenice, where biomass represent 1% of all fuels used. The operators described their difficulties to get sufficient amounts of biomass for such a large scale use - a difficult task when dealing with dozens of small biomass suppliers instead of one or two coal mines. Later on, the visit to experimental fields of energy crops gave the participants a unique possibility to see crops in many varieties and get a first hand experience in energy crop cultivation. Further information and presentations are available on www.encrop.net

On the same website, you can also find a movie that was made by the project partners on the aforementioned energy crops.

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► **Huge financing opportunities for heat – join the new European Technology Platform!**

The European Commission (DG TREN) hosted the second meeting of Biomass Panel of the European Technology Platform for Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC-ETP) on 1 October 2009 in Brussels. More than 50 stakeholders from industry, R&D and associations followed the invitation.

During the morning session that was dedicated to the framework of the platform, Mr. Stefan Tostmann (Head of unit of Energy Technologies and Research Coordination in DG TREN) underlined the significance of such platform.

In order to foster the introduction of a new technology into the market, several industrial initiatives are being currently developed within other European Technology Platforms (electricity, biofuels, wind, CCS ...) and these technologies will receive a substantial EU funding. A *financing communication on low carbon technologies* have been adopted on 7 October and will provide 50 billion Euro for new demonstration projects (including renewable energy technologies). Heating and cooling sector has not been recognised enough so far for strategic initiatives, nevertheless, it is not excluded from the Commission's plans. The EC will be also waiting for good proposals within the next FP7 call in 2011 (that will be open in June 2010).

In order to facilitate the work of the platform, the Commission can provide up to one Million Euro for the secretariat of the platform to organize meetings, draft reports and handle the communication (part of the next FP7 call).

Mr. Tostmann (DG TREN) expects a well structured input from the RHC sector within the next 1-2 years. The ministers and other decision makers need visions for 2020 and beyond. Mr. Tostmann also stressed the importance of an active participation of industry (both small and large scale) in the platform and the need to

attract more stakeholders. The RHC sector will get more attention (and funding) if it speaks with one voice.

Therefore, AEBIOM warmly welcomes new stakeholders within the Platform. Should you wish to join the Platform, please contact Mr Rechberger at [rechberger\(@\)aebiom.org](mailto:rechberger(@)aebiom.org) or visit the website www.rhc-platform.org

During this meeting, the Steering Committee was elected. Mr. Kari Mutka (VAPO) was elected as a chairman of the platform and Ms Ria Kalf (Platform Bioenergie) and Gerold Göttlicher ((EnBW Holding) as vice chairman/chairwoman.

[Read the minutes of the event](#)

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EU ENERGY POLICY FOR RENEWABLES

► The EU institutions – what to expect for renewable energy sector?

The European Parliament and the European Commission are facing major changes this year. The EP election on 9 June was a surprise for many with a decreased number of the center left MEPs elected. Nevertheless, it seems like the socialists lost their votes for the benefit of greens which can turn out as good news for renewable energy with an exception for biofuels as greens are not convinced about the overall benefit of it.

Having in mind the EP election results, it was more or less predictable to see Barroso re-elected in September as only socialists was a possible barrier to his re-appointment. Other than that, it is unclear which commissioners will be re-appointed and which new commissioners will get appointed. It is only during the EU summit in the last week of October that the plans for the new Commission will be finalized. The Council together with the president Barroso will appoint the commissioners and the European Parliament will vote for the European Commission as a whole.

The Energy portfolio, however, is one of the most popular ones within the European Commission and will be of utmost importance for renewable energy because the future energy commissioner will influence the implementation of the renewable energy directive especially the implementation of such issues as sustainability.

Quite an important step was the Irish referendum held on 2 October. Irish 'yes' to Lisbon treaty means that the European Parliament's powers will further increase (if the Lisbon treaty is also approved by the last country that has not done so – Czech Republic) especially in such policy areas as agriculture and international trade and Europe will appoint the EU president for the European Council.

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► The EC is reflecting on the need of sustainability criteria for all types of biomass

The European Commission is currently working on the communication that, according to the Renewables directive, has to report on requirements for a sustainability scheme for energy uses of biomass, other than biofuels and bioliquids, by 31 December 2009. If necessary, the report has to be accompanied by proposals for a sustainability scheme for other energy uses of biomass. This report will most likely be delayed due to the changes in the European Commission.

The European Commission is currently reflecting whether the sustainability criteria as such are needed and if so, what criteria should be set? According to AEBIOM informal meeting talks, the European Commission is aware of biomass particularities and does not want to set too stringent requirements as regards to sustainability in order to avoid the barriers to bioenergy mobilisation. Nevertheless, the Commission is thinking to include the chain of custody as a minimum requirement for the sustainable use of biomass and to relate it with no-go areas as defined in the directive (biodiversity and carbon stock areas). It is important for AEBIOM that the Commission does not intend to copy-paste the sustainability criteria established for biofuels and bioliquids in the Renewable Energy directive. Nevertheless, the final decision on the necessity to introduce sustainability criteria will be a political decision and cannot be predicted before the Energy portfolio is allocated within the European Commission.

For further AEBIOM views and reflections on this issue, please read the AEBIOM position on sustainability criteria.

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

The ETS directive (Article 10 a.(8) 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.

The draft Commission decision on NER 300 fund has been circulated amongst the Member States in the mid September. This draft decision ruled out the possibility of pre-financing the projects. NER300 money would have to be paid per MWh during the first 5 years of the project's operation. Most EU countries, however, are against such a decision; therefore, the European Commission will most probably come up with a different proposal.

It is the most likely that the first call for proposals will be launched in December 2009 with the deadline for pre-proposals in June 2010. The projects that went through the pre-proposal stage will have to be put forward the second time in the beginning of 2011. The Installations will have to be constructed and in operation by December 2015.

See the AEBIOM newsletter July 2009 issue for further details.

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► **Proposal for a European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI)**

The EIBI initiative is one of the six new energy initiatives proposed under the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET plan, COM(2007)723) in order to accelerate the commercial deployment of advanced energy technologies to meet the EU 2020 RES target and reduce CO2 emissions. This initiative will be translated into bioenergy projects. The Biofuels Technology Platform is currently establishing the eligibility criteria for such projects. The scope of the EIBI initiative covers innovative bioenergy value chains which are not yet commercially available (thus excludes current biofuels, heat & power, biogas...) and could be deployed at large scale (large single units). It is foreseen to provide a budget of around 6 to 8 billion Euros to support the 20 innovative bioenergy projects.

The European Commission has organised a stakeholders meeting of the EIBI to work on eligibility criteria for the projects on 25 September. Interesting points such as what is considered to be innovative bioenergy technologies, what is considered to be large scale projects, how many countries should be involved in the project were raised.

As regards to eligibility criteria, the novelty and innovativeness will be one of the most important criteria. The EC gave a clear message that novelty can lie not only in technology itself but also in the supply chain. Nevertheless, a novelty should be a novelty at global scale and not at European or national scale. If, however, the same process has been applied to coal and never to biomass such process would still be considered as innovative.

Furthermore, the requirement for minimum biomass part in the fuel supply was raised to 100% (around 100%) saying that there are other tools to promote the use of other types of energy (no coal or peat allowed). The stakeholders and the EC came up to an agreement to require the minimum participation of three countries within the project. The plant must be a pre-commercial (for demo plant) or commercial scale (for reference plant) and first of its kind.

Process should be satisfactorily demonstrated at pre-commercial pilot plant stage and assessments of achieved results should be made available, process steps have to be defined precisely. Further to that, the demonstration site should be in Europe and the feedstock should meet the sustainability requirements as established in the RES directive. The minimum requirement of green house gas emissions savings was set at 60% based on life cycle analysis using the calculation method that is provided in the Renewable Energy Directive.

Amongst other important eligibility factors, the stakeholders together with the EC agreed that the most important ones are the following:

- Overall replicability (duplication) of the project
- Economical performance of the concept concerning cost of avoided CO2 equivalent
- Maturity of the company's financial ability to finance such project
- Realistic scenario for feedstock supply
- Priority given to European raw material.
- Roadmap proving that demonstration unit will be in operation at the latest in 2016 (four years after approval) and additional capacity for commercial operations by 2020

Further information on the EIBI initiative is available under request at [info\(@\)aebiom.org](mailto:info(@)aebiom.org).

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► **Recast of Energy Taxation directive introduces a CO2 tax**

The European Commission is writing a recast of the European Taxation directive that includes the introduction

of a CO2 tax for heating and transport fuels. According to the draft recast, from 1 January 2013 member states would have to levy a minimum rate of €30 per ton of CO2 on transport fuels and €10 per ton CO2 on heating fuels, based on CO2 emission factors that are already developed under the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS).

The CO2-related tax would not be applied to electricity or other energy uses regulated under the ETS. Biomass sector would be exempt from CO2-related taxes.

Between 2010 and 2020 member states would be able to exempt businesses outside the EU ETS from CO2-related energy taxes, if they make investments that reduce their overall emissions by at least 20%. According to the proposal, nine of the member states that joined the EU since 2004 would be allowed to delay the introduction of CO2-related taxation before 2021.

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AEBIOM POSITION ON EU ENERGY POLICY

▶ AEBIOM position on indirect land use change

The Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28) and the Fuel Quality Directive (2009/30) contain provisions requiring the Commission to prepare a report reviewing the impacts on greenhouse gas emissions of indirect land use change in relation to biofuels and bioliquids, accompanied, where appropriate, by proposals to address this question.

Therefore, the European Commission has launched a pre-consultation process to gather stakeholder's views on indirect land use change (until the end of July). The European Commission has informed during the stakeholders meeting that the public consultation will be launched in September/October 2009.

AEBIOM has issued a paper commenting on the proposed options how to deal with the ILUC within the pre-consultation process.

Amongst the proposed options, AEBIOM thinks that ILUC should be addressed globally, at country level and for all commodities whatever their end use is – food or non food. Giving penalties to biofuels only will hardly change anything. In such a way, the EU would be tackling the core of the problem. It is a medium/long term policy. Such policy, however, should be addressed by the FAO at world level rather than by the European Union alone.

[Read the AEBIOM comments on ILUC](#)

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▶ AEBIOM position on sustainability criteria for all uses of biomass

AEBIOM has issued a position on sustainability criteria for all types of biomass. In general, AEBIOM is in favor of sustainable biomass production but thinks that the sustainability as such could be tackled more efficiently within the agricultural and forestry policies. The sustainable agricultural production is ensured by the cross compliance rules of the common agricultural policy and the sustainable forestry is ensured via existing forestry certification schemes such as PEFC. AEBIOM expresses worries that an additional mandatory certification scheme would become a barrier to biomass mobilisation. Further to that, about 75% of biomass used for heat and electricity is by-products and, therefore, an additional criteria would complicate the use of biomass especially if the main product is not certified. Furthermore, 95% the biomass for heat sector includes millions of small biomass producers which would result in a never ending bureaucratic process.

Nevertheless, AEBIOM thinks that the certification for big biomass plants and imports could be beneficial. Another question was raised as what kind of criteria would be acceptable for biomass to heat and electricity sectors. Should we set the CO2 criteria set in the RES directive for biofuels? Though such CO2 criteria is already met for heat and electricity sector. Higher CO2 criteria would be unacceptable as it would lead to the market distortion due to the fact that the same biomass sources are used for the production of heat and electricity as for biofuels. Conversion efficiency is another important issue that can be considered within the sustainability criteria though it can probably be better tackled within the national support schemes by, for example, setting bonuses to high conversion efficiency boilers.

[Read the AEBIOM position](#)

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▶ EREC position on Energy Taxation directive

The European Energy Council has recently published a position on the recast of Energy Taxation Directive. EREC welcomes the idea of a CO2 tax and urges the Council to pave the way for a proposal by the Commission.

The main novelty in the planned revision is the introduction of an EU-wide CO2 tax for those sectors that do not fall under the Emissions Trading System (ETS). The bioenergy sector would be excluded from this tax. According to EREC, the new tax rates under discussion would finally end the paradoxical situation whereby renewable energy fuels are taxed at a higher rate than polluting fossil fuels.

[Read the position](#)

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► **EREC and EUREC positions on Communication of Low Carbon Technologies**

The European Energy Council and the European Renewable Energy Centres Energy have recently published a position on the Communication of Low Carbon Technologies that was published on 7 October.

The European Renewable Energy Industry welcomes the Communication and the fact that the Commission has finally expressed funding needs for energy research, development and demonstration in numbers. EREC, however, regrets that the Commission did not table concrete proposals for the allocation of EU funds.

Besides the missing gaps in the communication, EUREC, however indicates a number of features of the document that are very useful :

- the quantification of the additional R&D resources needed by different energy technologies over the next decade, which will help those controlling public budgets decide how much to set aside for them;
- the willingness to explore new financing models for large demonstration projects (for example using loans, loan guarantees and equity stakes from the Margu rite Fund alongside the Framework Programme's traditional grants), and to extend existing schemes like the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility.
- the changing role of the Framework Programme, which, it is implied, will evolve towards an instrument for "high risk, high cost, long-term programmes beyond the reach of individual Member States". Given that the renewable energy industry is increasingly able by itself to fund R&D that will yield results that can be commercialised in short term and that European Industrial Initiatives are likely to become the locus of demonstration projects with tailor-made funding packages, this seems like a logical progression for the Framework Programme.

[Read the EREC position](#)

[Read the EUREC position](#)

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PUBLICATIONS

► **A handbook on energy crops for heat and power for energy producers**

Within the ENCROP project (Promoting the production and utilisation of energy crops) funded by Intelligent Energy for Europe programme, the project partners have recently published a handbook on energy crops for heat and power production. The book covers the reed canary grass, willow, hemp and poplar as well as the a chapter on biogas production from energy crops.

[Read the handbook](#)

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EU PROJECTS

► **BAPdriver workshop on bioenergy in the national RES action plans**

The project BAPdriver (under IEE programme) has organised its third workshop on bioenergy in the renewables action plans on 7 October in Brussels. The workshop was open to any national experts in the field. This event focused on the template of national RES action plans, flexibility mechanisms, cost effectiveness of support schemes, sustainability and waste to energy issues.

The template of RES action plans have to be submitted by the member states in June 2010. The Member States are required to set the policies through which they aim to achieve the renewables target. In this way, Member States have an excellent opportunity to evaluate their policies beforehand. These policies, if selected carefully, could make the use of the public spending more efficient. During the workshop, there were proposals how to evaluate such policies, which policies to select in order to achieve the best possible result. For example, Member States could compare their policies whilst looking at the amount of final energy produced for each  1 of public investment.

According to AEBIOM extrapolations of RES percentages, there will be some countries that will be above the trajectory line and some that will be below. This leaves room for flexibility mechanisms as laid down in the renewables directive. The member states will have to report to the European Commission whether they expect to be above or below the established trajectory. This will have to be reported in the forecast document that the member states have to submit very soon - by the end of this year (December 2009).

Sustainability criteria also caused rather intensive debates. Countries with high biomass imports like Netherlands are in favour of sustainability criteria as a tool to ensure their customers that bioenergy used in their country is sustainable. On the other hand, the Nordic countries such as Sweden and Finland do not want to see any additional/parallel criteria to their well-established national legislation in the field. Further to that, they added that it is only 5% -10% of biomass used for heat and electricity that is imported to Europe and unlike biofuels there are no real threats of sustainability problems related to solid biomass.

As regards to waste to energy, it was concluded that this path should be considered on the same level as recycling.

Further information on these topics is available on the project website www.bapdriver.org.

[Project website](http://www.bapdriver.org)

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► EUBIONET project results

EUBIONET III is an Intelligent Energy Europe 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.

During the last meeting in July the EUBIONET III project partner Mr Junginger presented results from the EUBIONET III and Task 40. On the current solid biomass in Europe, preliminary results indicate that roughly about 50% (1.5 TJ) of the total potential (3 TJ) is utilized. Especially utilization of fruit & herbaceous biomass is (very) low, while the use of refined biomass has strongly increased in recent years. However, data from more than 10 countries is still missing, so these figures are still subject to change. Yet, it is clear that data on both potentials and (detailed) utilization is very hard to find in many European countries.

The project results on the use of biomass in 'new' industries (industries with either biomass by-products or high energy consumption) were presented. The biomass use in these sectors is often marginal or unknown. The manufacturing of cement, chemicals and food however show promising increases in biomass utilization in some countries.

The third part of the EUBIONET III presentation focussed on biomass trade barriers. According to traders in various European countries, the main two barriers included raw material availability (mentioned in Austria, Belgium, Portugal, Sweden, but not in the Baltic countries) and logistics (mentioned by traders from Latvia, Portugal, Sweden), including high prices for truck transport, lacking intermediate storage capacity, and environmental concerns regarding long-distance transport by truck.

Next, Martin Junginger also presented preliminary results from the IEA Bioenergy Task 40/ UNIDO/ UNCTAD questionnaire on barriers and opportunities for bioenergy trade. The results show that trade of solid biomass is taking place on a large-scale across Europe (and globally) and is steadily increasing. Logistics again seem to be the key barrier, and further work is required on optimizing infrastructure (intermediate storage, transport by train etc.). Furthermore, use of a uniform EU-wide standard for industrial & non-industrial wood pellets seems highly recommendable. Finally, sustainability certification for solid biomass is seen by many as a clear opportunity, but possibly costs and a variety of systems may cause additional barriers for trade.

[Project website](http://www.bapdriver.org)

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► Inauguration of the 3rd Biomass Trade Centre in Styria

The main aim of the project BIOMASSTRADECENTRES is to improve the professional organization/management of wood fuels supply chain at regional scale whilst facilitating the interdependent process of supply and demand meeting each other. In Austria, Italy, Poland and Slovenia the partners support the establishment of regional Biomass Logistic&Trade Centres with optimised logistics and trading organisation/management. Various biomass fuels such as firewood, wood-chips, pellets, energy crops are marketed with a guaranteed quality at regional level. These Biomass Logistic&Trade Centres are mainly run by cooperatives of farmers and forest owners. In Styria, a region of 1 Million inhabitants, 2 Biomass Logistic&Trade Centres are currently in operation. On the 11th October 2009 there was an inauguration of the 3th Biomass Logistic&Trade Center Hartbergerland in Styria/Austria. The realisation of this successful project was strongly supported by the IEE project BIOMASSTRADECENTRES coordinated by AIEL from Italy (Mr.

Valter Francescato).

[Project website](#)

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► **Qualicert project – qualification of small scale biomass installers**

This Qualicert project is an IEE project focused on certification schemes for installers of small scale renewable energy installations. QualiCert will conduct a concerted action among different Member States on this topic. The QualiCert project will be useful for both the EU and national agendas as the certification schemes will have to be addressed in the National Renewable Energy Action Plans that Member States will have to submit to the European Commission by June 2010.

In order to guarantee the best possible support to the future accreditation and certification scheme, QualiCert is relying on an interdisciplinary multi-stakeholder approach involving builders and installers. Within this project, it is planned to establish a High Level Steering Group (HLSG) in order to have a wide consultation and guidance process. This group will be closely associated to the project implementation and will have a strategic role on the overall planned activities. By being a member of QualiCert HLSG, you would have the opportunity to *contribute/anticipate the Directive on the promotion of RE implementation*.

Those that decide to become an active member of the Qualicert HMSG, will be requested to:

- review project's deliverables and provide feedbacks
- participate in HLSG meetings in Brussels (June 2010, December 2010, June 2011 and December 2011).

The HLSG will have a special visibility on project deliverables and a dedicated area will be reserved for exchanges on QualiCert website.

Therefore, AEBIOM invites its members and other relevant stakeholders to contact AEBIOM in case they have an interest in this topic.

[Project website](#)

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► **FP7 call for proposals**

The FP7 work programme has been adopted by the European Commission on 30 July and a large number of calls for proposals have been published on the website,

An overview of all open energy-related topics - topics related to energy but also all other relevant FP7 programmes and themes are available on the CORDIS website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/energy/open-topics_en.html.

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EVENTS

► **3rd Renewable Energy Policy Conference, Brussels, 16-17 November**

The 3rd European Renewable Energy Policy Conference organized by EREC (European Renewable Energy Council) in close co-operation with the EU Swedish Presidency will be the meeting place for European renewable energy industry representatives and decision makers.

The 3rd European Renewable Energy Policy Conference provides a unique opportunity for the sharing of ideas, for discussion and for interaction between the Renewable Energy Industry and the newly formed EU Institutions.

EREC expects at least 800 relevant stakeholders from all over the world to be present at this 2-day "must-attend" policy event which will provide industry experts and policy makers with the latest information.

The Programme of the 3rd European Renewable Energy Policy Conference provides an update on EU policies promoting the sector and also encourages debate on the following leading themes:

- Sustainable Recovery and Job Creation: Renewable Energy as a Key Driver
- Renewable Energy Policies for a Competitive Europe
- A Secure and Sustainable EU Energy Future: Funding Renewable Energy Technologies
- Saving the Climate: The Role of Renewable Energy
- A Global Perspective: Renewable Energy for All Continents
- Energizing the Euro-Mediterranean Region: The Mediterranean Solar Plan

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► **RENEXPO® Bioenergy EUROPE & AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference, Brussels, 28-29 April, 2010**

With the growing importance of bioenergy in Europe, the European Biomass Association AEBIOM and the REECO Group have gathered together to organize an international trade fair and conference for bioenergy – RENEXPO® Bioenergy EUROPE & AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference.

The event will take place on 28-29 April, 2010 at Albert Hall in Brussels, Belgium.

AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference will focus on current EU legislation and recent developments of bioenergy market in Europe as well as the state of the National Renewable Energy Action Plans. The event will serve as a platform for bioenergy market actors to exchange ideas and information as well as a discussion forum with policy makers. The main topics will cover the following issues: biomass supply, certification, biogas, biofuels, heating, electricity, financing bioenergy projects.

The premiere of RENEXPO® Bioenergy EUROPE will take place at the same time. Around 60 international exhibitors representing bioenergy/bioenergy technology producers and suppliers as well as experts from research and development, associations, media, governmental agencies and administrations are expected to participate in the trade fair. They will present their products, services and latest innovations to an estimated number of 1,200 visitors and 300 conference participants.

“The renewable energy directive has set ambitious objectives for 2020 for each member state of the European Union. Bioenergy, which represents 2/3 of renewables is expected to play a key role and its use should treble in the coming 10 years. All markets for heating/cooling, electricity and biofuels for transport are expected to rise significantly. Improved framework conditions and support schemes will create new bioenergy market opportunities, both for small and large companies.” – Heinz Kopetz, President of AEBIOM.

Further information can be found at : www.renexpo-bioenergy.eu

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► **Experts 2009: power plants emissions reductions, Berlin, 13-14 October**

Modern Power Systems Experts 2009 conference being held on the 13-14 October 2009 in Berlin will bring together key authorities to provide answers to power related questions from environmental, technical and economical point of view. From clarifying the latest European Directives and implementing biomass co-firing to achieving a more efficient power plant, this conference will provide in depth analysis into solving the critical issues facing the industry today.

AEBIOM members are entitled to receive a 10% discount.

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► **Clean Energy Trends Asia 2009, Shanghai, 13-15 October**

The two-day conference will focus on wind, biomass, nuclear and coal, pointing out the best and most effective trends on Clean Energy for the energy and utilities industries. It aims to accelerate the development of clean energy, energy-efficiency technologies, and robust clean energy markets in China, Asia, and the world. AEBIOM members are entitled to receive a 10% discount on delegate packages.

AEBIOM welcomes the development of the bioenergy sector in China and hopes that the renewable energy sources will play a major role in China's energy supply.

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► **International ECO-ENERGY conference, South Tyrol, 19-21 October**

The International Green Energy-Conference “Change on Energy now!” will take place from 19 October to 21 October 2009 in the South Tyrolean community Sand in Taufers. The event organized by Austrian Biomass Association focus on such areas as the renewable energy and sustainability. Quite a few tours are organized within the event to transfer the know-how of selected renewable technologies such as biogas, and district heating plants.

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► **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.

Expobioenergía'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

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► **RENEXPO® Eastern Trade, Alternative Energy, Kiev, 3-5 November**

The RES conference, organized by REECO will focus on renewable energy whilst covering a large number of bioenergy topics starting with biomass production up to the final use of biomass fuels in boilers and stoves. The bioenergy topics will include the biomass harvesting technologies, pellet and wood manufacturing and storage techniques, heating and cooling systems (small scale as well as the large scale), particularities of Stirling, Steam Turbine and other biomass to energy technologies, biomass trade issues etc.

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► **Fuels of the Future, Berlin, Germany, 1 December, 2009**

AEBIOM member BBE together with UFOP is organizing an international conference on biofuels to be held on 1-1 December in Berlin, Germany. The conference will debate the present European and German targets and policies for biofuels as well as the problems to reach these targets and possible solutions to ensure the sustainable and smooth biofuels market development.

The latest developments in Germany show that German biofuels strategy has already resulted in significant reduction of both biofuels production and consumption. The market share of biofuels in Germany has fallen from 7% in 2007 to 6,1% in 2008 and experts predict that the biofuels consumption will fall even further this year due to a still rising taxation of B100 and the reduction of the biofuels quota. E10 use has also been limited at the filling stations. Such development and the strategy of German Government contradict the plans of the European Union to introduce E10 within the EU27. Whilst new countries emerge as lead markets for the biofuels development, Germany, once a world market leader in biodiesel production, is now giving up its accomplishments and losing a strong industry.

During the conference, the discussions with political decision makers and biofuels stakeholders will take place in order to find out ways on how to change such development. For this economic and political dialogue it is necessary to have a huge participation and support of the biofuels sector, as all interests of the sector should be represented.

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► **RENEXPO Austria 2009: International Trade Fair and Conference on RES and Passive Houses in Austria on 26-28 November 2009**

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

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