

PRESS RELEASE

ART Fuels Forum launched in Brussels and endorses the Sub Group on Advanced Biofuels Recommendations

4-5 May, 2017

The **ART Fuel Forum** (*Support for Alternative and Renewable Liquid and Gaseous Fuels Forum – Policy and Market Issues*) was officially launched on the 4th and 5th of May 2017 in Brussels. More than **70 high level experts** representing all types of fuels and transport sectors participated to the **1st Plenary Meeting**.

The forum brings together experts from Industry, International Cooperation actors (US, Canada, India), relevant Institutions (as IEA Renewable and IEA Bioenergy) and Stakeholders into a coordinated group focused on the analysis of Alternative and Renewable Fuels policies and markets to 2030 and beyond. The main goal is to discuss the future opportunities and needs of the sector and provide input to policy makers, so to achieve a wide deployment of sustainable fuels to significantly decarbonize the transportation sector in support of the EU Climate Change policies.

The ART fuel Forum is managed by EXERGIA SA and RE-CORD, and is currently composed by **55 members and 17 observers**. The Forum is structured into working groups led by Industrial Leaders, addressing all Technology Value chains, Transport Sectors, Norms & Standards, Financing and Taxation, and Biomass Availability supported by International Cooperation. The ART Fuel Forum is closely cooperating with the **European Technology and Innovation Platform Bioenergy (ETIP-B)** of the SET Plan, and with the **European Advanced Biofuel Flightpath**, that deals with decarbonization of aviation.

Adam Brown of the International Energy Agency Renewable Energy Division said that "*The real strength of the Art Fuel Forum is to bring together such a wide range of industry participants to show the potential of advanced biofuels and identify the policy and regulatory framework needed to realise the promise in Europe.*".

During the meeting the main conclusions of the recent work carried out by the **SubGroup on Advanced Biofuels (SGAB)** of the Sustainable Transport Forum (STF) were presented. SGAB elaborated a detailed assessment of the alternative and renewable fuels sectors.

The conclusions and recommendations of the SGAB report were endorsed by the Art Fuels Forum.

Marko Janhunen of UPM said that "*it is great to see such an amount of advanced biofuels expertise come together to work for a common goal: realizing the opportunities of bringing new investments in advanced biofuels into the market while providing very high GHG savings and an overall reduction of transport emissions*".

This was echoed by Jonas Strömberg of Scania, "*The SGAB report highlights in a good way the urgent need of clear, stable long-term policies for achieving the EU goals on CO₂ reduction from transport. It also shows the key role for sustainable biofuels in the decarbonising of the heavy-duty transport sector.*"

The first meeting pointed out the **essential role of sustainable ART fuels** in the wider context of decarbonizing transport in the EU. The industry is ready to invest billions of Euros from the moment **the European Institutions will create a long term stable policy framework creating an environment of confidence and trust with the investors**. Nothing significant will happen without the right conditions in place.

Ana María Bravo of DuPont concluded that *"There is a certain urgency in delivering valuable feedback to the stakeholders involved in the revision of the RED II proposal. We look forward to working together with the stakeholders in renewable fuels in order to provide science-based input into the process."* A **call for long-term stable policies** has been raised many times by the participants during the Plenary meeting. In fact, the dimension of the industrial investments needed (measurable in terms of billions of euros) to achieve the 2030 and beyond GHG reduction goals is so large **that no industrial plan can be developed and implemented in the presence of existing and proposed policies which are subjected to frequent revisions and changes**.

Frederic Eychenne of Airbus concluded that *"Sustainable Fuels remain a key pillar for the aviation sector to reach its ambition to reduce GHG emissions (Carbon neutral in 2020; -50% in 2050 compare to 2005). It is great to see a real momentum to create the adequate policy framework to unlock aviation fuels availability and affordability for the next decades"*. This was echoed by Ruben Alblas of KLM who added that *"initiatives and developments for transport modes operating in a world-wide market require an approach which guarantees a global -level playing field"*.

Key messages from the Sub Group on Advanced Biofuels (SGAB):

- ▶ **A transparent, workable and simple definition for "advanced biofuels" as proposed by SGAB needs to replace the lists of Annex IX** in the recast of the Renewable Energy Directive. This would facilitate innovation and new value chains.
- ▶ There is **urgent need for a stable long term EU policy framework between 2020 and 2030**, which also gives a planning horizon sufficiently beyond 2030 for those who will invest in this decade as **the lifetime of installations is between 15-20 years**.
- ▶ **Crop based biofuels should not be phased out!** Phasing out crop based biofuels as of 2020, will sent the wrong signal to the investors who will have to invest billions of Euros.
- ▶ **The advanced renewable, biofuels and low carbon fossil fuels industry can contribute between 7.2% and 10.7% of the total EU energy for transport by 2030**. Mandatory targets should be fixed based on the lower contribution (7.2%) with a revision in 2025. Subject to achieved and planned progress the targets should be extended or revised upwards up to 2035 to provide continuity for investments.
- ▶ A reliable plan and mechanism for dedicated investment support for advanced renewable fuels production plants and for targeted support for R&D and Innovation must be clearly spelled out.

The SGAB recommendations have been endorsed by all major transport industry organizations in the EU as well as by all technology developers and industry stakeholders.

The ART Fuels Forum is financed by the European Commission.