



EBA
European Biogas Association

NEWSLETTER

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2013 - WELCOME!

EBA's fourth General Assembly will take place on 29 January at 18:00 in Leipzig's Trade Fair area. The meeting will be followed by a small reception with drinks and snacks providing a possibility for an international networking between the members. Furthermore, the company members are invited to join the next CAC meeting which will equally take place during the Biogas Trade Fair. Detailed information will follow soon.

Please contact the EBA secretariat to get a free access to the exhibition. Additionally, as an EBA member, you can get a discounted price for the congress.

BIOGAS PROFILES OF THE UK AND ITALY

At the end of October, EBA published two new biogas profiles: the [United Kingdom](#) and [Italy](#). The documents were produced in collaboration with EBA's members from Italy (Consorzio Italiano Biogas and B.T.S. Biogas) and the UK (adba).



SEE YOU IN JANUARY!

The EBA secretariat wishes all its members a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We hope to see you all at the General Assembly in January!



EBA welcomes new members!

- COMPOSTING & ANAEROBIC DIGESTION ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND
- PROF. DR.-ING. FRANK SCHOLWIN, HONORARY PROFESSOR FOR BIOGAS AND BIOENERGY AT UNIVERSITY OF ROSTOCK
- ELECTRA THERM, USA

Actually EBA consists of 58 members thereof 29 national associations and 29 associated members

Join EBA's group on: [Linked in](#)

ITALIAN MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR BIOGAS

NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

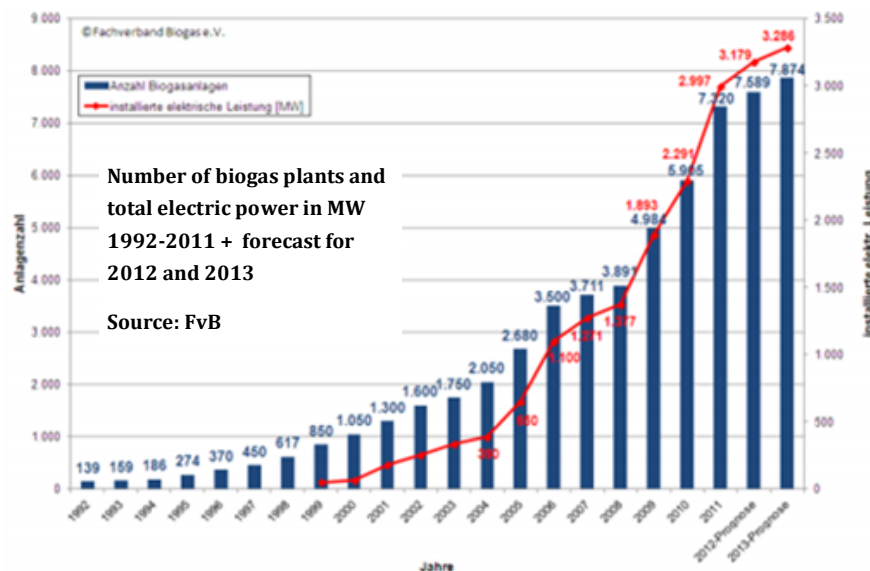
Piero Gattoni, Board Member of EBA and President of the Italian Biogas Association (CIB - Consorzio Italiano Biogas) had during the recent Ecomondo -trade fair a fruitful discussion with Mr. Corrado Clini, Italian Minister for Environment. Italy is currently reforming its system of incentives for renewable energies which brings about fundamental changes also to the local biogas sector. The quota system will be phased out and replaced with a complex system of feed-in tariffs. President Gattoni asked the Minister to protect the existing investments and to allow companies a smooth transition to the new system. Minister Clini reassured the CIB President that the biogas sector's performance is perfectly in line with the Governments objectives for renewable energies - sectors such as the biogas industry which generate employment in Italy, shall be rewarded.

Source: CIB - Consorzio Italiano Biogas

GERMAN BIOGAS ASSOCIATION REVISED THE FORECAST FIGURES FOR 2012 DOWNWARDS: LESS THAN 300 NEW GERMAN BIOGAS PLANTS IN 2012

During the press conference of Fachverband Biogas (the German biogas association) at the BioEnergy trade fair in Hanover, the President Josef Pellmeyer commented this year's industry figures by saying that current industry development in Germany is sobering. After the boom year of 2011, the biogas industry has experienced a significant decline as for the number of plants constructed this year.

The Biogas Association sees complex reasons for the market downturn. According to Mr. Pellmeyer, the amended German Renewable Energy Law (EEG 2012) has brought along more harm than incentives for the biogas industry. The newly introduced measures have not met the expectations so far. For example the legal betterment of large biomethane plants has not increased the amount of injected biomethane into the grid.



Also the rising prices of substrates and (often unfounded) criticism of biogas have had a negative impact on the industry. However, President Pellmeyer is sure that biogas will play a key role in the German 'Energiewende'. As a storable renewable energy, it gets increasing shares in the fluctuating power generation mix.

Read more [here](#) (in German)

MORATORIUM ON BIOMASS IN SPAIN TO BE LIFTED SOON?

Earlier this year, the Spanish Government temporarily stopped accepting applications to its feed-in tariff programme. A very few new biogas plants have been constructed lately, either because they had been granted already for the feed-in tariffs before the moratorium was announced, or because all the energy generated by the plant will be self-consumed in annexed farms, therefore not needing feed-in tariffs. Recently, there have been comments from members of the Government, in the sense that the Ministry of Energy and Industry might lift the moratorium on biomass and small cogeneration plants. Francisco Repullo, President of the Spanish Biogas Association, wants to believe that biogas would be also included, so that new biogas plants will be able to benefit from feed-in tariffs soon again. Otherwise, if biogas will be left outside the support scheme, it will be an 'unforgivable injustice' according to him. The Spanish Renewable Energy Action Plan (currently suspended by the moratorium) considers biogas technologies to have a great potential but nevertheless only 216 MW of agricultural biogas were in the plan until 2020. This very small quota along with a modest feed-in tariff of 14 c€/kWh prevents the risk of a speculative bubble. To worsen the situation even more, an additional tax on the turnover of 6% has been announced, which could lead to negative results in plants already in operation.

AEBIG requests to restore the situation as it was before the moratorium as soon as possible.

Source: Francisco Repullo, AEBIG (Spanish biogas association)

MORE THAN HALF OF THE SWEDISH BIOGAS GOES FOR TRANSPORT

Statistics demonstrate that an increasing amount of biogas produced in Sweden is used for transport - in 2011 more than 50%. The total amount of biogas produced last year was 1473 GWh, a slight increase of 6% from the year before (2010). According to Energigas Sweden, the production volumes do not increase sufficiently despite the great demand for biogas. The Swedish gas association calls for stronger policy signals and long-term regulations from the government.

Source: [Magazine of Energigas Sverige](#): page 8 (in Swedish)

EBA'S 7TH CAC MEETING - MINUTES

The 7th meeting of EBA's Company Advisory Council (CAC) was organised in mid-November in Hanover. One of the key topics was to talk about the next EBA conference. As already decided by the EBA Board, the conference will take place in autumn 2014 most likely either in France or Italy. CAC members were also asked to name the countries that should be the objects of the next EBA biogas profiles. As a result, the profiles of Denmark, Ukraine and Poland will follow the Belgian profile that is to be published very soon. Please find links to the Italian and the British profiles on the front page of this newsletter.

The full minutes of the CAC meeting can be found on EBA's [website](#).

MALMBERG STARTS TO PRODUCE BIOMETHANE FOR THE DANISH GAS GRID

Malmberg Water from Sweden and the Danish DONG Energy have joined forces to build 3-4 upgrading biogas plants in Denmark by 2014. The Danish gas system is going through a vital transition phase as, in the future, increasing amounts of renewable energy shall replace natural gas in the grid. This certainly provides outstanding opportunities for growth in the biogas industry in Denmark. The [first Danish biogas upgrading plant](#) that supplies biomethane to the grid was commissioned last year by DONG Energy.

The planned biomethane plants shall produce 10 mio m³ upgraded biogas which corresponds to the yearly consumption of 5000 Danish households.

Malmberg expressed its delight as being able to contribute to positive development of biogas in a neighbouring country.

Source: Malmberg

THE FIRST BIOGAS PLANT IN SERBIA INAUGURATED

Serbia's first biogas plant (1MW) was inaugurated in Vrbas in the presence of the Serbian primeminister, Ivica Dačić, and many other representatives from political, economic and media circles. The plant is operated with energy crops and agricultural residues and it will provide around 3000 households with electricity.

Please read more on [Biogest's website](#)

POLITICIANS IN FINLAND AND SWEDEN STRONGLY BACKING USE OF BIOGAS

OTHER BIOGAS NEWS

The Finnish gas company Gasum commissioned a study from a research company to investigate the opinions of local policymakers before the autumn's municipal elections in Finland. More than two thirds (893 responses altogether) of Finnish municipal policy-makers would like to strengthen the role of natural gas and biogas in the national energy and climate strategy that is currently being updated. 41% see biogas as the best possible fuel for the public transport in the future. Other preferred energies to power public transport included biodiesel (37%), electricity (34%) and natural gas (28%). Biogas was considered to have the advantages of being safe and environmentally friendly. On the other hand, the municipal policy-makers were suspicious of the availability and the sufficiency of biogas substrates. Source: [Gasum website](#) (in Finnish)

In Sweden, Energigas Sverige asked a reserach company to carry out a survey on politicians' views on the role of energy gases and their development possibilities in the society. 127 politicians were interviewed. The same survey was earlier conducted in 2008 and at the end of 2009. The newest results demonstrate that politicians' views towards energy gases have further improved. 97% of the interviewees (94% in 2008) believe that biogas can provide environmental benefits. Almost all interviewees welcome biogas and more than 8 our of 10 believe that biogas can meet the society's supply demand in the future and contribute to increased employment rate.

Source: [Magazine of Energigas Sverige](#): page 15 (in Swedish)

BIOGAS UPGRADING INCREASING IN THE NETHERLANDS

The Dutch feed-in tariff for electricity from biogas plants has been reduced so much that the generation is no longer profitable for new biogas plants. Biogas-electricity generators receive nowadays only 7-9 c€/kWh. Therefore, more and more biogas producers are planning to start upgrading biogas to biomethane, to be fed into the gas grid, as they feel attracted by the opportunities provided by the local fuel market with around 100 gas fueling stations around the country. In order to enable also small biogas plants to economically produce biomethane, collective pipelines with central upgrading facilities are being discussed. This would mean that crude biogas could be fed into the pipeline and transported to the central upgrading plant. The produced biomethane would be sold as fuel and the captured CO2 as bio-fertiliser.

Source: [TopAgrar Online](#) (in German)

MICROSOFT TO BUILD EXPERIMENTAL BIOGAS-FUELED DATA CENTER IN THE USA

Microsoft will build an experimental biogas-powered data center in the US state of Wyoming in March 2013, in an effort to enable its data centers to be less reliant on the traditional power grid. The data center will be powered by a 300kw fuel cell that uses biogas from a waste water treatment plant and will be "the first zero carbon data center". The biogas produced at waste water treatment plants is usually burned away because it is uneconomical to collect, transport and use. The Microsoft data center will be built next to the water facility to enable the fuel cell to capture the biogas on site.

Source: [Hindustantimes](#)

CARREFOUR TESTING BIOMETHANE FUELED TRUCKS IN FRANCE

Carrefour, a French multinational retailer, is testing biowaste-based-biomethane as fuel for three trucks that deliver products to around ten Carrefour-hypermarkets in the area of Lille. The biomethane is produced from the waste generated by Carrefour's own hypermarkets. In this way, the retailer giant aims at contributing to sustainable development. The initiative is realised in collaboration with GNVERT, an operator of the group GDF Suez for sustainable mobility, Perrenot, a haulier and IVECO, a manufacturer.

Read more (in French): [ValBiom's newsletter](#) (page 2), [Carrefour's press release](#)

BAD PRESS FOR BIOGAS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Following a recent explosion at a Dutch sludge sludge digester, there has been bad press on biogas in the Netherlands. It has been claimed that there is a high risk of illegal additions of animal by-products in the substrates since the substrates are not properly controlled nor registered. Farmers who produce biogas are seen as "unqualified chemical producers" distributing diseases and chemical waste over the fields.

EBA supports the Dutch biogas industry by means of an article sent to Dutch press representatives. Please see the English version of the article on [EBA's website](#).

Commission's proposal to mitigate iLUC caused by biofuels production

The EU Commission's proposal on mitigation of iLUC caused by biofuels production has been transmitted to the legislative bodies, the Council and the European Parliament, for the first reading. This legislative procedure is expected not to be as straightforward as usually through the two institutions. In the European Parliament several Committees will deal with the document and the Council is forming an ad hoc group that includes both, environmental and energy attachés. The Commission hopes to see an agreement before the elections to the European Parliament in 2014.

The proposal raises uncertainty in all biofuels industries as the Commission may continue changing the rules according to their modeling work. Without a secure investment climate, it will be difficult to develop any biofuels regardless of whether they are 1st or 2nd generation fuels. EBA is currently looking for a common view with and between its members to address the issue in Brussels.

Revision of Energy taxation Directive

The Council's working group has recently started discussing the taxation rate for biogas. The EBA secretariat has seen the Cypriot Presidency's compromise proposal that has also included an own taxation rate for biogas. However, the proposed rate for biogas in transport is clearly too high being 4,68 €/GJ (the taxation of natural gas is only slightly higher being 5,35 €/GJ). Thus the use of biogas in transport is still treated clearly less favourably than biogas for heat and power (0,15 €/GJ). Moreover, the document compares biogas to LPG and natural gas as an "equivalent energy product".

The Member States have not reached any consensus yet on a common proposal and further discussions (4 meetings) are scheduled for the first half of 2013 when the Council Presidency will be held by Ireland. Please read more on the state of play [here](#).

EBA encourages its members to stay in contact with the national governments and to advise them on the advantages of biomethane in transport.

Please see a recent [policy paper](#) of a British environmental research institutes demonstrating that Carbon pricing can help European countries to raise revenue and reduce their fiscal deficits more effectively than other taxes.



Revision of Fertiliser Regulation

The draft contents of the Commission's proposal for a revision of the Fertiliser Regulation were presented to the Working Group in its final meeting in November. The Commission is currently doing the last changes that followed from the meeting, to the document which is to be published at the beginning of 2013. The proposal's purpose is to fully harmonise the internal market for all types of fertiliser and extend it to growing matter and soil improvers.

End-of- waste Criteria for Biodegradable Waste

The proposed inclusion of non-source-separated municipal waste and sewage sludge into the positive list of compost and digestate, able to reach end-of-waste status, caused a strong opposition of some Member States as well as NGOs. Also EBA strongly opposes it since it contests those countries that have already implemented source-separated collection and as it would possibly cause a loss of confidence of consumers in digestate. Additionally, it brings about a higher demand on investigation of possible impurities and organic pollutants. To discuss these problems and to reach a solution there will be another meeting with the technical working group in February next year. EBA will definitely join it endeavouring to get a strong positive list and to avoid too high efforts on digestate investigations.



Renewable energies beyond 2020

The European Institutions are currently debating the destiny of renewable energies beyond 2020. Earlier this year Poland, the UK, France and Czech Republic expressed their willingness to reduce emissions by pure CO₂ emission reduction targets instead of any renewable targets. This would be of clear benefit to nuclear power. Commissioner Oettinger had also realised the intention behind that incentive and stated in November that "I [also] think we need a new binding target for renewables because if we just have a new binding target for CO₂ emissions reductions [then] nuclear is better". However, Commissioner's recent communication on Internal Energy Market very much focuses on low carbon energy leaving aside discussion of new renewable energy targets. In fact, most of the Member States would anyhow like to have continuation to renewable policies and targets which was noticeable at the first Energy Council in December, where Energy Ministers gave a mandate to the Commission to start work on a post-2020 renewable energy policy framework. Please

find [here](#) the Council's conclusions on renewable energy.

In the European Parliament in turn, MEPs are currently proposing amendments to the Commission's proposal from June 2012 on renewable energy beyond 2020. EBA followed the latest parliament's Committee discussion on the topic and noted that more and more MEPs are questioning efficiency and competitiveness of renewable energies. Also biogas was mentioned a few times by MEPs who either want to establish strict sustainability criteria for biomass and biogas or who see regional constraints of input materials as great barriers for growth in the biomass and biogas sectors. EBA will continue monitoring the debate and the tabled amendments and if necessary, intervene in the discussions.

7th EU Environmental Action Programme

The European Commission put forward a proposal for an action plan for environment in 2012-2020 entitled "Living well, within the limits of our planet ". This document will guide the EU's environment policy for the next 8 years. The earlier action plan that ran from 2002 until July 2012 failed to achieve many of its objectives for, according to the Commission's assessment, it contained too many actions varying both in scope and effect. As a result, the new plan includes less targets but it sets instead nine priorities to result in stronger action to tackle the main environmental challenges related to biodiversity, climate change and waste management.

Please find the proposal [here](#) and Q&A [here](#).

What is coming up next in Brussels?

The European Commission's **Communication on a European alternative fuels strategy** is due to be published on 19 December. The Communication shall promote more resource-efficient economy in Europe and reduce transport's overdependence on oil. The Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas pointed out at a conference in November that "fuels such as electricity, hydrogen, natural gas, biogas and liquid biofuels can be produced from low-carbon or carbon-free materials, and then deployed in energy-efficient vehicles" but "unfortunately, their full-scale deployment has been held back by three main barriers: the high cost of vehicles, poor consumer acceptance and a lack of infrastructure for recharging and refuelling". Kallas considers pan-European targets to be necessary in boosting the customer acceptance and in building the necessary infrastructure.

The European Commission is expected to introduce the long-awaited **Sustainability Criteria for solid and gaseous Biomass** in January. According to Commission sources, the

document will not introduce similar iLUC factors as the ones for biofuels. The modeling work is still at the very beginning and therefore too unsure for such factors.

The parliamentary **vote on the reform proposals for the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** will take place during the 23 - 24 January meeting of the Agriculture committee. The committee and the European Parliament as a whole have said on numerous occasions that they will not accept further cuts to the CAP budget.

During the first quarter of 2013, the Commission will also come up with a **guidance document on coordinating the different support schemes in Europe for renewable energies**. The document will provide practical information on how to use such schemes without distorting energy markets.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON EIB'S ENERGY LENDING POLICY

- October 2012 - 31 December 2012 - European Investment Bank will review its energy sector lending policy in 2013. The consultation process seeks to solicit views and input from a wide array of stakeholders that are involved in the energy sector and can bring valuable expertise to the review of the EIB's energy sector lending policy. To read more and to find the submission instructions, please visit the EIB [website](#).

PUBLICATIONS

- [EU Handbook Biogas Markets](#) Prepared by the Cross Border Bioenergy Working Group on Biogas technologies
- IEA Energy Outlook 2012 was presented to the press on 12 November in London. Please find the presentation [here](#) and the executive summary [here](#). The publication estimates that renewables become the world's second-largest source of power generation after coal by 2015.
- The latest [Biogas Barometer](#), a study carried out by EurObserv'ER
- AEBIOM's statistical report: [European Bioenergy Outlook 2012](#)
- [Biogas markets and the use of heat in biogas plants in Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Poland and Romania](#), prepared by the BiogasHeat project

EU PROJECTS

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE BIOFUELS FORUM

The first stakeholder meeting of the [ESBF project](#) on 28 November brought together around 50 stakeholders from different biofuels industries to discuss how the forum should be developed and what are the future prospects of the industry in light of the recent proposal of the Commission on iLUC. The Commission's DG Energy hosted the meeting in its premises and Commission officials were present the whole day to answer questions from the stakeholders. As expected, the iLUC proposal incited heated discussions on the Commission's approach. A common opinion was that the EU should create a stable policy environment for investors and always base its proposals on a robust modeling.

The idea of the stakeholder meetings is to bring together active biofuels associations, companies, consumers and NGOs who are continuously willing to contribute to the development of biofuels policies at the European level. The next meeting will be held in March. EBA encourages all its company members, active in biomethane, to take part in the next meeting. The date and the location are to be concluded at the beginning of next year.

GREEN GAS GRIDS

The [website](#) of the project Green Gas Grids provides detailed information on biomethane markets and regulations in 11 European countries including Austria, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom. The project itself aims at removing the most hindering barriers of biomethane's deployment in the EU and to make biomethane a mainstream fuel contributing to the EU's renewable energy targets.

EBA is leading the Work Package 3 on biomethane sustainability, quality, trade and market barriers. In Working Group 2 we are involved in the CEN TC 408 helping to define the biomethane quality assurance as a fuel or for grid injection. In WG3 our goal is to bring the different registries together. For this a Letter of Intent has been drafted formulating the common understanding of the aims, the content and the forms of the future cooperation. In the coming months the draft will be forwarded to all interested parties for comments.

The Letter of Intent was also discussed in a recent GGG workshop (4-5 December) on biomethane registries. The participants who came from Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom shared the view that a functional system of comprehensive information transfers between the national biomethane registries is essential for smoothing the way towards future cross-border biomethane trade within the European gas grid. The participants confirmed their readiness to cooperate with the aim of harmonisation of their procedures ensuring efficient transfer of information among the Partners. The next workshop is planned for early March 2013.

BIOGAS IN

The BiogasIn project was successfully finished on 30/10/2012. All the documents about the 28 target regions in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Greece, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia can be found on the project's [website](#).

OTHER EU PROJECTS ON BIOGAS

[Agri for Energy II](#) - fosters bioenergy businesses in 3 specific sectors; bioheat, vegetable oil, biogas

[Arbor](#) - fosters and accelerates development and use of biomass in North West Europe

[Bioenergy Farm](#) - information about the feasibility of bioenergy and biofuels in the agricultural environment

[BiogasHeat](#) - supports the sustainable use of heat from biogas plants

[BIOMASTER](#) - intends to exploit the potential of biomethane production and use for transport

[4Biomass](#) - fosters usage of bioenergy throughout Central Europe

[Bio-methane Regions](#) - promotes anaerobic digestion and biogas upgrading technology

[Energy4Farms](#) - helps dairy and pig farmers discover the benefits of biogas production

[Manev-Live+](#) - assesses treatment technologies and manure management systems

[SEBE](#) - Sustainable and Innovative European Biogas Environment

[UrbanBiogas](#) - promotes the use of organic urban waste for biogas production

MAJOR EVENTS ATTENDED BY EBA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

4 October	Seminar on Renewable Energy Technology implementation in Thailand - Experience transfer from Europe , Bangkok
9-10 October, 2012	Global Biomethane Congress, Brussels
18 October, 2012	Kick-off „GroenGas – GrünesGas“, NL-DE EU-Project, Papenburg
7-8 November, 2012	Ecomondo -trade fair, Rimini
13-15 November, 2012	IEA Bioenergy Conference 2012, Vienna
13-16 November, 2012	BioEnergy Decentral - EuroTier Exhibition, Hanover
19 November, 2012	Fertiliser Working Group, Brussels
28 November, 2012	1st stakeholder meeting of European Sustainable Biofuels Forum, Brussels
28 November, 2012	Biomethan - der Joker der Energiewende , Berlin
28-29 November, 2012	8th Austrian Biogas conference , Linz
4 December, 2012	COGEN Europe - WG on Bioenergy CHP, Brussels
4-5 December	Green Gas Grids Workshop on biomethane registries, Berlin

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fuels of the Future 2013 - 10th International Conference on Biofuels

21-22 January 2013, Berlin, Germany

Annual Conference and Trade Fair of Fachverband Biogas

29-31 January 2013, Leipzig, Germany - **Meet EBA and take part in GA and CAC meetings!**

BioEnergy Italy - Biomass and Renewables

28 February - 2 March, Cremona, Italy

International VDI Conference - Biomethane

19-20 March 2013, Frankfurt, Germany - **Partnered by EBA**

Biogaz Europe

20-22 March, Nantes, France

UK Biomethane Day 2013

21 May, Birmingham, UK

21st European Biomass Conference and Exhibition

3-7 June 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark

AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2013

17-19 June 2013, Brussels Belgium - **In collaboration with EBA!**

UK AD & Biogas 2013

3-4 July 2013, NEC Birmingham, UK

EBA TO ORGANISE TWO BIOGAS SESSIONS DURING AEBIOM'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

As usually AEBIOM will also next year organise its annual European Bioenergy Conference in June in Brussels. As a difference to earlier years, in 2013, EBA will organise a workshop dedicated exclusively to biogas and is also planning to organise a visit to a Belgian biogas plant. All EBA's members get the same fee discount as AEBIOM's members and members of EBA's member associations will be entitled to claim a 10% discount to the conference.

