



EBA
European Biogas Association

NEWSLETTER

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2030 FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICIES

EBA together with other renewable energy association have been calling for a binding renewable energy target for 2030 to ensure investment certainty and continued competitiveness in Europe brought by green technologies. Climate Commissioner Hedegaard has repeatedly emphasised the role of renewable energies as one of the very few sectors able to weather the economic crisis. EBA sent a [supportive letter](#) to the Commissioner pleading for a RE target and submitted its [response to the public consultation on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies](#). EBA thanks its members for actively contributing to the response!

Also Energy Commissioner Oettinger stated during the EU sustainable energy week that he advocates for a binding renewable energy target for 2030. Unfortunately, the Commissioner still questions the sub-target for transport: e-mobility cannot power the aviation and maritime sectors and biofuels are struggling with the sustainability issues. Commissioner Oettinger highlighted that all retroactive changes to the RES support schemes are poison for investors and endanger the green growth EU-wide.

EBA welcomes new members!

- ARBIO, ROMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF BIOMASS AND BIOGAS
- SLOVENIAN BIOGAS ASSOCIATION

Currently EBA consists of 60 members thereof 31 national associations and 29 associated members

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CZECH REPUBLIC PLANS TO END SUPPORT SCHEME

The Energy Regulatory Office of Czech Republic has announced the end of the support scheme for Photovoltaic and Biogas plants put in service from January, 1st 2014. "In the area of electricity from photovoltaic power plants and biogas plants in 2011 we have achieved production that exceeded the limit established by the National Action Plan for 2013. This was achieved by statutory conditions, which enables the Office not to announce the support obligation for these resources in the future. Therefore, from next year, in full compliance with current legislation, additional support for new sources stops. We see this as positive news for consumers and end users" said Deputy Officer Martin Laštůvka.

EBA has addressed a formal complaint together with EREF (European Renewable Energies Federation) to the European Commissioner for Energy Günter Oettinger. Indeed, such a U-turn threatens the achievement of 2020 Targets for which Czech Republic was currently on track. Head of Renewables Unit at the European Commission Hans van Steen assured that the Commission had taken good note of the views expressed in the formal complaint and that it would pay particular attention to the impact of the recent changes in the support scheme.

Read the official [statement](#)

Source : Jan Stambasky, EBA Committee

NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

BIOMETHANE IS GAINING MOMENTUM IN THE UK

The number of Anaerobic Digestion plants in operation outside the water sector is now 110 as per the UK's Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Association. ADBA also welcomed the HSE (UK's Health and Safety Authority) decision to remove an important barrier for biomethane injection to the grid through the class Exemption for gas with Oxygen content $\leq 1\%$ (molar) at pressures up to 38 bar. These good results were followed by an announcement from Transport Minister Norman Baner on June 5 of a £5m support plan to decarbonized bus fleets across several British cities. However, EBA along with ADBA regret the decision of the Department for Food and Rural Affairs and Department of Energy and Climate Change to reduce Feed-in Tariff rates from 2014.

More information :

[HSE Removes Final Barrier to Biomethane Injection](#)

[Electricity Market Reform in the UK](#)

GREEK BIOGAS INDUSTRY SHOWS CONFIDENCE

After three years of financial crisis and recession, noticeable improvements in the economy are observable in Greece and the investment atmosphere is promising. Therewith also the biogas industry gains finally momentum. The Greek Renewable Energy Act was already laid down in 2010. Some of the first projects that were initiated last year will get into the construction phase in September 2013 forming also the basis for a promising year 2014, with the launch of the first plants using organic by-products from livestock farms. According to the calculations of hel.bi.o, the Hellenic Biogas Association, about 15 new biogas plants with a total capacity of at least 10 MW will go into operation until the beginning of 2015. This is a significant increase as there are today only twenty small biogas plants with a capacity of 250 KW in operation. The encouraging signals from the Greek economy together with low costs and prime locations already pull interest of foreign investors on Greek biogas projects. As opposed to saturated RE sectors such as the PV industry and thanks to the successful advocacy of hel.bi.o, the biogas sector enjoys the Greek government's recognition providing also a solution to dispose organic waste. Plants fed with waste receive an investment subsidy up to 50%. All in all, the future of biogas in Greece appears positive.

Source: Efthimios Sakkas, President of hel.bi.o – Hellenic Biogas Association

Contact : info@helbio.gr

BIOGAS PROMOTIONAL TOUR IN GERMANY

On June 8, the "Biogas Bus" left from Bioenergy Hoser GmbH plant in Grundremmingen (Bavaria) for a journey across the country until Berlin on September 18. The initiative, launched by Fachverband Biogas, aims at making citizens and local authorities more familiar with biogas and will be the occasion for political candidates to express their commitments towards the biogas industry. Halts will also be a good occasion to dismantle any misconceptions around biogas which has faced some criticism over the last few months in the country. At present, biomethane is supplied in just one third of Germany's 915 gas filling stations.

Follow the bus on : <http://www.biogas-tour.de/> and read the [Fachverband Biogas statement](#)

CAC NEWS

COMPANY ADVISORY MEETING (CAC) MEETING

The 9th CAC meeting on 18th of September in Freising, Germany will be a full day dedicated to the future EU policies addressing biogas, business opportunities for the companies and getting to know each other. Draft agenda is available after member's login.

Please confirm your attendance to Ms. Agata Przadka: Przadka@european-biogas.eu

AB GROUP LAUNCHES FIRST BIOGAS-DEDICATED MEDIA



Watch Biogas
Channel

On May 30, Lombardy's AB Group launched Biogas Channel, the first biogas-dedicated media. Goal is to produce culture in the biogas sector at international level among companies, operators as well as end users. 16 sections will cover topics such as innovation, new technologies and regulations, relying on a network of biogas experts and operators including members from the EBA Committee.

OTHER BIOGAS NEWS

NATURAL GAS SUPPLIERS PLANNING TO BECOME CARBON NEUTRAL

GRT Gaz and Swedegas are now on board with Gasunie, Energienet and Fluxys to meet carbon neutral gas supply by 2050. This joint initiative, in line with the EU energy and climate goals for 2050, relies on the development of new technologies in three major areas :

- power to gas technology and hydrogen transmission
- gas and LNG as fuel for road and maritime transport
- green gas (on the basis of biogas and biomass gasification) and development of green certificates

The collaboration takes place between experts from each company and welcomes all gas infrastructure companies committed to developing sustainable gas supply.

Read the [Official statement](#)

ROMANIA TO CUT GREEN CERTIFICATES

In an attempt to decrease electricity prices for households and industrial consumers, Romania's delegate-minister for Energy Constantin Nita declared a cut to the green certificate support scheme for renewable energies from July 2013. Nevertheless, biomass-generated electricity will still be granted 2 to 3 certificates per MWh fed into the grid, and the installed capacity of biomass plants is expected to grow from 42MW to 60MW by the end of 2013. One of the most important projects is a €90 million biomass-fueled co-generation plant in Suceva (North East). All in all, ARBIO predicts investments will gain further momentum over 2014-2016 should market and legislative conditions remain favourable.

Source: [Business Review](#)

SUSTAINABILITY OF BIOGAS AND BIOFUELS

NEWS FROM EU

The Commission is working on a report and possible legislative proposal on biomass and biogas sustainability. Based on its members' feedback, EBA submitted in June comments on the update of Annex V (Renewable Energy Directive) and the Sustainability Criteria for Biogas. Please find the contribution in our [members' section](#).

As regards the transport sector, the European Parliament is currently going through the committee votes on the ILUC proposal. Two key committees have already voted: both the ITRE and AGRI committees call for a sub-target for advanced biofuels and the removal of ILUC factors. To read more: [Press release of ITRE committee](#), [Opinion of the AGRI Committee](#).

Also the Council seems to be fond of a sub-target. Furthermore the Member State representatives seem to be willing to maintain the ILUC reporting the Directive and to replace the quadruple counting with a mere double counting. There are still number of issues that the Member States must agree on before the negotiation position is clear. Please read more in the [Progress Report of the Irish Presidency](#) and in the [Presidency suggestions](#).

BIOMETHANE AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE FUELS BACKED BY EU-BRUSSELS

Industry stakeholders and the European Parliament and the Council have positively welcomed the European Commission's Clean Power for Transport package (published in January). With the policy measures introduced in the package, the EU shall diversify its transport fuels, strive for oil independency and facilitate the full deployment of alternative fuels including biomethane.

During the EU sustainable energy week, Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas noted in his [speech](#) that we should make more use of locally produced biomethane. On the same occasion, a representative of the Lithuanian Council Presidency announced that the package will be one of the policy priorities for the next six months and the European Parliament Rapporteur Carlo Fidanza has started discussions on the dossier in the European Parliament. Both industry stakeholders and the institutions seem to share the concern of how to finance the new infrastructure but the Commission has pointed to a number of different financial instruments that are at Member States' disposal.

CAP REFORM : WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR BIOGAS

As reported earlier, the proposals for the CAP after 2013 pay attention to the bioenergy sector through the Rural development pillar which promotes « renewable sources of energy, of by-products, wastes, residues, and other non-food raw material for the purpose of the bio-economy ». That means continued or improved support to investments in CHP and biomethane projects, but under conditions of energy efficiency, sustainability and limitation to food crops. The choice of support instruments will remain within the Member States. More about [bioenergy in the CAP](#).

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN WASTE MANAGEMENT TARGETS

• 4 June 2013 - 10 September 2013

The European Commission and DG Environment have launched a review on European Waste Management Targets. The objective is to bring the objectives in line with the Roadmap on Energy and Resource Efficiency and will cover the Waste Framework directive, Landfill directive and Packaging/Packaging waste directive. The consultation is open to citizens, organisations and companies. Later this summer, EBA will ask for its members' views on the Waste Management Targets in order to prepare and submit a common response.

EU PROJECTS

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE BIOFUELS FORUM

The ESBF stakeholders met on June 19 in Brussels to discuss the topic "Sustainable biofuels at crossroads : Greenhouse Gas emissions and Deployment of advanced biofuels". The following conditions to qualify as an "advanced biofuel" were defined :

1. Low carbon dioxide emissions or high GHG reduction
2. High sustainability
3. Lignocellulosic biomass, municipal or industrial waste, sludge, residue streams or processed by-products, micro-organisms, algae

The next stakeholder meeting will be held on September 25th in Brussels and EBA encourages all company members active in biomethane to participate.

GREEN GAS GRIDS

The Market platform is going to be enriched with best practices of planned or existing biomethane grid injection plants in the 11 participant countries. The Netherlands are showing the way with already five examples uploaded on their [profile](#).

The next GGG Workshop will take place in Vienna on September 16-17 to define and implement actions for biomethane trade.

PUBLICATIONS

- [Biogas fact sheet](#) - by the World Bioenergy Association
- [Nutricycle: green fertiliser from manure and digestate](#) - by the University of Ghent
- [REN21's Renewables Global Status Report](#) - by the UNEP Collaborating Centre for Climate & Sustainable Energy Finance
- [Presentations](#) from the UK Biomethane Day 2013 in Birmingham
- [Latest publications](#) from the GreenGasGrids Project

PAST EVENTS

MAJOR EVENTS ATTENDED BY EBA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

4-6 June POWERGEN Europe, Vienna

12-14 June [VDI Biogastagung](#), Nuertin

18 June European Bioenergy Conference, Brussels

Ask for the meeting presentations (only for EBA members) at delannoy@european-biogas.eu

24 June Clean Power for Transport expert meeting, Brussels

Ask for the meeting presentations (only for EBA members) at delannoy@european-biogas.eu

25-28 June 13th world congress of anaerobic digestion, Santiago de Compostela

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bioenergy - Exhibition & Conference

4-6 September, Jyväskylä, Finland

IBBA Workshop on Digestate Use and Treatment

5 September 2013, Höör/Malmö, Sweden

Expobioenergía

22-24 September 2013, Valladolid, Spain

SGC International Seminar on Gasification

16-18 October 2013, Göteborg, Sweden

Renexpo Poland : Biogas Forum

16 October 2013, Warsaw, Poland

Biogas expo & congress

23-24 October 2013, Offenburg, Germany

13th Austrian Biogas Conference

4-5 December 2013, St. Pölten, Austria

REGATEC 2014

22-23 May 2014, Malmö, Sweden

COMMUNICATION TRAINEE AT EBA



We welcome Olivier Delannoy in our team. He will be working for 6 months as a communication and administration trainee at our Brussels office. Olivier has a Master degree from Grenoble Graduate School of Business. He has been working at DSM and Solvay on raw materials purchasing and compliance under REACH regulation. He is currently finalising a Master in Environmental Management at the University of Brussels focusing on European Biofuels strategy. He is French and speaks fluent English, Portuguese and has good command of German.

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