



Press Release



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ePURE welcomes launch of EU sustainability schemes for biofuels; wants criteria applied to other sectors

Brussels, 19/07/11 – At a press conference in Brussels today Mr. Günther Oettinger, the European Commissioner for Energy, officially presents the first EU Sustainability Certification Schemes for Biofuels that have been approved by the European Commission. ePURE welcomes the introduction of the certification schemes for biofuels and urges policy-makers to apply equivalent sustainability criteria to other sectors.

The 7 approved voluntary schemes have been introduced in order to support the implementation of the sustainability criteria for biofuels, a requirement of the EU's Renewable Energy Directive (RED). The schemes ensure that only sustainable biofuels will contribute towards the RED target of 10% renewable energy use in transport by 2020. The major advantage of the Commission-approved schemes is that the certification is applicable across the whole European market, while nationally approved certification schemes can only be used to certify biofuels that are to be used on national markets.

“We welcome the introduction of the certification schemes for biofuels - it proves that Europe is now the global front-runner in promoting sustainable biofuels. If wider issues such as global deforestation are to be addressed effectively then the Commission must apply binding criteria to crops used for other end uses, such as the food sector and solid biomass. A truly level-playing field is the best guarantee to avoid potential indirect land use effects - we don't need contentious ILUC science when we already have such practical solutions at our disposal”, said ePURE Secretary General Mr. Rob Vierhout.

At the end of 2011 the Commission will report on the sustainability criteria for solid and gaseous biomass. “It is vital that the Commission takes the issue of sustainability seriously and shows the required leadership to enable a level-playing field and the sustainable use of all crops, regardless of end use”, added Mr. Vierhout.

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Information on the approved certification schemes: http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regcomitology/index.cfm?do=search_dossierdetail&xos4hSzFhgpL8X0wMph8FfyZBS7xKeJ7SvEeVvh88beZQcZMUON7LOAUWjcmvspE

The European Commission's Biofuels Sustainability Criteria: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/biofuels/sustainability_criteria_en.htm

For further information about the press conference:
<http://europa.eu/eucalendar/event/id/233060-press-conference-first-certification-schemes-for-biofuels/mode/standalone>

ePURE is Europe's industry association that promotes renewable ethanol, providing advocacy, authoritative analysis and industry data to its members, European institutions, strategic partners and the media. It represents the majority of European renewable ethanol producers, European market leaders as well as a broad cross-section of businesses related to the European renewable ethanol industry.