

A sustainable bioenergy policy for the period after 2020

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

EU Member States have agreed on a new policy framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets for the period between 2020 and 2030. The targets include reducing the Union's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40 % relative to emissions in 2005 and ensuring that at least 27 % of the EU's energy comes from renewable sources. They should help to make the EU's energy system more competitive, secure and sustainable, and help it meet its long-term (2050) GHG reductions target.

In January 2014, in its Communication on A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030,[1] the Commission stated that '[a]n improved biomass policy will also be necessary to maximise the resource-efficient use of biomass in order to deliver robust and verifiable greenhouse gas savings and to allow for fair competition between the various uses of biomass resources in the construction sector, paper and pulp industries and biochemical and energy production. This should also encompass the sustainable use of land, the sustainable management of forests in line with the EU's forest strategy and address indirect land-use effects as with biofuels'.

In 2015, in its Energy Union strategy,[2] the Commission announced that it would come forward with an updated bioenergy sustainability policy, as part of a renewable energy package for the period after 2020.

Bioenergy is the form of renewable energy used most in the EU and it is expected to continue to make up a significant part of the overall energy mix in the future. On the other hand, concerns have been raised about the sustainability impacts and competition for resources stemming from the increasing reliance on bioenergy production and use.

Currently, the Renewable Energy Directive[3] and the Fuel Quality Directive[4] provide an EU-level sustainability framework for biofuels[5] and bioliquids.[6] This includes harmonised sustainability criteria for biofuels and provisions aimed at limiting indirect land-use change,[7] which were introduced in 2015.[8]

In 2010, the Commission issued a Recommendation[9] that included non-binding sustainability criteria for solid and gaseous biomass used for electricity, heating and cooling (applicable to installations with a capacity of over 1 MW). Sustainability schemes have also been developed in a number of Member States.

The Commission is now reviewing the sustainability of all bioenergy sources and final uses for the period after 2020. Identified sustainability risks under examination include lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from bioenergy production and use; impacts on the carbon stock of forests and other ecosystems; impacts on biodiversity, soil and water, and emissions to the air; indirect land use change impacts; as well as impacts on the competition for the use of biomass between different sectors (energy, industrial uses, food). The Commission has carried out a number of studies to examine these issues more in detail.

The development of bioenergy also needs to be seen in the wider context of a number of priorities for the Energy Union, including the ambition for the Union to become the world leader in renewable energy, to lead the fight against global warming, to ensure security of supply and integrated and efficient energy markets, as well as broader EU objectives such as reinforcing Europe's industrial base, stimulating research and innovation and promoting competitiveness and job creation, including in rural areas. The Commission also stated in its 2015 Communication on the circular economy^[10] that it will 'promote synergies with the circular economy when examining the sustainability of bioenergy under the Energy Union'. Finally, the EU and its Member States have committed themselves to meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

[1] COM(2014) 15.

[2] COM/2015/080 final.

[3] Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC (OJ L 140, 5.6.2009, p. 16).

[4] Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 1998 relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Council Directive 93/12/EEC (OJ L 350, 28.12.1998, p. 58).

[5] Used for transport.

[6] Used for electricity, heating and cooling.

[7] Biomass production can take place on land that was previously used for other forms of agricultural production, such as growing food or feed. Since such production is still necessary, it may be (partly) displaced to land not previously used for crops, e.g. grassland and forests. This process is known as indirect land use change (ILUC); see <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/renewable-energy/biofuels/land-use-change>.

[8] See more details on the existing sustainability framework for biofuels and bioliquids in section 5.

[9] COM/2010/0011 final.

[10] Closing the loop – an EU action plan for the circular economy (COM(2015) 614/2).

1. General information about respondents

★ 1.1. In what capacity are you completing this questionnaire?

- ☐ academic/research institution
- ☐ as an individual / private person
- ☐ civil society organisation
- ☐

- ☐ international organisation
- ☐ other
- ☒ private enterprise
- ☐ professional organisation
- ☐ public authority
- ☐ public enterprise

* 1.2. If you are a private or public enterprise, could you please indicate your principal business sector?

- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Automotive
- ☐ Biotechnology
- ☐ Chemicals
- ☒ Energy
- ☐ Food
- ☐ Forestry
- ☐ Furniture
- ☐ Mechanical Engineering
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Printing
- ☐ Pulp and Paper
- ☐ Woodworking

* 1.3. If you are a private or public enterprise, could you please indicate the size of your company?

(Medium-sized enterprise: an enterprise that employs fewer than 250 persons and whose annual turnover does not exceed EUR 50 million or whose annual balance-sheet total does not exceed EUR 43 million.

Small enterprise: an enterprise that employs fewer than 50 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance-sheet total does not exceed EUR 10 million.

Micro-enterprise: an enterprise that employs fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance-sheet total does not exceed EUR 2 million.)

- ☒ large enterprise
- ☐ medium-sized enterprise
- ☐ small enterprise
- ☐ micro-enterprise
- ☐ I don't know

1.8. If replying as an individual/private person, please give your name; otherwise give the name of your organisation

200 character(s) maximum

E.ON

1.9. If your organisation is registered in the Transparency Register, please give your Register ID number.

(If your organisation/institution responds without being registered, the Commission will consider its input as that of an individual and will publish it as such.)

200 character(s) maximum

1.10. Please give your country of residence/establishment

- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Croatia
- ☐ Cyprus
- ☐ Czech Republic
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Finland
- ☐ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Hungary
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Malta
- ☐ Netherlands
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Romania
- ☐ Slovakia
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Sweden
- ☒ United Kingdom
- ☐ Other non-EU European country
- ☐ Other non-EU Asian country
- ☐ Other non-EU African country
- ☐ Other non-EU American country

★ 1.11. Please indicate your preference for the publication of your response on the Commission's website:

(Please note that regardless the option chosen, your contribution may be subject to a request for

access to documents under [Regulation 1049/2001](#) on public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In this case the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and in accordance with applicable [data protection rules](#).)

- ☒ Under the name given: I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication.
- ☐ Anonymously: I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication.
- ☐ Please keep my contribution confidential. (it will not be published, but will be used internally within the Commission)

Perceptions of bioenergy

2.1. Role of bioenergy in the achievement of EU 2030 climate and energy objectives

Please indicate which of the statements below best corresponds to your perception of the role of bioenergy in the renewable energy mix, in particular in view of the EU's 2030 climate and energy objectives:

- ☐ Bioenergy should continue to play a dominant role in the renewable energy mix.
- ☒ Bioenergy should continue to play an important role in the renewable energy mix, but the share of other renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind, hydro and geothermal) should increase significantly.
- ☐ Bioenergy should not play an important role in the renewable energy mix: other renewable energy sources should become dominant.

2.2. Perception of different types of bioenergy

Please indicate, for each type of bioenergy described below, which statement best corresponds to your perception of the need for public (EU, national, regional) policy intervention (tick one option in each line):

	Should be further promoted	Should be further promoted, but within limits	Should be neither promoted nor discouraged	Should be discouraged	No opinion
Biofuels from food crops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biofuels from energy crops (grass, short rotation coppice, etc.)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Biofuels from waste (municipal solid waste, wood waste)					
Biofuels from agricultural and forest residues					
Biofuels from algae					
Biogas from manure					
Biogas from food crops (e.g. maize)					
Biogas from waste, sewage sludge, etc.					
Heat and power from forest biomass (except forest residues)					
Heat and power from forest residues (tree tops, branches, etc.)					
Heat and power from agricultural biomass (energy crops, short rotation coppice)					
Heat and power from industrial residues (such as sawdust or black liquor)					
Heat and power from waste					

Large-scale electricity generation (50 MW or more) from solid biomass	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commercial heat generation from solid biomass	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Large-scale combined heat and power generation from solid biomass	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small-scale combined heat and power generation from solid biomass	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Heat generation from biomass in domestic (household) installations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bioenergy based on locally sourced feedstocks	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bioenergy based on feedstocks sourced in the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Bioenergy based on feedstocks imported from non-EU countries	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please specify the "other" choice

200 character(s) maximum

Biogas produced from biodegradable waste disposal process: possibility to clean the biogas, produced from the mentioned process, supply the biogas (Biomethane) to the distribution grid or use in CHP

3. Benefits and opportunities from bioenergy

3.1. Benefits and opportunities from bioenergy

Bioenergy (biofuel for transport, biomass and biogas for heat and power) is currently promoted as it is considered to be contributing to the EU's renewable energy and climate objectives, and also having other potential benefits to the EU economy and society.

Please rate the contribution of bioenergy, as you see it, to the benefits listed below (one answer per line):

	of critical importance	important	neutral	negative	No opinion
Europe's energy security: safe, secure and affordable energy for European citizens	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grid balancing including through storage of biomass (in an electricity system with a high proportion of electricity from intermittent renewables)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduction of GHG emissions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental benefits (including biodiversity)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Resource efficiency and waste management	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boosting research and innovation in bio-based industries	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Competitiveness of European industry	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Growth and jobs, including in rural areas	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sustainable development in developing countries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please specify the "other" choice

200 character(s) maximum

3.2. Any additional views on the benefits and opportunities from bioenergy? Please explain

2500 character(s) maximum

Apart from above listed benefits, the bioenergy industry also has important local aspects such as job opportunities and security of energy supply. In EU MSs where biomass-based CHPs constitutes a substantial part of renewable energy, it is an important source of plannable renewable capacity to balance and complement an increasing share of intermittent power in the form of wind and solar power.

In the transport sector, biofuels complement electrification of the transport sector by being available and competitive to a large scale of applications in the short term, through low-blend and high-blend fuels including biogas from waste and residues, and by being also a long-term solution for heavy vehicles.

- In addition to reducing GHG emissions through the emissions through the substitution of fossil fuels by renewable energy, the use of biogas from anaerobic digestion also mitigates climate change by replacing mineral fertilizers, avoiding GHG emissions from decomposing organic waste (landfilling and open manure storage are amongst the biggest sources of methane emissions which can be avoided by introducing an anaerobic digestion step in the waste management) and by using the soil as a natural carbon sink by organic fertilizers which is a by-product from the biogas process.

4. Risks from bioenergy production and use

4.1. Identification of risks

A number of risks have been identified (e.g. by certain scientists, stakeholders and studies) in relation to bioenergy production and use. These may concern specific biomass resources (agriculture, forest, waste), their origin (sourced in the EU or imported) or their end-uses (heat, electricity, transport).

Please rate the relevance of each of these risks as you see it (one answer per line):

--	--	--	--	--	--

	critical	significant	not very significant	non-existent	No opinion
Change in carbon stock due to deforestation and other direct land-use change in the EU					
Change in carbon stock due to deforestation and other direct land-use change in non-EU countries					
Indirect land-use change impacts					
GHG emissions from the supply chain (e.g. cultivation, processing and transport)					
GHG emissions from combustion of biomass ('biogenic emissions')					
Impacts on air quality					
Impacts on water and soil					
Impacts on biodiversity					
Varying degrees of efficiency of biomass conversion to energy					
Competition between different uses of biomass (energy, food, industrial uses) due to limited availability of land and feedstocks and/or subsidies for specific uses					
Internal market impact of divergent national sustainability schemes					
Other					

Please specify the "other" choice

200 character(s) maximum

Land use regulated by competent national/regional authorities (respecting the laws of property rights); add. sustainability criteria, should be on biomass producer

4.2. Any additional views on the risks from bioenergy production and use? Please explain

2500 character(s) maximum

The forests in Europe differ by for example biosphere, cultivation methodology and/or other preconditions. Potential sustainability criteria for solid biomass should therefore be defined by national forest policy, which normally has been developed during decades by national competence of how to produce a sustainable forest and forest products without limiting the availability of woody biomass. If sustainability criteria for solid biomass, apart from national forest policy, should be developed for import from countries outside EU, it should be possible to fulfil those criteria by using established international sustainability certification systems such as FSC or PFSC. If sustainability criteria, other than national forest policy, shall be introduced for solid biomass, the responsibility for fulfilment of the sustainability criteria should be up to the producers of the biomass, e.g.: responsibility of fulfilment on the producer of the biomass secures equal competition between sectors that uses biomass as raw material of their products; without equal competition between biomass users, the competition between sectors using biomass as raw material will be distorted; if the responsibility of sustainability criteria fulfilment lies on the user of the biomass, the criteria will be more difficult to fulfil, or fulfilled in an inefficient and costly manner since the end user of the biomass has a) less possibilities to influence the direct production and has b) less possibilities to quality assure the quality of the processes in the value chain before the user of the biomass, especially if the raw material has passed several steps in the value chain. Sustainability criteria would with a set-up of responsibility on the end user would be inefficient as a policy instrument since the responsibility for fulfilment lies far from the actors in the value chain that has the best possibilities to fulfil the criteria. Sustainability risks associated with biomass should be handled through measures directly linked within the areas where they are identified as substantial, not by putting general requirements on all biomass use where the measures are not in proportion to identified risks. If risks are associated with imports of specific fuels from countries outside EU where legislation is not deemed sufficient to fulfil sustainability criteria, measures should be directed to specifically deal with these risks rather than imposing additional requirements on all biomass.

5. Effectiveness of existing EU sustainability scheme for biofuels and bioliquids

In 2009, the EU established a set of sustainability criteria for biofuels (used in transport) and bioliquids (used for electricity and heating). Only biofuels and bioliquids that comply with the criteria can receive government support or count towards national renewable energy targets. The main criteria are as follows:

- Biofuels produced in new installations must achieve GHG savings of at least 60 % in comparison with fossil fuels. In the case of installations that were in operation before 5 October 2015, biofuels must achieve a GHG emissions saving of at least 35 % until 31 December 2017 and at least 50 % from 1 January 2018. Lifecycle emissions taken into account when calculating GHG savings from biofuels include emissions from cultivation, processing, transport and direct land-use change;
- Biofuels cannot be grown in areas converted from land with previously (before 2008) high carbon stock, such as wetlands or forests;
- Biofuels cannot be produced from raw materials obtained from land with high biodiversity, such as primary forests or highly biodiverse grasslands.

In 2015, new rules[1] came into force that amend the EU legislation on biofuel sustainability (i.e. the Renewable Energy Directive and the Fuel Quality Directive) with a view to reducing the risk of indirect land-use change, preparing the transition to advanced biofuels and supporting renewable electricity in transport. The amendments:





















- limit to 7 % the proportion of biofuels from food crops that can be counted towards the 2020 renewable energy targets;
- set an indicative 0.5 % target for advanced biofuels as a reference for national targets to be set by EU countries in 2017;
- maintain the double-counting of advanced biofuels towards the 2020 target of 10 % renewable energy in transport and lay down a harmonised EU list of eligible feedstocks; and
- introduce stronger incentives for the use of renewable electricity in transport (by counting it more towards the 2020 target of 10 % renewable energy use in transport).

[1] Directive (EU) 2015/1513 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 amending Directive 98/70/EC relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (OJ L 239, 15.9.2015, p. 1).

5.1. Effectiveness in addressing sustainability risks of biofuels and bioliquids

In your view, how effective has the existing EU sustainability scheme for biofuels and bioliquids been in addressing the risks listed below? (one answer per line)

	effective	partly effective	neutral	counter-productive	No opinion
GHG emissions from cultivation, processing and transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

GHG emissions from direct land-use change					
Indirect land-use change					
Impacts on biodiversity					
Impact on soil, air and water					

Any additional comments?

2500 character(s) maximum

The EU sustainability scheme for biofuels has in general been partly effective in addressing the risks listed above, presumably due to the fact that in most cases the responsibility of fulfilment of the sustainability criteria lays with the producer/supplier of the biofuel (except for bio liquids used in heating and electricity sector, where the responsibility of fulfilment lays with the end user). Regarding the indirect land use change (ILUC) issues, the new rules that came into force 2015 directing ILUC, has been into force to short of time to show any effects and I therefore difficult to evaluate. When addressing life cycle emissions, it is essential to also take fossil fuel life cycles emissions into account, e.g. not only life cycle emissions regarding bio fuels. In particular the use of green hydrogen produced from renewable energy would lead to significant lower life cycle emissions of fossil fuels. Especially in the transportation sector, green hydrogen would allow to increase the share of renewables in fuels without negatively affecting performance or emissions of vehicles.

The Fuel Quality Directive that has put requirement on reporting and targets for emissions reductions of fuels in general is not expected to be continued, which poses an important question on how requirements on fossil fuels will be taken forward post 2020.

It is further very important that fossil fuel comparators in the GHG emissions calculations are based on real conditions. For example, biomethane as a transport fuel is currently compared to a mixture of fossil petrol and diesel which is correct and reflects very well real market conditions. If biomethane were to be compared to low-carbon natural gas, biomethane would not stand a chance in the competition with other renewable alternatives using petrol and diesel as fossil fuel comparator, which would be a great and unfair disadvantage to biomethane.

5.2. Effectiveness in promoting advanced biofuels

In your view, how effective has the sustainability framework for biofuels, including its provisions on indirect land-use change, been in driving the development of 'advanced' biofuels, in particular biofuels produced from ligno-cellulosic material (e.g. grass or straw) or from waste material (e.g. waste vegetable oils)?

- ☐ very effective
- ☐ effective
- ☐ neutral
- ☒ counter-productive
- ☐ no opinion

What additional measures could be taken to further improve the effectiveness in promoting advanced biofuels?

2500 character(s) maximum

Regarding double counting and the phase-in of advanced biofuels, it is important to avoid this practice. The possibility of double counting is limiting the overall ambition level needed to achieve renewable targets in the transport sector and have negative effects of competition for different inputs for fuel. The phase-in of bio fuels should be based on climate efficiency, whereas the definition of advanced biofuels should be based on high criteria for carbon emission reduction of the fuels rather than arbitrary lists of fuels considered to be advanced or not.

Sustainability criteria should be based on requirements to be fulfilled by individual fuel/biomass supply chains in order to mitigate and prevent potential risks from bioenergy rather than on lists of biomass types considered to be sustainable or not or advanced or not. The existing definition of first and second generation of biofuels or advanced biofuels is not consistent and counter-productive.

Calculation of GHG emission reduction should be based on a systems perspective. Currently, allocation of emissions between biofuels and co-products are based on energy content according to RED. With current practice, it is normally not possible to include the fact that digestate from advanced biogas production replace mineral fertilizers. Nor is it possible to consider alternative pathways. Using manure as feedstock for biogas production (advanced) could e.g. reduce methane emissions from conventional manure handling systems substantially which is not included today. These two aspects have a high impact on the overall GHG balance for biogas systems as compared to other bioenergy systems. Hence biogas/biomethane as an advanced biofuel is unfairly treated in existing sustainability scheme.

5.3. Effectiveness in minimising the administrative burden on operators

In your view, how effective has the EU biofuel sustainability policy been in reducing the administrative burden on operators placing biofuels on the internal market by harmonising sustainability requirements in the Member States (as compared with a situation where these matter would be regulated by national schemes for biofuel sustainability)?

- ☐ very effective

- ☐ effective
- ☒ not effective
- ☐ no opinion

What are the lessons to be learned from implementation of the EU sustainability criteria for biofuels? What additional measures could be taken to reduce the administrative burden further?

2500 character(s) maximum

If sustainability criteria shall exist, it is correct to harmonise sustainability schemes. An increased harmonisation will support a growing market. To support a growing market, to increase the harmonisation and efficiency of the scheme, the responsibility of the fulfilment of the criteria should consistently be on the producer of the biofuel. By that, the risks of market distortions will be minimised and the trade flows will be more efficient. More efficient trade flows means lower prices to the end users or the consumers.

Another lesson to be learned is that a risk-based approach should be taken to defining sustainability criteria. Experience shows that the administrative burden and costs of the sustainability criteria for biofuels have in general been high, which especially affects smaller actors in the business. With a risk-based approach, measures are not imposed generally on all biofuels but would instead focus on concentrating measures to areas where significant risks have been identified.

Additional measures that need to be taken to harmonise the EU sustainability schemes, to reduce the administrative burdens and to remove barriers to trade, are to solve problems that arise when implementing the sustainability scheme. An example of such a measure that needs to be taken to remove trade barriers is to deal with issues that arise from import and export of biogas via pipelines, where a decision from the Court of Justice of the European Union is pending to clarify if it is legally possible to fulfil the sustainability criteria when biogas is distributed through gas networks cross border.

5.4. Deployment of innovative technologies

In your view, what is needed to facilitate faster development and deployment of innovative technologies in the area of bioenergy? What are the lessons to be learned from the existing support mechanisms for innovative low-carbon technologies relating to bioenergy?

2500 character(s) maximum

Clear signals on the strategic use of sustainable bio fuels are needed to support long-term investment, investors need to see that there is a market for biofuels also in the future. Without clear signals of the seriousness of the development, both market development and innovation is hindered. Today there is a situation where many demonstration and innovation projects in the biofuels area that have received support from EU funds have been put on hold due to the uncertainties regarding long term direction of EU bioenergy policy. The fact that no long term target for renewables in the transport sector post 2020 exist is one factor.

Another factor is the negative discussion surrounding biofuels in general in

the European debate, where e.g. local investors in crops based fuels within EU have seen the political conditions for the projects being completely reversed within a short time frame. In the field of advanced biofuels based on forest biomass there is a growing concern that the negative attitudes towards food crops would also in the next step spread to other areas of biomass. This lack of certainty of future direction of policy and firm base for decision on what is to be labelled sustainable in the longer time frame negatively affects innovation in bioenergy.

6. Effectiveness of existing EU policies in addressing solid and gaseous biomass sustainability issues

6.1. In addition to the non-binding criteria proposed by the Commission in 2010, a number of other EU policies can contribute to the sustainability of solid and gaseous bioenergy in the EU. These include measures in the areas of energy, climate, environment and agriculture.

In your view, how effective are current EU policies in addressing the following risks of negative environmental impacts associated with solid and gaseous biomass used for heat and power? (one answer per line)

	effective	partly effective	neutral	counter-productive	No opinion
Change in carbon stock due to deforestation, forest degradation and other direct land-use change in the EU	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Change in carbon stock due to deforestation, forest degradation and other direct land-use change in non-EU countries	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indirect land-use change impacts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GHG emissions from supply chain, e.g. cultivation, processing and transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GHG emissions from combustion of biomass ('biogenic emissions')	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Air quality	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water and soil quality	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biodiversity impacts	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Varying degrees of efficiency of biomass conversion to energy	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Competition between different uses of biomass (energy, food, industrial uses) due to limited availability of land and feedstocks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6.2. Any additional views on the effectiveness of existing EU policies on solid and gaseous biomass?
Please explain

2500 character(s) maximum

Existing EU and national policies is considered sufficient to fulfil sustainability requirements within EU MSs. For non-EU countries where existing legislation is not considered sufficient to fulfil sustainability requirements, multilateral agreements and voluntary initiatives and certification schemes should be used to verify compliance with sustainability criteria.

7. Policy objectives for a post-2020 bioenergy sustainability policy

7.1. In your view, what should be the key objectives of an improved EU bioenergy sustainability policy post-2020? Please rank the following objectives in order of importance: most important first; least important 9th/10th (you can rank fewer than 9/10 objectives):

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Contribute to climate change objectives	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Avoid environmental impacts (biodiversity, air and water quality)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mitigate the impacts of indirect land-use change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote efficient use of the biomass resource, including efficient energy conversion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote free trade and competition in										

the EU among all end-users of the biomass resource	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure long-term legal certainty for operators	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Minimise administrative burden for operators	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote energy security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote EU industrial competitiveness, growth and jobs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7.2. Any other views? Please specify

2500 character(s) maximum

The most important aspects of receiving the results (however they are prioritised) are firstly to use national forest or land use policies to achieve sustainability regarding land use or forestry. Secondly, if sustainability schemes apart from national land use policies and regulations shall exist, it is to increase the harmonisation by putting the responsibility of fulfilment of the criteria on the producer of the biomass raw material. Another important issue to prioritise the achievement of correct effects efficiently and to reduce GHG emissions is to put the same demands on fossil fuels as on biomass, i.e. relevant parts of the sustainability criteria should be required from fossil fuel producers as well.

8. EU action on sustainability of bioenergy

8.1. In your view, is there a need for additional EU policy on bioenergy sustainability?

- ☒ No: the current policy framework (including the sustainability scheme for biofuels and bioliquids, and other EU and national policies covering solid and gaseous biomass) is sufficient.
- ☐ Yes: additional policy is needed for solid and gaseous biomass, but for biofuels and bioliquids the existing scheme is sufficient.
- ☐ Yes: additional policy is needed on biofuels and bioliquids, but for solid and gaseous biomass existing EU and national policies are sufficient.
- ☐ Yes: a new policy is needed covering all types of bioenergy.

8.2. In your view, and given your answers to the previous questions, what should the EU policy framework on the sustainability of bioenergy include? Please be specific

5000 character(s) maximum

It should include a fulfilment of national land use or forest policies and regulations. If an additional policy instruments on bioenergy sustainability shall be introduced, it is important that the responsibility for fulfilment lies with the producer of the biomass. Only then it is possible to ensure competition neutrality between sectors and actors participating on the market for biomass. Thereby, it is the only way of avoiding market distortions. For non-EU countries where existing legislation is not considered sufficient to fulfil sustainability requirements, multilateral agreements and voluntary initiatives and certification schemes should be used to verify compliance with sustainability criteria.

9. Additional contribution

Do you have other specific views that could not be expressed in the context of your replies to the above questions?

5000 character(s) maximum

For biogas, the calculation of climate performance within the RED should be updated so that the system perspective makes it possible to also consider the full reduction of carbon emissions associated with production of biogas from manure as well as from the replacement of industrial fertilizers with digestate. Further E.ON position (under development)

Finally, you may upload here any relevant documents, e.g. position papers, that you would like the European Commission to be aware of.

Thank you for participation to the consultation!

Contact

✉ SG-D3-BIOENERGY@ec.europa.eu
