

Closure of the International Conference by the European Commission, K. Maniatis

Below follows a short overview of the main points and conclusions of the conference. These are my personal views but I hope that they are very similar if not the same with those of all the 250 participants of the conference. They are not meant to replace the reports from the Rapporteurs but to supplement them by giving an overall summary of the main points.

The discussions during the Conference and in particular during the parallel sessions on bioethanol and biodiesel identified the following points:

1. It was agreed that the development of International Standards will facilitate and promote international biofuels trade.
2. Any International Standard on biofuels should focus on the pure biofuel component and not blends with either petrol or diesel; these are based on national legislation and are out of the objectives of the Conference.
3. The work shall consider only biodiesel and bioethanol; second generation biomass to liquid (BTL) biofuels are still in the very early stages of development and should not be dealt with at present.
4. The existing process of an ISO procedure for International Standards is too lengthy. There is need to accelerate the procedures.
5. The resulting draft International Standards from an accelerated process will need to be adopted by the various agencies (CEN, ASTM, NIST, ABNT, ISO) via normal but accelerated procedures.
6. The existing national standards have several differences when compared to each other, however, after careful examination it was concluded that these differences were not insurmountable and a lot of common ground already exists.
7. The process for developing the International Standards for biofuels could be initially based on the cooperation among CEN, ASTM and ABNT, whoever, it will be critical to involve other interested parties as soon as possible in the process.
8. The work would require several (3-4) meetings amongst nominated experts by their agencies or dedicated Conferences like this. It was recommended that the US would organise the next meeting.

This Conference was organised in coordination with the US Mission to the EU, the US Department of Commerce and the Mission of Brazil to the EU. It was sponsored by the European Committee for Standardization CEN, the European Biodiesel Board EBB, the European Fuel Oxygenates Association, EFOA, and the European Commission, DG TREN.

Ms. Sadrine Dixson-Declève of IFQC and Mr. Ortwin Costenoble of NEN, provided strong input in the structure of the Conference as well as in contacting numerous associations, organisations, companies, interested parties and stakeholders. Ms. Shannon Frazer of the US Department of Commerce and Mr. Marco Cabral of the Mission of Brazil to the EU made significant efforts in coordinating strong missions from their countries. All the above, as well as several others, helped making this Conference a successful event.

On behalf of the European Commission I would like to thank all the participants for their contributions during the deliberations of the Conference.

Kyriakos Maniatis
DG TREN