



**Review of EU biofuels directive  
Public consultation exercise, April – July 2006**

**1 – Is the objective of promoting biofuels still valid?**

**Question 1.1**

Yes, especially presently for two main reasons:

- 1) Reducing the dependance of Europe on oil imports. The rapid increase in oil price and the risk of failing to meet the future demand represent a strong incentive for promoting biofuels.
- 2) Improving the CO<sub>2</sub> balance.

There is a strong will to support biofuels at the European level and at the national level. In France, it is clearly the case.

**2 – The directive sets a reference value of 5.75% for the market share of biofuels in 2010. Will this share be achieved with existing policies and measures? If not, why not?**

**Question 2.1**

This share might be difficult to reach in 2010 because it represents a very rapid increase in biofuels production.

**Question 2.2**

Land allocation and production infrastructure require time and investment. The necessity to adapt simultaneously the biomass production capacity and the biofuels production plants capacity is a further difficulty.

**3 – Looking towards 2010, does the EU system of targets for biofuels need to be adapted? If so, how?**

**Question 3.1**

No recommendation of any change.

**Question 3.2**

Policy issue to be discussed both at the national and the European levels.

**4 – Should a certification system be introduced to avoid using "poor performing" biofuels or give more support to "better performing" ones?**

As improving the CO<sub>2</sub> balance represents a major reason for promoting biofuels, it seems important to get the right information about the "carbon content" of the biofuel, based on a

well-to-wheel analysis.

It is necessary also to check that biofuels are produced on a sustainable basis, with the proper land strategy.

The best way to ensure this control has to be investigated further.

## **5 – Looking towards 2015 and 2020, should further measures be adopted to promote biofuels?**

### **Question 5.1**

Yes, the EU should continue acting in favour of biofuels after 2010.

### **Question 5.2**

Yes.

### **Question 5.3**

Support for research, development and dissemination of good practice will be essential. Some further measures have been defined within the Biofuels Research Advisory Council.

The main recommendations are the following:

- Let technologies compete
- Research is needed for further progress in conventional biofuels
- Put efforts to advanced conversion technologies and biorefineries
- Develop sustainable land strategies, dedicated crops, utilisation of biotechnology
- Agree on quality and environmental standards for biofuels and biofuels blends
- Interact with the development of advanced and efficient powertrains
- Balance domestic production and imports

It has been also recommended to establish a European Technology Platform for Biofuels, which will take into account the following recommendations:

- Assure optimal cooperation between stakeholders
- Include air and water borne transport
- Give priority to cost effectiveness and decrease environmental impact
- Contribute to harmonisation of policy measures
- Maintain close links with other relevant platforms
- Develop and implement a strategic research agenda and deployment strategy

## **6 – A number of more technical issues**

### **Question 6.1**

No further comments.

### **Question 6.2**

It is expected that second-generation biofuels will become cost-competitive with first-

generation biofuels. The deployment of second-generation biofuels might take place from 2010 to 2020, with a progressive increase of their cost-competitiveness.

**Question 6.3**

The statement that vehicles can travel more kilometres on a given amount of biofuel measured by energy content cannot be formulated in this way. Further R&D work needs to be done in order to optimise the adaptation of IC engines to biofuels. This may result in optimised cases to an improvement as compared to the reference case of a conventional fuel, but it cannot be stated as a general rule.

**Question 6.4**

No recommendation.