

**Contract notice: OJEU S 66-098332**

**Invitation to tender No. ENER/C1/495-2009 concerning**

**"Study on benchmarking biomass sustainability criteria for energy purposes"**

*Time-limit for receipt of tenders: 28/05/2010*

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Question1. 1.2. Purpose of the contract – Task 3 (page 5)**

A baseline scenario is required. The baseline should depict the situation before the rule/ legislation and the impacts after the rule is introduced. The baseline should be constructed for each 27 Member State separately, including the mentioned elements (a) – (h). The 27 baselines may be based on different times, according to the date of adoption of rules and regulations in a Member State. Following the construction of the baseline, the impacts of the rules/ regulations should be assessed. The impacts should look at immediate impacts of the rule as well as projections of impacts in 2020.

What should we exactly understand by 'baseline scenario', 'impacts assessment' and 'projections of impacts in 2020'? In our view there are two alternative interpretations, as follows:

1. 'Static' interpretation of baseline scenario (per Member State):

- The baseline scenario is a static measurement of the elements (a) – (h), depicting the situation before the rule/ legislation is introduced;
- The impacts assessment depicts the situation at present;
- The projections of impacts in 2020 depict the predicted impacts of the rule/ legislation for 2020.

2. 'Dynamic' interpretation of baseline scenario (per Member State):

- The baseline scenario is a dynamic presentation of the elements (a) – (h), depicting the situation before the rule/ legislation is introduced and the development of these elements up to 2020, *as if there were no rule/ legislation introduced*;
- The impacts assessment depicts the situation at present, in terms of the mentioned elements, regarding the effects of the rule/ legislation since it was introduced;
- The projections of impacts in 2020 depict the predicted impacts of the rule/ legislation for 2020. For Member States where there are no rules and regulations introduced, this is the same as the baseline scenario.

Could you explain which interpretation is applicable? Or in case both are incorrect could you elaborate?

**Answer 1.** The baseline scenario is a dynamic presentation of the elements (a) – (h), depicting the situation before the rule/ legislation is introduced and the development of these elements up to 2020, as if there were no rule/ legislation introduced;

"The impacts shall be assessed" means that the study must depict and analyse the impacts of the rules / legislations (policy scenario) since they were introduced and until 2020. In other words, it must analyse the difference between the baseline scenario and the rules / legislations scenario (policy scenario). This assessment should look at immediate impacts of the rules/ regulations as well as projection of impacts in 2020.

The projections of impacts in 2020 depict the predicted impacts of the rules/ legislations (policy scenario) for 2020, in particular in terms of meeting the renewable energy and greenhouse gas targets.

**Question 2.** 1.2. Purpose of the contract – Task 3 (page 5)

The baseline should be constructed for each 27 Member State separately, including the mentioned elements (a) – (h). Following the construction of the baseline, the impacts of the rules/ regulations should be assessed, in terms of environmental impacts, economic effects, in terms of availability and cost of biomass, in terms of costs of compliance to economic operators, and in terms of biomass trade inside the EU and for imports/ exports to/from the EU. The impacts should look at immediate impacts of the rule as well as projections of impacts in 2020, in particular in terms of meeting renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission targets.

Are the mentioned elements of impacts to be the same as the elements (a) – (h) which should be included in the baseline?

Should the projections of impacts in 2020 depict the same elements (a) – (h)?

**Answer 2.** The elements included in the policy scenario shall be at least the same as the elements (a) – (h) which are included in the baseline. The list of elements can be completed if this is considered relevant and useful. From the analysis of the elements, conclusions shall be drawn in terms of environmental impacts, economic effects, in terms of availability and costs of biomass, in terms of costs of compliance to economic operators, and in terms of biomass trade inside the EU and for imports/ exports to/from the EU.

**Question 3.** 1.3. Reports and documents to produce – Timetable to observe (page 6)

To discuss the interim report, a progress report meeting will take place in Brussels (at the latest 6 months following the signature of the contract). It's stated that the Commission shall have 20 days from receipt of the interim report to approve or reject the report. Within 20 days of receiving the Commission's observations, the Contractor will submit additional information or another report.

We assume the progress report meeting will take place after receiving the Commission's observations. For the Contractor, there will be time needed to study these observations and to prepare the meeting. Should this be subtracted from the 20 days term to submit additional information or another report? We suggest to reformulate as follows: Within 20 days of the progress report meeting, the Contractor will submit additional information or another report.

**Answer 3. The interim report showing progress of the work shall be submitted to the Commission at the latest 5 months after the date of signature of the contract and the progress report meeting will take place at the latest 6 months following the signature of the contract to present and discuss the interim report.**

**If the Commission has observations on this report, these shall be sent no later than 20 days from receipt of the interim report. Having complied with this deadline and as long as the meeting is scheduled within 6 months of the signature of the contract, then it is for the Commission to decide about combining the schedule of its observations and the schedule of the interim meeting. The meeting could take place before or after sending the Commission 'observations.**

**Within 20 days of receiving the Commission's observations, the Contractor shall submit additional information or another report.**

**Question 4.** Is the Commission in the possession of transposition models, which the transposition of the RED in MS27 is shown?

**Answer 4. The Commission is not in possession of such models**

**Question 5.** Will the Commission establish and involve an advisory group or steering committee in the execution of the project? Who or which organizations will be represented in these?

**Answer 5. The invitation to tenders does not make any reference to such a group/committee. At this stage, the Commission has not planned to establish / involve an advisory group or steering committee in the execution of the project.**

**Question 6.** The tender document refers to estimated number of days (400 man days), however does the Commission have a minimum and maximum (range) in terms of budget in Euros?

**Answer 6. The Commission has estimated the value of this contract in man/days. In this case it is 400 man days (ref. Section I.6 of the Tender Specifications).**

**Question 7.** Biomass in terms of Renewable Energy could be expressed in terms of volume or weight (m<sup>3</sup> or ton, dry or fresh), in terms of energy (J) or in terms of emissions greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub> eq). All may be relevant yet we suggest to use volume and weight as primary units for this allows comparison of biomass sources and estimation of costs and economy. Does the Commission agree?

**Answer 7. The invitation to tenders does not make reference to units that shall be used to express biomass in terms of renewable energy. The tenders can propose to use one of different unit(s) and explain this choice. Assumptions on moisture content has to be made clear.**

**The Commission reminds that the National Renewable Energy Action Plan template<sup>1</sup> requires Member State to use m3 if possible to express the amount of biomass and ktoe in order to express primary energy production from biomass.**

**Question 8.** The work will use the reporting from MS27 expected mid 2010; does the Commission foresee a meeting to establish what information is available and what information need to be estimated or otherwise identified to use for further work in this project?

**Answer 8. At this stage, the Commission has not foreseen such a meeting.**

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<sup>1</sup> Commission decision establishing a template for National Renewable Energy Action Plans under Directive 2009/28/EC – C(2009) 5174 final- table 7