

Policy framework for sustainable biomass futures

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- European policy framework
- International context
- Biomass Futures engagement with policy makers
- Way forward

- **Renewable Energy Directive** (2009/28/EC) and amended **Fuel Quality Directive** (2009/30/EC) contain binding sustainability criteria for biofuels and bioliquids
- **Solid and gaseous biomass**: EC reported in Feb 2010, not proposing binding criteria but advising MS to adopt sustainability criteria nationally along the lines of those for biofuels and bioliquids (with exemptions); revisiting the issue by end of 2011

- Developments in Cancún (Dec 2010) in relation to **UNFCCC** and **REDD+**
- Financial compensation for eg preserving forests as carbon sinks goes hand in hand with increased reporting requirements for non-Annex I countries (national communications with GHG inventories and biannual update reports)
- **UNCBD**: Biodiversity and biofuels discussions in Nagoya 2010: Decision
 - mandating the Executive Secretariat to disseminate information on direct and indirect impacts of biofuels on biodiversity related matters;
 - inviting Parties to map / zone their territories in terms of suitability for growing biofuel crops;
 - encouraging developed countries to provide technical and/or financial assistance to developing countries to implement the decision.

- Own initiatives in ‘third countries’, eg
 - Mapping for sugar cane expansion in Brazil;
 - Regulating soy expansion under Argentinian forestry legislation;
- Global Bioenergy Partnership (**GBEP**):
 - work on sustainability criteria and indicators, agreed list to be formally endorsed in May 2011;
 - work on inventory of LUC policies.

- Expert survey with 18 respondents mainly from member state administrations + EC
- **Risks:**
 - Increased demand for cropland, indirect effects etc.
 - Competition for limited biomass resource between sectors
 - Inefficient conversion / unavailability of certain technologies
 - Potential tension with waste policy (waste as a resource while trying to reduce waste)
 - High import share of biofuels casts doubt about their sustainability
- ...and **benefits:**
 - Besides GHG mitigation: potential for improving soil and water conditions, improving (undermanaged) forest conditions, utilisation of waste products
- Policies needed making sure risks are mitigated and benefits are fully reaped → **win-win situations**

- **Main challenges** in meeting bioenergy targets:
 - The balancing of biomass material needs and sustainability concerns is perceived of as a major challenge by the majority of respondents;
 - The current lack of recognised voluntary schemes has been mentioned by several MS as a major challenge for complying with the sustainability scheme;
 - The fact that the RED/sustainability scheme still contains loopholes (ILUC, biodiverse grasslands, definition of waste) creates compliance challenges and uncertainty;
 - The perceived need for imports to reach targets raises concerns about the sustainability of imported biomass.

- **How to overcome sustainability risks?** 8/18 respondents mentioned the further development and/or enforcement of sustainability standards by making the RED's sustainability scheme work;
- Several respondents stressed the need to educate and incentivise farmers to comply with sustainability standards/follow sustainable practices such as:
 - no-tillage systems;
 - planting higher yielding crops,;
 - maintaining high-quality land.
- Research is needed:
 - so as to understand the role of bioenergy in a sustainable energy mix now and in the long term so as to avoid technology 'lock-ins');
 - on active sustainable forestry (increasing forestry biomass supply without compromising biodiversity);
 - regionalised biomass potential studies → **BIOMASS FUTURES** WP3.

- Definition of criteria within **BIOMASS FUTURES** :
 - Consultation, ‘peer review’ with stakeholders as part of Biomass Futures teleconferences;
 - Presentation of work at external events: Sustainability segment at the AEBIOM Conference, Brussels June 29-30, 2011.

Bioenergy sustainability discussion triggers wider discussion on sustainable agriculture and forestry

→ Momentum to bring wider land use issues and sustainable supply chains to the forefront

Thank you!

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