

Biomass role in achieving the Climate Change & Renewables EU policy targets. Demand and Supply dynamics under the perspective of stakeholders . IEE 08 653 SI2. 529 241

Report on the involvement and exchanges with policy makers (Update Month 18 for Deliverable 6.2 under Biomass Futures)

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Content

Content.....	2
Preface.....	3
1 Introduction	4
2 Engagement with policy makers within the reporting period	4
3 Expert survey	5
3.1 Methodological issues	5
3.2 Questionnaire set up	6
4 Conclusions and outlook.....	7
Annex A Questionnaire for Expert Survey	8
Annex B Actual Bioenergy Use in 2010 and 2020 target according to NREAPs.....	9



Preface

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1 Introduction

Part of the work under work package 6 of Biomass Futures is the engagement with policy makers throughout the course of the project. This report presents an update about the engagement as it stands at the end of the interim period.

The first section of the report will deal with the engagement that has taken place so far. The second section of the report will introduce the expert survey, which has been prepared with interviews going to take place in January and February 2011. The forth section provides conclusions and a brief outlook about future activities.

2 Engagement with policy makers within the reporting period

The major effort in terms of policy maker engagement during the interim reporting period happened around the policy workshop “Analysing Europe’s Future Bioenergy Needs – Member States Anticipated Use of Bioenergy and Sustainable Supply Options” that took place in IEEP’s Brussels office on November 26, 2010. As presented in deliverable D6.1 “List of national and regional policy actors” that accompanies the interim report, we have compiled extensive contact lists for the purpose of using them for workshop invitations ad well as other forms of stakeholder engagement (e.g. under Work Package 7).

In particular, the following points summarise the **engagement with policy makers prior to the workshop**:

- Around 80 emails sent out to national policy makers (not including follow up emails with individual policy makers)
- Around 50 emails sent out to representatives from Permanent Representations of Member States to the European Union (not including follow up emails with individual representatives)
- Around 125 emails sent out to representatives of the European Commissions and associated institutions (EEA, JRC), the European Parliament (MEPs and assistants) and of international organisations.
- Around 55 phone calls made to national and international policy makers (not including follow up calls)

During the policy workshop, the Biomass Futures team members made extensive use of the opportunity to interact with the present policy makers in order to receive their views on major bioenergy implementation challenges and in order to get their commitment for further engagement with the Biomass Futures project by having them sign declarations of interest to take part in the Biomass Futures stakeholder dialogues (WP 7).

After the workshop, all contacts indentified in the D6.1 List have been contacted again in order to spread the link to the workshop documentation on the Biomass Futures website.¹ Quite a few policy makers that were contacted prior to the workshop regretted their inability to attend the workshop but explicitly stated their interest in receiving any follow up materials.

1

http://www.biomassfutures.eu/public_docs/workshops_2010/26_nov_2010_brussels/26_nov_2010_brussels_agenda.pdf

A **crucial policy contact** has been established with Thorsten Wege from the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, Biofuels Division.² He has been leading the concerted action “CA-RES” group on ‘biofuels’. He kindly agreed to forward the policy workshop invitation to the group and also forwarded the invitation to the Swedish chair of the CA-RES working group on ‘biomass’, for being the more appropriate target audience of the workshop. Unfortunately and due to confidentiality reasons he could not share the contact details of individual working group members with us so that we could have contacted them again on our own and could have added them to the Biomass Futures policy contacts database. He was, however, happy to share the above mentioned link to the workshop documentation with the group.

3 Expert survey

3.1 Methodological issues

The main aim of the expert survey is to identify in detail implementation challenges in relation to bioenergy policies, how these are overcome, and which research needs arise from these challenges. Ideally, identified research needs could be taken up in the Biomass Futures project (e.g. in further support materials under WP 6). In order to clarify these issues, the survey will mainly be addressed at Member State policy makers.

In terms of **respondents**, we aim for interviewing around 15 Member State policy makers. In case where we also interview a few select European policy makers, some of the questionnaire questions will be rephrased in order to account for the changed context. Interviewing an EU policy makers could be interesting for instance in order to receive an ‘outsider perspective’ on cooperation among Member States.

Member States are selected with the aim of achieving representativeness along the following dimensions:

- Member States that are advanced versus not advanced in terms of biofuels development,
- Large versus small absolute bioenergy use
- Old versus new Member States,
- Geography.

Annex B provides a chart that conveys information on the first two dimensions. Based on NREAP information (as submitted by October 2010), the chart displays actual 2010 bioenergy use, projected increase by 2020 and thus projected total 2020 bioenergy use. Along these dimensions we pre-selected the following Member States. We might have to make compromises in terms of choosing a different Member State in case we are not able to find any policy maker from a particular Member States that volunteers to be interviewed.

Table 1. Member States selected for interviews

	MS	Rationale
1	Germany	Currently largest bioenergy user in absolute terms
2	Austria	Most advanced in reaching its target

² Thorsten Wege (Sr. Policy Advisor Biofuels), Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, Division Biofuels (IPC 695), Tel.: +31(0)70-3398960, thorsten.wege@minvrom.nl.

3	United Kingdom	Biggest relative effort to be achieved till 2020 (neglecting Malta and Luxembourg with small absolute quantities)
4	Italy	Large effort still to be achieved (and relatively large user); Southern European
5	Portugal	Smaller absolute user but advanced in reaching its target, Southern European
6	Netherlands	Large effort still to be achieved (and relatively large user)
7	Finland	Advanced bioenergy user, Nordic country
8	Sweden	Advanced bioenergy user, Nordic country
9	Romania	New MS; considerable effort needed together with large biomass potential
10	Lithuania	New MS; Baltic country, considerable effort needed
11	France	Largest projected user in 2020, largest absolute effort after UK
12	Ireland	Smaller absolute user; large effort needed
13	Bulgaria	New MS; considerable effort still needed and large importance of bioenergy
14	Hungary	New MS and no NREAP submitted at the time of analysis
15	Poland	New MS and no NREAP submitted at the time of analysis

Respondents are recruited from the D6.1 list of contacts.

The interviews will be of a **semi-structured format** along a set of questions explained in section 3.2 below and reproduced in annex A. While the set of questions presented below appears to be of a structured nature, the interviewer might emphasise certain questions over others depending on the expertise and responses of the interviewee as displayed in the course of the interview, thus making the interviews semi-structured.

The **interviews will be conducted** by Bettina Kretschmer from IEEP over the phone, who will be accompanied by a colleague for note taking. The responses will be **analysed** in a qualitative way. Each set of questions (see next section) will first be analysed separately. The aim will be to identify patterns of responses and it will be analysed whether these can be attributed to country groupings along the dimensions used for selection above. Finally, the analysis of the different sections will be compiled to yield an inventory of

- main implementation challenges in relation to bioenergy policies,
- ways in which these are overcome (ideally with an identification of best practices),
- research needs that arise from these challenges (and could potentially be taken up in the further course of Biomass Futures).

This analysis will be summarised in a **report**. We envisage discussing the findings in the second policy stakeholder discussion communicating the final report to the list of policy contacts identified in D6.1.

3.2 Questionnaire set up

The survey focuses on four main areas of questions which have been identified as of particular interest in addition to a first set of more generic and broad questions. See annex A for the questionnaire.

First and as an introduction to familiarise interviewer and interviewee, we will ask a few broad questions about bioenergy (after asking a few personal details). Apart from facilitating the start of the interview in that way, it will be interesting to check consistency between answers to these general questions and the more specific questions asked in the further course of the interview.

Second, we will ask about the national response to the EU Renewable Energy Directive, e.g. which policies have been adopted in response to EU legislation. The questions will shed light on how prepared

BIOMASS FUTURES

a member state is to implement bioenergy targets and which are major challenges in achieving implementation. Also, Question 2.3 will identify crucial policy instruments or mechanisms for successful implementation. The aim behind this is to gain input for possibly drawing up best practice examples from Member States in terms of bioenergy policy implementation.

A **third** set of questions will ask about Member State cooperation. Cooperation is of particular importance in securing sufficient sustainable bioenergy supply to meet targets but also for sharing best practices. The existence of the RES concerted action groups points to cooperation taking place. Also, cooperation among Member States could be formally undertaken in the form of statistical transfers or joint projects in correspondence to Articles 6 and 7, respectively, of the Renewable Energy Directive. We here aim to get an understanding about the effects of existing cooperation. In Questions 3.2 and 3.3 the interviewee will be asked about the existence of cooperation and whether the MS in question participates. The remaining questions will extract information on how far the interviewee is aware of developments going on in other Member States and more specifically whether best practices are shared across the different cooperation mechanisms. This will give an idea about the working of and the effects Member State cooperation actually has.

A **fourth** set of questions about different bioenergy technologies aims at revealing the motivations given by policy makers for choosing one bioenergy technology/pathway over the other. It will be interesting to see which those drivers are in order to understand whether or not they are likely to lead to an efficient use of biomass resources and of the corresponding inputs needed such as land, water and energy. Also, responses to these questions can be connected to other work packages of the Biomass Futures project: In that way, it can be assessed whether the choice of bioenergy technologies/pathways by Member States coincides with those biomass potentials that are deemed most important according to results derived from other Biomass Futures work packages.

Fifth and finally, a set of questions on 'Moving forward' will identify on the one hand immediate needs in terms of implementation and on the other hand the future importance of bioenergy as a renewable energy source. The insights from this section would potentially influence Biomass Futures work in terms of which stakeholders and topics to target as part of WP7 (especially Questions 5.3 and 5.4) and in the context of drafting support materials for policy makers under work package 6.

4 Conclusions and outlook

A major focus of the first weeks of the next reporting period will be on conducting interviews for the **expert survey** and analysing their outcomes.

The following **policy stakeholder discussions** are envisaged for the coming months:

- Major policy concerns in implementing bioenergy requirements (based on D6.3 report) on 24 January 2011
- Outcomes of the expert survey (end February 2011)
- Focus on operationalising the sustainability scheme (June 2011)

A second **policy workshop** will take place towards the end of the project.

The **policy briefings** that are to be written in the course of 2011 (see interim report for a detailed list of topics suggested so far) and that have been written in 2010 and are submitted with this interim report will be one of the cornerstones of next year's engagement with policy makers. In addition to the identified policy contacts (D6.1) we will make use of Thorsten Wege by sending him briefings kindly asking him to forward them to his contacts in the CA-RES working groups.

Annex A Questionnaire for Expert Survey

0. Introduction

- 0.1. Name:
- 0.2. Contact Details:
- 0.3. Position/ area of focus:
- 0.4. Background:

1. General

- 1.1. Overall, how do you assess bioenergy's importance in meeting Europe's RE targets?
- 1.2. What are the key benefits and risks associated with bioenergy?
- 1.3. Who do you consider to be the main actors in shaping the nature of the supply and demand for bioenergy?

2. National response to EU Renewable Energy Directive

- 2.1. Have national policies (in your MS) been drafted promptly in response to RED?
- 2.2. Or were policies in place before already? If so, please specify them.
- 2.3. Which policy instruments or mechanisms do you foresee as being the most important for achieving implementation (i.e. specific provisions implemented in your MS etc)?
- 2.4. What do you foresee will be the main challenges in meeting the RED targets?
- 2.5. Is there strategic planning ongoing in your MS to address demand and supply needs? If so, who is responsible and what form does it take?

3. Cooperation across MS

- 3.1. Do you know about strategic planning ongoing in other MS?
- 3.2. Is there (organised) cooperation between MS on bioenergy supply and demand issues?
- 3.3. If so, does your country participate? And if not, why not?
- 3.4. Are there MS that you consider are developing best/good practice examples that others might follow? How are these communicated?
- 3.5. Which MS do you consider to be most prepared?

4. Different bioenergy technologies

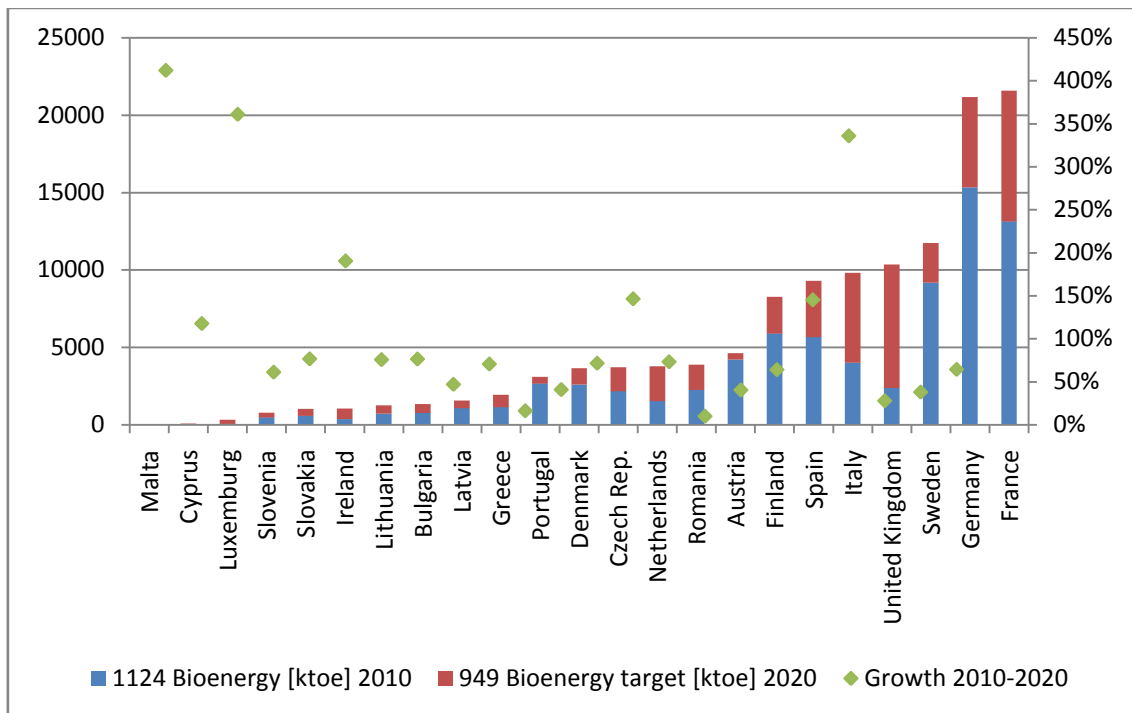
- 4.1. Which types of bioenergy are likely to be of highest importance in delivering bioenergy needs for the sectors H&C, electricity and transport (in your country)?
- 4.2. How is the choice between different types of bioenergy in the energy market made (in your country)?
 - 4.2.1. Based on cost/efficiency considerations (carbon savings, long term viability, production costs, abatement costs, others)?
 - 4.2.2. Different political incentives?

5. Moving forward

- 5.1. How can identified risks best be overcome using policy tools (referring back to the risks mentioned as part of the 'General' questions)?

- 5.2. Will advanced biofuels be a silver bullet to overcome risks associated with conventional biofuels?
- 5.3. Which actors in the bioenergy market do policy makers need to motivate/need additional political incentives to deliver goals?
- 5.4. Do you perceive particular research needs to help
 - 5.4.1. the effective implementation of short term (up to 2020) policies at EU and national level;
 - 5.4.2. bringing forward advanced bioenergy solutions (also post-2020)?
- 5.5. Will bioenergy remain a key technology into the long term ie up to 2050 or is this an intermediary technology to buy us time as we move towards other low carbon solutions?

Annex B Actual Bioenergy Use in 2010 and 2020 target according to NREAPs



Note: Includes NREAPs as submitted by October 2010. Growth 2010-2020 on right-hand scale.