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BIOMASS

NEWS

AEBIOM NEWS

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Growing bioenergy needs growing communication

AEBIOM promotes the Biomass to energy production paths and Applications throughout Europe. Therefore AEBIOM is acting as a liaison body to improve cooperation of European countries and their commitments to the completion of the following actions:

- Establish favourable economic conditions through incentives for biomass and eco-taxation of fossil fuels
- work out an agricultural legislation which takes energy crops into account
- promote research, development and demonstration projects
- encourage information dissemination to decisionmakers and to the population

Welcome to the No 11 issue of AEBIOM newsletter Biomass News with focus on politics. It has been produced by Bioenergi Förlag, www.bioenergyinternational.com. Editor Lennart Ljungblom, Anders Haaker

The EU target for the production of energy from renewable sources is 12% by 2010.

That decision is a clear signal for the future energy policy and a real challenge for all member states, with economic, social and environmental implications. However, the road towards increasing the use of bioenergy is still long. Lobbying, statistic work, follow-up, information dissemination, technology programs and good bioenergy projects are essential in the near future. Regarding AEBIOM members one of the priority is to produce together more and more efficient and actual communication and know-how transmission inside and outside AEBIOM: "One for all and all for one!"

However, as mentioned in the report to the Johannesburg Summit 2002, the share of RES was still only 6% in the year 2000. It means there has been almost no percentage increase these last years. There is as a consequence an urgent need for the EU to renew its implementation programme. Modern practical new tools are needed. Also the tools under preparation need to be changed into decisions. Energy taxation systems and harmonisation targets and visions are key instruments, as well as different kind of legislation aspects and technology development. We should also make it more easy and cost-effective to transfer bioenergy technology and know-how inside Europe and abroad. AEBIOM congratulates the European bodies for the directive on renewable electricity and for the directive on liquid biofuels that is about to be issued. We hope to have a proposal for a directive on heating

with biomass fuels soon.

The energy statistics of the European Union are published very slowly. These should be improved to a better and more quickly scope. If the member countries can produce the country statistics 6 months after the end of the year, this should also be the case for the Union. On the country levels, there is also a need to create regional statistics so that the actors are able to follow results of practical actions to promote the usage of bioenergy.

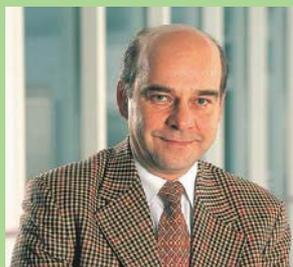
Fortunately several countries have already implementation programmes for the use and production of bioenergy. New initiatives are often launched for bioenergy power plants, investments in liquid biofuels production, conversion from coal to wood in more and more district heating networks, explosion of the pellets market etc. These are good news we all need. And also in our bioenergy field it is really important to

notice that national political decisions will pay heavy attention to EU-policy trends - and vice versa!

AEBIOM has made a long term lobbying work for bioenergy during the last years. The work has been done totally with its member associations. This European lobbying and supervision work is becoming essential with increasing international aspects. Bioenergy needs AEBIOM.

As a new President of AEBIOM I emphasise with pleasure that many of our members will become soon new EU members. This is a welcomed decision and will help AEBIOM to fulfil its aims in Europe.

Dan Asplund, President AEBIOM



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Focus on Italy

Biomass policy in Italy

Biomass represents today only 2-3% of the primary energy resources used in Italy. It is expected to be doubled around 2010 and be equal to 190-200 Mtoe .

This statement is supported by the following considerations.

- 1. Biomass and wastes utilized at present is only about 25% of the accessible amount of the residual biomass produced every year and 13% of the total production.*
- 2. The incentives in force since 1992 set out a series of entrepreneurial initiatives.*
- 3. Environmental concerns are more and more pressing, and also the awareness of bioenergy.*

However, some instruments must still be put in operation, that is:

- Policy frame: defining sectoral strategy and policy for forestry and non-food agriculture;*
- Organisation mechanisms: setting-up "chain agreements" among producers, suppliers, transformer and users;*
- Market instruments: adopting different taxation for renewables and non-renewables end use, granting also subsidies for investments and innovation;*
- Public perceptions: pursuing information and education, and assuring return of benefits to local population.*

In the last decade an increasing use of biomass for energy - together with other Renewable Energy Sources (RES) - was promoted in Italy both by the State and Regional Administrations.

The main objectives of bioenergy development programmes are aimed at decreasing the fossil fuels import (greater than 80% over a total primary energy consumption in 2000 equal to 188 Mtoe), and at fulfilling the commitment, undertaken within the Kyoto Protocol, to reduce CO₂ emissions by a factor of 6,5% with respect to the 1990 level, suppressing about 100 Mt CO₂ within 2010-2012. Several National Programmes and Laws were issued to promote the use of renewables: some are related to all RES, and some others are concerned specifically to the biomass sector. Only the most remarkable ones are cited below.

ACTS CONCERNING ALL RES

The last Italian National Energy Plan (PEN) dated 1988. It was partly implemented by the laws 9/91 and 10/91 approved by the Italian Parliament in January 1991, as well as by the Resolution N.6 1992 of Inter-Ministry Committee of Prices (CIP 6/92) and other

acts. The law 9/91 covers almost all the nodal points of PEN (institutional aspects, hydroelectric power stations, long-distance power lines, hydrocarbons and geothermal, auto-production and fiscal aspects) while the law 10/91 introduces political incentives for RES exploitation in the building sector and assigned to the Regions and towns with more than 50.000 inhabitants the faculty to elaborate and realise respectively their own Regional Energy Plan (PER) and Town Energy Plan (PEC) concerning RES utilisation. A decade later, only 20% of the interested towns have elaborated their PEC. Even though it is no more financed by the State, this law is still in force and numerous Regions still use it to finance, with their own funds, the realisation of plants that produce and/or use RES.

Later on, in 1998, the law 112/98 was promulgated, assigning to the Regional Administrations the whole jurisdiction and management of RES projects with an allocation of 1% of the Regions' income from excises on fossil fuels sold in their territory for power related activities.

As a consequence, only in the last four years the Regions were really involved in the realisation of the Regional Energy and Environment Plans. In some Regions and Provinces, the plans have been approved and are under execution, in some others they are still in preparation.

In the meantime, a **National White Paper on Energetic Valorisation of Renewable Sources**, was issued by ENEA (1999) on behalf of Ministries of Industry and the Environment. This document defined guidelines and objectives to promote the production of energy from RES including biomass.

The target is to double, in a decade, the contribution of renewables to the national energy balance, i.e., from 12 Mtoe at the present up to 24 Mtoe for the years 2010-2012.

In this context, for the same period, the installation of biomass power plants, with a total capacity as high as 2.000 MWe, was forecast.

After the publication of the National White Paper, the following progression concerning the biomass power plants installation has been assessed: 200 MWe installed in 1999, 240 MWe in 2000 and 300 MWe installed in 2001. This increasing trend indicates that the market of electricity from biomass will reach 2.300 MWe in 2012.

In 1999 the so-called "Carbon tax" was introduced by the Law 448/98. In order to make the use of RES more competitive, by this act, a tax on CO₂ emissions was issued and taxes on energetic products of fossil



Italy has like many other European countries lots of unused bioenergy resources. This photo is from the valley of Chisone, nearby Sestriere in the north west of Italy.

origin with high carbon content were increased. Part of the "Carbon Tax" income is allotted to finance actions and programmes for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Biomass tailored legislation

In June 1998 The "National Programme for Energy Valorisation of Biomass" (PNERB) was issued by the Ministry for the Agricultural and Forestry Policy (MiPAF) having the objective to define strategies for the production of 8-10 Mtoe of energy from agro-forestry biomass and animal slurry within 2012.

As an action plan, the "National Programme for the Valorisation of Agricultural and Forestry Biomass" (PNVBAF) was issued by MiPAF in June 1999 and approved by the Inter-Ministry Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE) with the Resolution N.217/99. This Programme brought into effect the PNERB, the main goal being the development of agroenergetic chains to obtain solid and liquid biofuels. Additional goals regarded the use of set-aside or surplus lands for energy crops (200.000/300.000 ha per year starting from 2002), in order to give a contribution to the absorption of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

Another tool for implementing the biomass plans is the "National Programme on Biofuels (PROBIO) approved by CIPE in February 2000 and managed by MiPAF. This programme originates from the Law 423/98 approved by the Italian Parliament in 1998 for providing provisions to the agriculture sector. This programme promotes demonstration projects and dissemination activities at Regional and Interregional level with a strong link with territory in order to stimulate the local administrations and industrial or agricultural entrepreneurs towards biofuel development. The financial support of PROBIO was 2,6*10⁶ Euro per year for the period 1999-2001. Twenty one projects were approved within this law: 17 were Regional and 4 were Interregional. A new edition of PROBIO for

the three-years period 2002-2004 is under definition.

The 2001 Financial Law (L.388/2000) with a three-year experimental study introduced excise reduction on some products in order to safeguard the environment. Ethanol and ETBE both obtained from agricultural sources have a reduction of excise of 0,29 Euro/l. The available budget distributed by the Ministry of Finance is about 15,5*10⁶ Euro. This law also increased the excise-free biodiesel contingent from 125.000 tons to 300.000 tons. This represents a fundamental step for the biodiesel diffusion in the National Market since the Ministry of Industry is allowed to start a pilot project to promote pure biodiesel use that will be distributed in a road system nearby urban area with high traffic concentration.

*Contribution from ITABIA (Italian Biomass Association)
www.itabia.it*



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AEBIOM Press Conference European biomass days of the regions 2002



Markus Ferber, Member of the European Parliament, Werner Doeller, Manager of C.A.R.M.E.N., Ingo Friedrich, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Martina Sumenjak, President, SLOBIOM.



From the 29th September to the 6th October 2002, the European Biomass Days of the Regions took place (see also our newsletter Nawaros(r) 08/2002). They were officially opened on a press conference in the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the 25th September. Politicians, media and biomass organisations attended. Werner Döller, C.A.R.M.E.N.'s executive secretary, thanked for the support the subject of biomass meets with on the European level. By 2010, twelve per cent of the energy

used in the EU should be won from regenerative sources of energy, Markus Ferber, member of the European Parliament, explained. Especially in private and communal institutions (indoor swimming pools, schools, etc.) an enormous potential for a change to regenerative sources of energy was available, Ferber said.

Martina Sumenjak from the Slovenian Biomass Association (Slobiom) explained the importance of biomass for the European future and for climate protection. As a member of the Association of European

Biomass Organisations (AEBIOM) she read a statement drawn up by C.A.R.M.E.N. and the AEBIOM and presented this position paper to Dr. Ingo Friedrich, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

Dr. Ingo Friedrich thanked for the paper and announced the official start of the Europe-wide action. He promised the further support of the European Parliament to future activities around the Biomass Days. These Europe-wide activities served to safeguard the sustainability of the whole continent,

European Biomass Days 2002

Statement of AEBIOM and C.A.R.M.E.N.

"The European Biomass Days serve to inform the general public on the important role of bioenergy in the future energy supply of Europe and to improve the public support for bioenergy.

Biomass has a closed carbon cycle. It means that all carbon emitted from energy generation has been binded by plants beforehand. As a consequence bioenergy do not contribute

to the climate change reinforcement, in contrast with fossil energy.

In Europe, biomass can significantly increase its contribution to the supply of heat, alternative fuels such as biodiesel and bioethanol, and electricity. But its success will depend mostly on the necessary favourable market conditions to be implemented, in order to balance positive external effects on environment and socio-economic development in rural areas.

Let's point out some of these conditions:

** A better integration of the European Common Agricultural Policy and the energy policy is essential so that attractive solutions are proposed both to farmers, producers and users of bioenergy. 10 million hectares are available for non-food applications and even more when*

candidate countries will join us, and at the same time our 50% dependence on energy imports are increasing dramatically. Both agriculture and energy sectors will gain from a better co-operation.

** A Europe-wide tax-exemption for liquid biofuels that are produced within the borders of the European Union should be decided upon. A tax-exemption for biofuels NOT produced within the European Union is - similar to the US's way of handling this question - not necessary.*

** Biomass for heat makes sense as it increases the overall energy efficiency and because heat represents about 50% of the total energy market in Europe. Therefore emphasis must be placed also on heat in the future, in addition to recent initiatives for renewable electricity and liquid biofuels.*



Martina Sumenjak explained the importance of biomass for the European future, she read a statement drawn up by C.A.R.M.E.N. and the AEBIOM and explained and presented this position paper to D.Sc. Ingo Friedrich, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

Friedrich said. He wished the European Biomass Days to be well received by citizens and initiatives.

The approval the Biomass Days met with is shown by the following compilation of C.A.R.M.E.N.: A total of 434 participants from ten European countries is not bad at all. Apart from 378 officially participating projects from Germany, various events from Austria, Italy, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, Croatia, Slovenia, and Belgium were registered at C.A.R.M.E.N.

Almost 90 per cent of the registered actions dealt with the subject of renewable energies. However, European companies, institutions, and organisations also presented projects on the industrial use of renewable resources, such as fibres, lubricants, and plant cultivation.

*Karl Hanglberger, C.A.R.M.E.N
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** According to the Polluter's Pay Principle, clear statements and regulations of the European bodies concerning the taxation of fossil energy should be reinforced. A harmonisation of taxation and minimum tax rates for fossil fuels should be introduced in order to avoid distortions of normal trading conditions.*

** Europewide uniform recommendations concerning the rates for feeding in electricity from biomass should be implemented, ranging from 10 to 16 cents per kWh, according to the technology and size of the facility.*

The European Bio-mass Association and C.A.R.M.E.N. call upon YOU, the decision-makers in Europe, to create favour-able economic conditions for the development of bioenergy in Europe, on the way to sustainability. We have no other choice. Do it for our children!"



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South East European region Important Conference

In Ljubjana the 4th International Conference SLOBIOM 2002: was arranged as a part of the European Biomass Days. Subject for the conference was Biomass and other Renewable Energy Sources for South-East European Region. It was organised by the Slobiom. There were around 100 participants from Austria, Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovak Republic, Finland, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and representatives of the European Union. The programme included not only lectures on the basic conditions for the development of renewable energies with the main focus on biomass but also international experiences.

The spotlight of the Conference was the round table: Biomass and other RES for Sustainable Development of the South-East European Region. The situation in the involving countries presented (from left to right): Prof. D. Sc. Istvan Marton, Director, Department for Research and Education, Hungarian Ministry for Agriculture, D. Sc. Heinz Schreiber, Representative of Austrian Minister for Agriculture, M. Sc. Wilhelm Molterer, M. Sc. Janez Kopac, Slovenian Minister of Environment, M. Sc. Bozo Kovacevic, Minister of Environment from Croatia and M. Sc. Franc But, Slovenian

Minister of Agriculture.

Janez Kopac also presented a Memorandum by Slovenian Ministry of Environment, based on the Ljubljana Declaration, presented on 3:rd Slobiom Conference.

The States of South-East European region now plan together to set up a policy for Renewable Energy Sources utilisation.

Next International Conference, SLOBIOM 2003, will be held on 29th and 30th of September in Ljubljana.

M.Sc. Martina Sumenjak, Pres., SLOBIOM

Slovenia - Steps towards sustainability

According the in 2002 approved Governmental Decree for Qualified Producers (RES + cogeneration), distribution companies are obliged to buy all produced electrical energy for fixed prices.

The producers can chose between fixed price or market price + fixed premium. The fixed elect-

ricity prices are as follows (EUR/kWh) :

Biomass:	0,07
Small hydro:	0,06
PV <36 kW	0,28
Wind farms	0,06
Geothermal	0,06

Slovenia introduced in 1997 a CO₂ tax for fossil fuels. The recent change of the CO₂ tax law introduces the possibility to get a decrea-

sed CO₂ tax obligation if you are investing in energy efficiency.

With a 4,3 Miljon US dollar grant from the Global Environmental Found (GEF) the Slovenian government will support the development of Biomass district heating centrals during the coming years.

Franko Nemac

Resolution from The first World Pellet conference:

"The pellet industry has the potential to serve global society."



The following is a resolution adopted by the participants at the First World Conference on Pellets, gathering more than 300 delegates from all continents in Stockholm, Sweden, September 2-4, 2002.

To: UN, IEA, EU, National Governments and Others
"Globally, biomass is the largest source of renewable energy. Bioenergy supply can rapidly be increased by significant amounts, and grow to become a major source of global energy supply in the long term.

At this conference we have learned that biomass refined into fuel pellets and briquettes have opened new opportunities. These fuels:

- may be utilised in controlled combustion processes over a wide power-range with excellent environmental performance*

- can be efficiently transported and stored*
- are creating a global bioenergy market*

Considering the desire to curb human induced climate change, the fears of dependence on dwindling oil reserves increasingly concentrated in the Middle East, the ambitions to avoid energy systems vulnerable to terrorism and the market driven trend away from large centralised plants, the biofuel pellet industry has the potential to serve global society. The global pellets industry is ready to take on this task. But we urge the political leadership to establish fair and predictable economic conditions to make industrial investments feasible.

Removing subsidies to conventional non-sustainable sources of energy would be an important step to strengthen the bioenergy industry. Making polluters pay for environmental costs would decisively increase the bioenergy contribution to global energy supply.

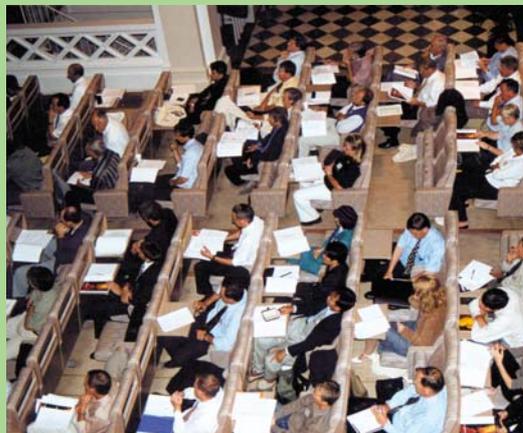
To create a framework for efficient development of sustainable sources of energy all nations should make commitments to limit greenhouse-gas emissions to levels set in the Kyoto process. Whatever policies applied to honour such commitments, net carbon emissions would induce an extra cost on fossil fuel opening a wider market for sustainable, renewable energy like biopellets.

In order to accelerate the utilisation of refined bioenergy fuels, public spending on research, development and implementation in this field should get priority."

Stockholm, September 4, 2002



More than 300 delegates from more than 30 countries participated in Pellets 2002. They learnt that Sweden is in the front line of development with more than 20 years of experience in the field of pellet production and use, from single family houses up to converted 100 MW boilers using pellets. USA and Canada will host The second World Pellet Conference in 2004.



Current Swedish energy politics

The main topic for the Swedish energy politic discussion right now is whether the second nuclear power station will be closed up 2003 as planned or not. Probably it will be postponed. The first one was closed up in 1999.

ENERGY TAXES

A parliamentary committee is analysing the industrial consequences regarding the energy taxes. We fear that the committee is going to suggest a decrease of the carbon dioxide taxes. They don't want Swedish industry to have disad-

antages compared to that in countries with very small carbon dioxide taxes.

The bioenergy share of the total demand in the Swedish energy system is now 20 %.

CERTIFICATES

The 1st of May we will in Sweden start up a system with electricity

certificates. All producers of electricity from biofuels, wind, photovoltaics and small-scale hydro will get one certificate per MWh. All customers must buy certificates to a certain quota of their demand (the first year's 6,7% will increase with 1% per year

until 2010). This will create a market for the certificates. Thus the customers will pay for and replace all state subsidies for renewable electricity.

Kent Nyström
Swedish Bioenergy
Association
www.svebio.se

German Initiative for BioEnergy

Bundesinitiative BioEnergie - BBE Welcomes the tax exemption of biofuels

That means that in the future all biofuels like biogas, bioethanol, biomethanol, hydrogen produced from biomass and synthetic biofuels will be exempted from the mineral oil tax. On the 5th of June 2002 the financial committee of the German parliament has decided the tax exemption of biofuels from the mineral oil tax.

– By the tax exemption of biofuels the German policy has implemented after the establishment of the so-called Renewable Energy Resources Act for the electricity market a second very important and efficient measure for the market development of biofuels. Both measures are very suitable for the enlargement of the bioenergy market in Germany, says Helmut Lamp, Chairman of the German Initiative for BioEnergy (BBE).

– The importance and the market shares of biofuels will increase rapidly now and in the future. The tax exemption of biofuels in connection with the biofuels guidelines which have to be passed by the European Union let us expect a rapidly growth of the biofuel production and an increasing usage of biofuels in the

transport sector. The agricultural sector and all market partners of the whole chain of value creation in biofuels will gain by this market development. The positive market development of Biodiesel in the last decade in Germany is the best example for the offered chance for the whole biofuel sector in the next years, explains Helmut Lamp.

As a result of this very positive market development the German Initiative for BioEnergy BBE arranged the congress for biofuels "Fuels of the future" in Berlin on the 4th and 5th of December 2002 for the first time. BBE communicated the chances and the potentials of biofuels on this congress for biofuels "Fuels of the future" and discussed strategies and conceptions for a successful development of the political framework with all market partners. BBE intends to establish the conference "Fuels of the Future" as the leading event in the biofuel industry.

The conference language was only German. You can get the detailed conference programme as pdf-file under www.bioenergie.de.

With a great satisfaction the German Initiative for BioEnergy (BBE) has agreed to the decision of the German Parliament from the 7th of June 2002 to exempt all technical sorts of biofuels from the mineral oil tax. By this modification of the German Mineral Oil Tax Law the existing tax exemption of vegetable oils (for example: Biodiesel) will be extended on all Biofuels.

Wood Energy 2002 - International Congress for Wood Energy

The international fair and conference "WoodEnergy 2002" took place in Augsburg, Germany from the 30th of October to the 2nd of November.

This event has taken place under the auspices of the Federal Minister of Consumer protection, Food and Agriculture and the Bavarian State Minister for Agriculture and Forestry.

The fair covered more than 8.000 m², and the 150 exhibitors from all around Europe had the possibility to present for the 8.000 visitors, products and services from all fields of wood energy.

At the same time BioEnergie BBE arranged the "Wood-Energy 2002" congress. 250 participants from all segments of the market and all regions of Germany came to the congress to

find out about and discuss these topics which are important for the future.

This positive reception of the event demonstrates the new spirit pervading the market for energy from wood in Germany: the chances for use of wood as a source of energy for private, community, and industrial use are increasingly being recognised all over the nation. The wood energy industry will be

the most innovative and environmentally friendly growth market of the coming decade.

We want to continue this positive development at the next year's congress "WoodEnergy 2003" on the 18th to the 19th of September 2003 and would like to invite you to participate.

*By Helmut Lamp
Chairman Bundesinitiative BioEnergie BBE*

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*AEBIOM representatives at a meeting in Italy 2001. From left to right:
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V. Petrikova, Czech Rep; A. Martinsen, Norway; Mrs Baldelli, Italy; JM. Jossart, Belgium; M. Sumenjak,
Slovenia; M. Cmiral, The Netherlands; H. Kopetz, Austria; D. Asplund, Finland
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Green Certificates in Walloon Region, Belgium:

An innovative scheme in Europe based on CO₂-emissions

Started in October 2002, a new scheme has been launched in the Walloon Region (south Belgium) to promote green electricity. Green certificates will be given to renewable electricity producers and quality co-generation units. Such scheme is not original in itself in Europe but the calculation of these certificates is rather innovative as they are directly linked with CO₂ emissions mitigation.

Based on the Commission's White Paper on renewable energy sources, the renewable electricity directive and the directive proposal on co-generation the Walloon region has worked out ambitious objectives for renewables (see table below).

7 % GREEN ELECTRICITY 2007

The most important scheme for electricity is based on Green Certificates (GC). On one hand the electricity suppliers are obliged to distribute a certain percentage of green electricity, or quota, backed up by GC. For the first year starting in October 2002 this percentage has been stated at 3%. It will increase by 1 percentage point per year to reach 7 % in 2007 and the Government will decide upon further objectives in 2005 according to achievements. On the other hand GC are delivered to the electricity producers. It means that these producers will get two different incomes for electricity, physical electricity delivered to the network (same market price as for any electricity) and GC sold to the electricity suppliers. Regulation is ensured by the CWaPE (Walloon Commission for Energy).

Green certificates are depending on the CO₂-emis-

sion reduction generated through the following calculation: $1 \text{ GC} = 1000 \text{ kWh}_{\text{electricity}}/t$ with t = economy rate of CO₂. In other words one GC corresponds to one MWh electricity that doesn't emit CO₂. The economy rate t is the ratio between the CO₂ economy and the emissions of the substituted electricity, taking into account the energy needed for the production of the fuels, the efficiency of the processes and the final CO₂-emissions during combustion, as well as the heat in case of co-generation.

For wind energy t is always equal to 1 as wind does not need any energy to be produced and the avoided CO₂-emissions are exactly equal to the substituted CO₂-emissions by natural gas.

For co-generation using biomass the calculation is more elaborated as CO₂-emissions to produce the biofuel have to be evaluated and, based on the efficiency of the plant and the substituted heat from fossil origin, t can be calculated.

GREEN CERTIFICATES FROM BIOMASS CHP

For example a bioenergy plant using wood that would require 30 kg CO₂/MWh for its production, in a plant having an efficiency of 30% electricity and 50% heat, substituting natural gas and light oil respectively would be associated with a t of 2 (the maximum authorised rate). It means that a GC will be allocated for each 500 kWh_e.

MARKET PRICE FOR GC

The value for each GC will depend on the market price but it will range between 65 Euro/GC, price paid by the Walloon region, and 100 Euro/GC, penalty for the electricity suppliers if they don't reach their quota.

Table : Objectives in percentages of electricity and heat consumption *

	2000	2005	2010
Electricity from renewables	1,8 (0,4)	3,6 (1,3)	8 (3,4)
Electricity from cogeneration**	3,5	7	20
Heat from renewables	5,1 (5,02)	6,7 (6,61)	12 (11,73)

* figures for biomass between brackets

** not necessarily from renewables but integrated in the green certificate scheme based on the avoided CO₂ equivalent principle

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ValBiom - new organisation that promotes the Belgian green gold

The non-profit association ValBiom has been recently set up in Belgium, as a result of the merging of two organizations : Belbiom and Valonal. ValBiom deals both with bioenergy and materials from biomass.

ValBiom now counts 40 members, either companies, research institutes, associations or individuals. Attention is currently focused on several products like bio-lubricants, bio-plastics, detergents, liquid biofuels, individual wood heating systems with pellets,

biogas. ValBiom takes care of a green line to which anyone can phone to get information about bioenergy. This service is successful.

In addition to the membership to AEBIOM, ValBiom takes also part of other European associations or projects like ERRMA for renewable resources, COBIO about biodegradability, NTB-Nett for liquid biofuels, LLINCWA for bio-lubricants and INFORRM - IENICA as information network.

Slovakia

Trade with emissions as an effective part of energy policy

Slovakia established SO₂ emission quotas with possibility to do business with emissions and introduced market mechanisms to solve environmental problems as the first country with transforming - transition economy. At the same time Slovakia also signed the Kyoto-Protocol, which enables trading with greenhouse gases emission in terms of flexible mechanism.

The following two possibilities of trading with greenhouse gases emissions are relevant for Slovakia in terms of the flexible mechanism according to the Kyoto-Protocol:

1. Allowance trading AT
2. Joint Implementation JI

While JI is established on individual projects and financial profit for the owner of the project, allowance trading is on governmental level, the profit is directed to the state budget or to a specially created fund. JI is more suitable for energy supply side projects, where reduction of emissions is allocated to subject where the project is put on work. On the other hand, projects that concentrate on reduction of final energy consumption (as for example warming-insulation of flats) are not suitable for this kind of mechanism and their profit can be better realised by AT mechanism.

REPOWERING EXISTING HEAT PLANTS

Between these possibilities, there are projects based on repowering of existing industrial or communal heating plants into CHP. This new co-generation unit which are different sectors than public electricity sector and reduction of CO₂ happens as a result of reduction of

electric energy production in the public power stations, it is very difficult to estimate emission reduction for project lifetime. Reduction allocation is not to the subject where the project is realised and public electric utilities do not have to be interested in reducing the production of electric energy and their profits as well. However emission quotas applying would enable to evaluate these kinds of projects. Slovakia and other countries with transferring - transition economy can be asked one fundamental question:

Is JI better and more suitable method than AT?

FLEXIBLE MECHANISMS IN SLOVAKIA

Considering all the above mentioned aspects it is possible to propose the following access to the flexible Kyoto protocol mechanism for Slovakia:

1. Applying of emissions allowance for CO₂ simplify the process of allocation of emission reduction. Business - Trading process can be realised on the basis of emission allowances for observed year and in addition, the profit from business will be realised directly and not in terms of state budget.
2. Equal rights in international and domestic trading

will be granted while the transfer of emission allowances in international trading will be controlled all the time by the Ministry of Energy. Delivery business will be fully liberalised.

3. Keep JI for the clearly defined projects for energy production with transparent emissions reduction allocation.

After Slovakia joins the EU we will be able to participate in EU inner market with CO₂ emissions. This EU business should begin in 2005 and is restricted only to some definite sectors.

*Jozef Viglasky
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Spain:

New financing agreement

The Institute of Official Credit (ICO) and the Institute for the Diversification and Energy Saving (I.D.A.E.) have signed for the third consecutive year, an agreement for collaboration with the objective of implementing a financing line for projects related with renewable energy and

energy efficiency.

The financing line is addressed to everybody, a single person or a company of public or private nature.

The maximum amount financed will be 70% of the total investment, with a maximum of 6.310.500 Euro, for person or company and year, either in one or several projects.

The whole program

offers a total of 30 millions Euro of credits.

According to the qualification assigned by the I.D.A.E. to the project, the interest rate for this credits, will be the Euribor 6 months less one to three points.

During the year 2001, 23 Biomass projects were financed by the I.C.O.-I.D.A.E program representing the

32.29% from the total of the renewable energy projects financed.

Those Biomass projects where mainly Biogas from municipal solid waste and power, heat and cogeneration production from Biomass waste in industries.

The total amount of credits for the Biomass projects where 47.5 MEuro representing 39.48% from

the total amount of credits approved.

The I.D.A.E has spent 8.5 M Euro for the subvention of the credits given to Biomass projects, representing the 71,5% of the whole budget spent in this program by the I.D.A.E.

*Hugo Lucas
Secretario General
ADABE, E.T.S.I.
Agrónomos, Botánica
Agrícola*

EUROPEAN BIOMASS
ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE
POUR LA BIOMASSE

Netherlands Consumers willing to pay for green energy

New green electricity suppliers beat traditional Dutch energy companies. Lack of information and price uncertainty are no reason for most Dutch consumers to cancel their green energy contract.

The Dutch consumers prefer the new energy companies to the traditional suppliers.

These are the results of a survey, conducted by Jungle Rating and GreenPrices.com among 1180 consumers.

From the survey it appeared that most consumers in the Netherlands are not being influenced by the recent government plans to reduce the tax exemption for green energy. 42% will use green energy at a price equal to the conventional energy price, 46% is willing to pay more for green energy (up to 15%). Only 12% will definitely switch back to conventional energy when the price for green energy increases.

NL-BEA, M.
Arninkhof

Central Finland

The bioenergy region of the world

Central Finland is a remarkably important bioenergy region in Finland. The forests, fields and bogs are harvested to serve, among others, the bioenergy sector in the most efficient yet viable way. In Central Finland up to 45% of the energy requirements is produced with biomass (about 35% excl. peat). The energy sector of Central Finland provides small and big establishments to produce either both electricity and heat, or just heat.

Among the wide selection of energy establishments in Central Finland, one representing the big establishments is the power plant of Rauhalampi. After the change of the boiler, the power plant was the largest power plant in the world using biomass and the fluidised bed technology (80MWe/300MWth).

There is also a small biogas power plant in the region (15kWe/60+40 kWth) as well as dozens of different-sized heating plants including both the one-family-houses (25kW) and also the larger district power plants (15-20MW).

Which factors have contributed to the fact that there one can see more in a day than in a week in somewhere else?

Among many reasons, the few key factors may help to understand that in order to achieve that status; there has been a strong belief in co-operation, open-mindedness and hard work in many fields.

Today, 30 of the region's communities use solely wood derived fuel and/or peat in district heat or other

energy production.

- The first remarkable event in the region's bioenergy know-how in business and research world took place in 1973 when the head office of the present Vapo Oy settled in Jyväskylä.

- In 1980, VTT (Technical Research Centre of Finland) started the research in the bioenergy sector, also in Jyväskylä.

- Several equipment manufacturers have concentrated their operations to Central Finland (HT Engineering Oy, Thermia Oy).

- Central Finland has also become the home of the national parent organisations such as Finbio and Turveteollisuusliitto.

- The school of natural resources of the Jyväskylä Polytechnic in Saarijärvi has, since 1996, had its emphasis on practical training and project activities.

- The Jyväskylä University, as well, has been involved with the research and training activities related to bioenergy since 1980. At the beginning of 2003, the university will launch a new research and educational program of renewable energy, which will bring about master's level professionals to the whole energy sector.

The next opportunity to become acquainted with the bioenergy provided by the region of central Finland will be in September 2003, at the International Bioenergy 2003 conference in Jyväskylä.

Finland New National Action Plan

A new National Action Plan for Renewables has been launched on the Market. It is more ambitious than former Plan made in 1999.

The New Action Plan was supervised by Ministry of Trade and Industry and FINBIO was also an active partner in the preparation group. The target is to increase the use of renewable sources at least 30 % (95 PJ) by the year 2010 from the level of the year 2001 (317 PJ, without peat). The use of biogas will get 6-fold, REF's 10-fold, direct forest fuels 4-fold, wind power 16-fold and solar power also 16-fold increase. Bioenergy will increase absolutely the most, the bioenergy target share of total RES is 85 per cent.

New AEBIOM President

Professor Dan Asplund has started his 2-years presidency in AEBIOM last September. He is a Honourable Member and also ex-president of FINBIO. This professor has also during the years been a member of AEBIOM's Steering Committee and as a chairman in numerous international conferences and working groups in the field of bioenergy and also technology transfer and r&d committees for renewables and information technologies.

Dan Asplund is well-known as a "Mr. Bioenergy" worldwide and he has been one of the most notable linking man when connecting bioenergy people and organisations in Scandinavia and Europe. We are sure his personality will carry new activity and positive energy when linking European bioenergy world more and more better together.

EU and the Czech Republic

Joint Implementation Projects

An Altener project (4.1030/C/00/024, part 2) coordinated by AEBIOM aimed at promoting Joint Implementation projects (JIP) between European Union and Czech Republic partners.

The project engaged in significant information dissemination and many initial ideas lead to concrete projects. Key actions included the production and dissemination of brochures and videos, the organisation of four business trips in the Czech Republic and in Finland and a JI seminar held in Prague which was attended by 65 persons.

20 PROJECT IDENTIFIED

More than 20 concrete projects have now been identified by the partners of this Altener project.

In the Czech Republic there is room to accept JI projects and clear political signals have been given in favour of JI, as CO₂ emissions have gone down mainly due to a slower economic development.

BIOENERGY IN CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic has to adapt its energy structure and industries to Community standards and renewables have the potential to be helpful to achieve this goal. The current biomass use amounts to 24 PJ/year or 1,3% of the total consumption of primary energy sources. A target of 96,5 PJ/year in 2010 has been defined in a National Programme. At present bioenergy takes the form of about 40 000 domestic boilers, 100 municipal boilers, 450 boilers in industries and 35 biogas plants.

The manufacture of these technologies often takes place in Czech companies that are able to produce reliable and cheap boilers. However if bioenergy is to represent a major energy sector in the Czech Republic



The interest to Joint Implementation is very high, as shown here by the 65 participants to a seminar organised by the company BTG Czech Republic for AEBIOM.

larger scale developments have to be undertaken, and these represent opportunities for export for EU countries/companies that have such expertise.

A major barrier to JI projects implementation is that information to the Czech decision-makers at the central and district authorities is lacking. Also project development skills and management expertise are needed.

JI IS RATHER COMPLICATED

Regarding technologies, opportunities for EU countries are many: appropriate logistics for forest wood collection adapted to local conditions, technologies for large scale boilers and co-generation plants, advanced technologies for bioenergy in general issued from R&D activities in EU, etc.

If we take the Carboncredits.nl programme of Senter International as an example, one can realise that the procedure for JI application is rather complicated for those without experience of the system. There are also strict criteria for project selection. Obviously such procedure requires expertise and is time consuming. Therefore AEBIOM proposes to reinforce the current structure, to advice, to work out projects and to accompany the individual initiatives up to concrete bioenergy projects.

Jean-Marc Jossart. jossart@valbiom.be



Stig Larsson, in a three year old cultivation in the south of Sweden. The Salix specie is the Tora

Short rotation Forestry

International promotion of Salix

Swedish company Agrobränsle is now expanding international with a new organisation. In Sweden, energy forests planted with Salix covers over 20 000 hectares of set aside land, and are every fourth year harvested and utilized in heat- and powerplants.

– The possibilities for Salix as an alternative crop on agriculture land in Europe is extremely large, says Gustav Melin, CO of the company Agrobränsle. However, he stresses, it is crucial to use the right species and the right technology.

Britain

Launch of the Biofuel Alliance

The Biofuels Alliance has brought together all organisations that share the same vision to work together towards the common aim.

On the 20th November, at a conference at the Royal Bath and West Showground, the Biofuels Alliance, was setting its vision for the future of biomass for energy and the essential role that the rural economy will have to play in heating and lighting our homes, powering cars and trucks and securing our energy supplies. The Alliance challenging the Government to assist in releasing the potential.

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United Utilities Green Energy Limited - Peter Dickson Tel. +44(0)29 2031 6310

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TONI IN MEMORIAL

On Saturday, December 7 2002, we said goodbye to our Toni at the Mihovljan cemetery in his hometown Āakovec in Croatia. He was born there 59 years ago.

His life was his music, art and nature.

It has been over a decade since we started to promote sustainable development, in Slovenia and Southeast Europe.

Antun Sabol, Toni, was the co-ordinator of the biomass association of Slovenia. He was also supportive for the Bioenergy International.

He was active all the time until the 2nd of October, when the last guests of the 4th International Conference, SLOBIOM 2002, left Ljubljana. The day after he went urgently to the hospital. After two months of fighting for his life he died.

Thank you, Toni. Your Martina will keep you in her heart and will follow our common vision.

SLOBIOM

Bulgaria

Strong need for political decisions and new investments

Bulgaria has signed the Kyoto protocol and made the commitment to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 8 % in the period 2008-2012, compared to 1988 levels. To avoid the possibility to experience difficulties in the future, the government of Bulgaria adopted a National Climate Change Action Plan. The National Climate Change Action Plan includes main directions to achieve required emission reduction of greenhouse gases mainly from the energy sector. The analyses and scenarios for development of a new energy strategy lead to the conclusion that the most of the proposed measures are beneficial (i.e. competitive in their potential to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and prime costs in the energy sector), except for the introduction of renewable energy sources.

Measures in this field have been previewed also in the National Program for Energy Efficiency and the

National Strategy for the Development of the Energy Sector, approved by the Bulgarian Parliament on July 17, 2002.

Recently, in 2001 the US Agency for International Development (USAID) created the Municipal Network or Energy Efficiency (MUNEE) with its structure EnEffect - Agency for Energy Efficiency that has been assigned to serve as the Secretariat of the Municipal Energy Efficiency Network.

Thus, the National Biomass Association is acting in strongly concurrent conditions. It needs some international support to keep its field of interest. Some measures have to be taken concerning dissemination and popularisation of successful renewable-energy technologies between Bulgarian politicians.

Anna Aladjadjyan

National Biomass Association of Bulgaria (NBA - BG)

Ukraine.

Some problems of bioenergy development

Ukraine is one of the countries with the most damaged environment.

Ukraine occupies one of the first places in the world by its share of the energy from fossil fuels (FF) consumption.

In spite of the fact that some ecological indexes rose for the recent time the general ecological situation in Ukraine stays critical and in some cases it even becomes worse.

EU PROGRAMMES

Taking into account such situation in Ukraine we consider the EU position concerning the limitation of participating countries number in the all-European programs of renewable energy use

within the EU members and candidate countries to be erroneous. Ecology has no borders.

BIOMASS

The national obligations to reduce the use of FF cannot be fulfilled without biomass treatment for large scale energy production.

According to the specialists reports there is a considerable energy potential of biomass in Ukraine. But nowadays it is not practically used. Millions of tones of straw and wood wastes are burnt on the fields and at the place of clearings.

OBSTACLES

There is a number of technical, organization, economical, legislative, informational, etc. obstacles for the

introduction of RES in Ukraine.

For the RES development in Ukraine it is necessary to get the financial support, especially on the first stage.

Our native specialists have a lot of propositions concerning biomass usage, for example, the introduction of wide-range biogas and pyrolysis plants, the converting of biomass into fuel and organic fertilizers, etc. There are also a lot of interesting research results in Ukraine.

PUBLIC ORGANISATION

In Ukraine a special all-Ukrainian public organization "Ukrainian Bioenergy Association" (UBA) has been created.

One of the main tasks of the Association activity is the active search of the national experts. The Association tries to unify them, to provide them with the assistance in the promotion of their work results to the concrete users.

The UBA proposes to use the climate changes tax and the income from the activity, where the FF are used, tax for the financing of the grant program aimed at the climate preservation.

These aims can be fulfilled on condition that the government will participate in this process.

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the Bioenergy Calender 2003

3 - 4 Feb

Third International Slovak
Biomass Forum
Bratislava
www.ecbratislava.sk

12 - 14 Feb

Energy Water Waste Expo 2003,
Warsaw, Poland
www.ewwexpo.com

14 - 16 Feb

Ernuebare Energien 2003
Böblingen, Germany
www.energie-server.de

6 - 7 March

World Sustainable Day,
7-9 Energisparmesse
Messe Wels, Austria
www.esv.or.at

13 - 16 March

Legno Energia 2003
Arezzo - Toscane, Italy
www.expoenergie.it

7 - 12 April

Hannovermesse
Hannover, Germany
www.hannovermesse.de

9 - 11 April

Renewable EnergySources and
District heating days
Hradec Králové, Czech republic
www.parexpo.cz/oze

13 - 15 May

Sustain 2003
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.sustain2003.com

26 - 30 May

Ligna
Hannover, Germany
www.ligna.de

13 - 15 June

Euroforest 2003,
Saint-Bonnet-De-Joux, France
www.euroforest2003.com

26 - 29 June

Biomasse 2003
Straubing
www.biomasse-gmbh.com

25 - 28 July

Biomasse Energie 2003
Libramont, Belgium
www.itebe-expo.com

2 - 5 Sept.

Bioenergy 2003
Jyväskylä, Finland
www.finbioenergy.fi

18 - 19 Sept

WoodEnergy 2003,
Augsburg, Germany
www.holz-energie.de

29-30 Sept

SLOBIOM 2003
Ljubjana, Slovenia
www.slobiom-zveza.si

20 - 23 November

Bois Energie
Cahors, France
www.itebe-expo.com

Bioenergy 2003

Sept 2 - 5

Jyväskylä, Finland

International Conference with
oral- and poster presentations,
Studytours, Cultural and
Social programme,
Technical exhibition

Topics

1. Strategies, Politics
2. Markets and Business
3. Resources
4. Fuel production
5. Combustion and boiler systems
6. Combined Heat and Power (CHP)
7. Chemical Conversion Technologies
8. Solid Conversion
9. Market Implementations
10. Information and communication.

www.finbioenergy.fi

Willow coppice from Agrobränsle the best varieties you can find in Europe!



Biomass energy in the form of short rotation coppice willows (*Salix*) has the potential to help Europe meet its climate change targets. In Sweden SRC wood chips are used to fuel district heating schemes and similar heat and electricity markets are being developed in the UK, Poland and the Baltic states. Willows can also be used as vegetation filters for treating wastewater and sewage sludge as well as remediation of contaminated land.

Agrobränsle AB is involved in research, development and marketing of willows throughout Europe and has employees in Sweden, Poland and the UK. We have been involved in the bioenergy sector for 15 years and co-ordinate planting and harvesting of the crop and delivery of wood chips to the end user.

Agrobränsle AB owns the license rights for the willow varieties developed by Svalöf Weibull AB and took over the management of the Swedish willow breeding programme in 2002. All currently released varieties have been rigorously tested in Sweden and the UK and shown to have excellent yield characteristics and resistance to disease and pests.

Plant material is available from the following contacts:

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 **Agrobränsle**
www.agrobransle.se

Business information



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