



Press Release



ePURE comments on the draft report of Corinne Lepage

Wednesday 17 April 2013

Brussels, Wednesday 17 April 2013 – ePURE takes note of the draft report by Corinne Lepage today, on the Commission proposal for a directive amending the Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) and the directive of the use of energy from renewable sources (RED). Together with the draft opinion by Vidal-Quadras, there are now two very distinct views on the table to move forward on the Commission proposal.

"We see some constructive suggestions in Ms. Lepage's draft report but also some ideas that give cause for real concern", states Rob Vierhout, Secretary General of ePURE.

ePURE recalls that renewable Ethanol, made in Europe, produces greenhouse gas emission savings for transport between 50%-90% compared to fossil fuels. The ethanol industry therefore does not endorse the suggested proposal in today's report by Corinne Lepage to postpone the reduction of GHG emissions under the FQD to 2025. "If we are serious about decarbonizing transport then there should not be a call for postponing measures" says Rob Vierhout.

The industry can neither agree to use ILUC factors as a sustainability criterion. ePURE holds the position that at this stage there is not a minimum of scientific consensus on ILUC effects. Yet, even if you take into account the supposed land use change emissions of biofuels mentioned in reports commissioned by the NGOs Greenpeace, Transport & Environment, the European Environmental Bureau and BirdLife Europe, renewable ethanol still allows for impressive substantial emissions savings.

"For the technology of ligno-cellulosic ethanol to come to full deployment, and keep the investments in Europe, we strongly favour a mandatory, dedicated target for advanced biofuels of at least 2%, but not virtual measures such as multiple counting", adds Rob Vierhout. A target creates certainty that investors need. Calling for ILUC factors for certain advanced biofuels in the near future adds another uncertainty ePURE does not support.

ePURE believes that European policy makers have an opportunity to pursue a positive agenda for sustainable biofuels that lower greenhouse gas emissions from transport, contribute to food security in Europe, use land smarter, diversify energy supply, and drive jobs and growth in times of economic crisis.

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ePURE represents the interests of European renewable ethanol producers to the European Institutions, industry stakeholders, the media, academia and the general public. Based in Brussels, ePURE represents 55 member companies throughout 18 member states, accounting for 90% of the installed renewable ethanol production capacity in Europe. The organization, established in 2010, promotes the beneficial uses of ethanol throughout Europe.