



European Parliament vote fails to green Europe's transport system

ILUC vote puts jobs and growth under pressure

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Brussels, Today - The vote today at the European Parliament on the proposed changes to the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and the Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) has put the future of jobs and growth for the European ethanol industry under pressure. ePURE, the European renewable ethanol industry association, believes that a number of the decisions made by MEPs will also discourage the ambition of greening Europe's transport system.

"It is disappointing to see that the European Parliament has decided to significantly reduce the market for conventional biofuels in Europe. At a time when we need to boost our economy it is difficult to see why MEPs agree to curtail jobs and investment in a sector that helps Europe to grow the production of clean and sustainable fuels", Rob Vierhout commented.

The European Parliament's decision to set a limit of 6% for conventional biofuels is not an ideal signal to promote investments and jobs and growth within the renewable ethanol industry in Europe. "We now look to the Member States to address this issue and consider a higher cap, which will secure the existing jobs, create new jobs and help grow the much needed investments for green sustainable fuels that are made in Europe," commented Rob Vierhout, Secretary General of ePURE.

The inclusion of a separate target for ethanol in petrol is welcomed by ePURE. In addition, the vote in support of advanced biofuels contributing at 2.5% of the final consumption of energy in transport is a measure which ePURE is pleased to see.

Rob Vierhout outlined ePURE's position on the outcome of the vote in relation to multiple counting. "Multiple counting does not give the Member States an incentive to invest or develop advanced biofuels; more fossil fuel use will be the result. The benefit is symbolic."

However, MEPs have chosen to keep accounting for ILUC factors. "We are disappointed with the decision to keep ILUC factors as part of the European approach to biofuels. It is premature to ask for accounting post 2020 knowing that the science will only be reviewed in 2016." expressed Rob Vierhout.

ePURE expects Member States to carefully address the challenges facing the renewable ethanol industry in Europe as a result of this vote, including investment and greening the transport system.

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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.