



Lithuanian proposal seems a missed opportunity to incentivise best performing biofuels

Tuesday 3 December

After one year of heated debates on the ILUC (Indirect Land Use Change) file, the Lithuanian Presidency has put forward a proposal which no longer incentivises best performing biofuels. The distinction between the performance of the different biofuels seems to have been wiped out in the myriad of requests from Member States.

Brussels, Today - A long wishlist of Member States requests were included in the current ILUC proposal to come to a clever political agreement but without much progress from the initial European Commission proposal. Although suggested in the recent European Parliament's proposal, two important factors to incentivize better biofuels were watered down. Advanced Biofuels, widely accepted as an important contributor of lowering GHG emissions in the future, does no longer have a mandatory target. The cap, although increased from the initially proposed 5% to 7%, does not include a separate target in petrol for renewable ethanol, the best performing biofuel.

The overall proposal now does not distinguish between biofuels and their performances in GHG emission savings. The proposed blanket cap on conventional biofuels does not reward those biofuels with better environmental performance, e.g. under the proposed cap sugarbeet ethanol produced in Europe, which [saves more GHG emissions](#), is treated equally as palm oil biodiesel produced in Asia. While this is unacceptable to EU ethanol producers, who produce with the highest sustainability standards in the world, it is also inherently contradictory to the objective of incentivising biofuels with higher GHG savings.

A mandatory sub-target is the only effective way to promote advanced biofuels. Independently the multiple counting rules are not a sufficient means to encourage investment in advanced biofuels. [Multiple counting has been used as a tool in the existing biofuels policy and it has clearly not worked](#) as evidenced by the lack of advanced biofuels now on the market.

“The European renewable ethanol industry is disappointed by the lack of ambition shown by the Council,” said Emmanuel Desplechin, ePURE’s Director for Energy and Environment. “The compromise on the table is a missed opportunity for Europe to signal its support to the best performing biofuel, from conventional and advanced feedstocks.”

The discrepancy and different views of the EU Member States reflected in this proposal risks leaving business with a myriad of regulations that will not work in the real world. In two weeks the Council will discuss the proposal that is now on the table. The renewable ethanol industry hopes to see the distinction between biofuels that was made by the EP, back on the table too.

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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.