



Press Release

European Council should be ambitious in using renewable energy in transport

Monday 24 March 2014

Brussels, Today - The European renewable ethanol industry association (ePURE) regrets the lack of ambition shown by EU leaders in tackling Europe's ever-increasing emissions in the transport sector during the meeting of the European Council on 21 March 2014. It welcomes, however, the importance given to securing Europe's energy supply. European renewable ethanol provides a much-needed contribution to achieving EU energy independence in a cost effective manner.

The current policy framework for decarbonising transport has been a success and this needs to be sustained with more stable, long-term ambitions. Since 2003, the use of European renewable ethanol has led to a GHG emissions reduction which is equivalent to taking 4.6 million cars off European roads for one year. Failure to include rules for the decarbonisation of the transport sector in the Post-2020 framework will leave Europe at risk of failing to meet its own climate objectives.

'Transport emissions in Europe have steadily increased since 1990 and now account for 26% of the total EU emissions. Without a dedicated framework for decarbonising transport, Europe will not achieve the proposed binding target of 40% GHG reductions. In the short-to-medium term sustainable biofuels are the only cost-effective tool available to deliver substantial GHG savings in transport', said Rob Vierhout, Secretary General of ePURE.

The use of renewable energy sources is also key to strengthening Europe's energy security. This is particularly relevant for the EU's transport sector, which is 94% dependent on oil, 84% of which is often imported from politically unstable regions. Home-grown ethanol can displace some of these oil imports which currently cost Europe EUR 1 billion a day. Recent turmoils in Ukraine, through which the majority of Europe's gas is channeled from Russia, reinforces the urgency for Europe to combat its ever-increasing dependency on fossil fuel.

'ePURE welcomes the intention by the Council to reduce Europe's energy dependence. European renewable ethanol, used as a transport fuel and for the production of bio-products, should be central to Europe's future energy mix when EU leaders decide on the 2030 framework later this year', Rob Vierhout concluded.

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The European Renewable Ethanol Association (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 56 member companies, with production plants in 16 member states, accounting for 95% of the installed renewable ethanol production capacity in Europe. The organisation, established in 2010, promotes the beneficial uses of ethanol throughout Europe.