



PRESS RELEASE

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ePURE looks towards Council for a practical compromise after ILUC vote

Brussels, Today - The Environment (ENVI) Committee has adopted MEP Nils Torvalds 2nd reading report on the revision of the RED and FQD Directives. It also granted the rapporteur a mandate to negotiate with Council, with a view to finalising an agreement in April. The European renewable ethanol association (ePURE) welcomes the outcome of the vote which, although not perfect, is an important step forward in the process of reforming Europe's biofuels policy.

The Committee recognised the importance of ethanol, both conventional and advanced, as a low-carbon fuel by reintroducing the minimum renewables (ethanol) target in petrol as well as a binding target for advanced biofuels. Furthermore, it called on the European Commission to elaborate on the identification and certification of 'low-ILUC risk' biofuels.

Throughout the reform process ePURE has been advocating for practical measures to incentivise biofuels with the best environmental performance. ePURE therefore welcomes the ENVI committee stance.

"The Committee has recognised that the most effective way to address ILUC is to provide dedicated support for ethanol with its strong record of GHG savings, even if ILUC was accounted for. Adopting ambitious yet realistic binding measures for advanced biofuels and incentivising biofuels that mitigate or prevent ILUC are also beneficial measures adopted by the Committee. These measures combined will maximise the GHG emissions savings that can be achieved by Europe's biofuels policy", said Robert Wright, ePURE Secretary General.

ePURE has been calling for a constructive end to this prolonged policy debate to provide investors with a clear, stable policy that will enable significant and long term investments.

"We look towards the Council to remain firm on a minimum 7% cap for conventional biofuel while allowing the process to move forward. The industry needs a policy outcome that will provide us with certainty and a longer-term perspective beyond 2020", he concluded.

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Contact Details:

Mr. Barry Magee
Communications Manager
ePURE
T: +32 2 657 66 79
E: magee@epure.org

www.epure.org

About ePURE

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 58 member companies, with production plants in 16 member states, accounting for 90% of the installed renewable ethanol capacity in Europe. The organisation, established in 2010, promotes the beneficial uses of ethanol throughout Europe.