



PRESS RELEASE

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UK Supreme Court ruling on air quality – reaction from the European renewable ethanol industry

Brussels, Today - Following last week's UK Supreme Court ruling that the UK Government must revise its national air quality plans to tackle nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) emissions, a greenhouse gas mainly attributed to diesel fuel use, Robert Wright, Secretary-General of ePURE, the European renewable ethanol industry association, said:

"17 Member States of the EU are in breach of their air quality targets and this is causing major health problems for many thousands of people across Europe, particularly in urban areas. Policymakers need to act. Far greater use of petrol blended with renewable ethanol, such as E10, will deliver far better air quality and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

"As the EU develops and decides its 2030 climate and energy package over the next couple of years, it needs to ensure an effective balance between promoting air quality, protecting human health and ensuring reduced GHG emissions. Renewable ethanol is the best available fuel option for ensuring this balance."

– ENDS –

Notes to the editors:

As of 2014 the European transport fuel market is predominately made up by diesel (70%), while petrol fuel has a smaller share (30%). Diesel's share is steadily increasing and is forecast to reach 80% by 2020(1). This growth of the diesel market is evident in the UK, for example, where the number of diesel cars increased from 14% of the vehicle fleet in 2000 to over 50% in 2013. At EU-level diesel vehicles now make up nearly 70% of the European vehicle fleet.

The increasing demand in Europe for diesel is being driven by a European Energy Taxation Directive which taxes diesel fuel less than petrol and fossil fuels less than biofuels. A fairer energy tax regime, i.e. based on energy and CO₂ content of the fuels would create more equilibrium in the market, help decarbonize transport fuels, and redress the slide towards dieselization that is also negatively impacting fuel refiners of Europe.

A rebalancing towards petrol would also open the EU market to more efficient petrol engines with higher ethanol blends such as E10, a petrol ethanol blend that is already available in France, Germany and Finland.

For more information please visit our [blog](#).

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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.

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