



PRESS RELEASE

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Commission's biofuel plans will cost Europe's cereal and beet farmers at least €2 billion per year

Brussels, Today – On the occasion of the World Ethanol & Biofuels conference taking place in Brussels, the European Association of Sugar Manufacturers (CEFS), the European Confederation of Maize Production (CEPM), the International Confederation of European Beet Growers (CIBE) and the European renewable ethanol producers association (ePURE) have issued a joint letter to the European Commission strongly opposing any phasing out of EU support for conventional biofuels produced in Europe from crops and feedstock that have been grown in Europe.

The [letter](#) warns that any plan to phase out conventional ethanol, produced from crops such as corn, wheat, sugar beet, would not be scientifically justified, will rob transport of a credible green alternative and will cost European cereal and beet farmers at least €2.1 billion in revenue per year.

In order to strengthen the sustainability of Europe's biofuels policy post-2020, the EU should support the European biofuels sector. Biofuels produced from crops and feedstocks grown in Europe already operate under the most sustainable farming conditions in the world. In addition, the EU should ensure that imported biofuels are regulated and managed to the same high degree of sustainability criteria that govern biofuels produced in Europe.

“The Commission's suggestion to phase out after 2020 perfectly sustainable conventional biofuels, such as European ethanol, is neither justified nor a solution and will kill a market worth billions of euro to our financially struggling farmers”, said **Robert Wright, Secretary-General of ePURE.**

– ENDS –

Notes to editors:

- European ethanol is a sustainable biofuel with certified and audited average high GHG emissions savings of 64% compared to petrol.
- In 2015, European ethanol companies produced 4.5 billion litres of renewable ethanol fuel, reducing GHG emissions by 6 million tonnes – equivalent to the annual emissions produced by 4 million new cars.
- The Commission's 2015 [Renewable Energy Progress Report](#) showed that increased ethanol demand in Europe has not led to food prices increases.
- Since 2008, just before the EU adopted its biofuels policy, global food prices have decreased 15% while global biofuels production has increased. Cereals, which are used to make ethanol, have seen their global prices drop 40% over the same period.
- Nearly all (99.7%) of all the 14 million tonnes of crops and feedstock used to produce ethanol in Europe last year were bought from European cereal and beet farmers, providing these farmers with at least €2.1 billion revenue.

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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 42 member companies, with production plants in 16 member states, accounting for about 85% of the installed renewable ethanol capacity in Europe. The organisation, established in 2010, promotes the beneficial uses of ethanol throughout Europe.