



A roadmap for Renewable Energy in Europe – Plenary vote on Thomsen report, 25 September

Voting recommendations

BirdLife International, the European Environmental Bureau, Friends of the Earth and Transport and Environment welcome Britta Thomsen's report on Renewable Energy. We particularly welcome the endorsement of the 20% renewable energy target and the calls for Strategic Environment Assessment for Renewable Action Plans; mandatory and comprehensive certification system for biofuels produced within and imported to the EU, the reference to the need of monitoring of global impacts of biofuel production as well as the support for the approach to Green House Gas reduction under the proposal for a revised Fuel Quality Directive.

BIOFUELS

However at the same time we are deeply concerned that on biofuels, the European Parliament is posed to adopt wording which is ignoring latest authoritative warnings and scientific evidence regarding environmental and social harm to be brought by the implementation of a 10% volume target and the lack of robust sustainability standards for biofuel production. In transport, we believe that improving energy efficiency of vehicles should have priority over adapting them to biofuels. To treat these as equivalent would amount to denying that biofuels are a rare resource as any other.

In view of the above we urge MEPs **TO SUPPORT** the following amendments:

Amendment 6

Paragraph 43

Calls on the Commission to carry out an integrated well-to-wheel climate, environmental, social and food security impact assessment before setting and implementing a possible 10% compulsory target for plant fuels; notes the importance of second and third-generation biofuels becoming commercially available and calls for technological progress to be accelerated in this field; stresses that ***plant fuels produced in a sustainable way*** could reduce oil dependency and CO₂ emissions in the transport sector, ***if sustainable practices and priority for food security are to become compulsory in this field;***

Amendment 7

Paragraph 47

Calls on the Commission to develop a mandatory, comprehensive certification scheme, applicable to biofuels both produced within and imported into the EU believes that the certification criteria should be designed to ensure that the production of biofuels provides ***at least 60% of*** greenhouse gas savings over the whole life cycle when compared to the conventional fuels they replace and do not cause, directly or indirectly, a loss in biodiversity and water resources, any reduction in carbon stocks through land use change or social problems such as rising food prices and the displacement of people;

Amendment 8

Paragraph 50 a (new)

Urges the Commission to ensure that under the Community Guidelines on State Aid for the environment, which is currently under revision, biofuels that do not fulfil the minimum sustainable criteria as spelled out by the European parliament should not be eligible for such a State Aid;

At the same time we urge MEPs **TO REJECT the Amendment 4**

Paragraph 46

Emphasises that the production of more fuel-efficient cars continues to be the best way of reducing CO₂ emissions and oil consumption per vehicle and **considers (delete)** that the message that the Community **should** send to the car industry **has to** be **(delete)** focused on the demand for biofuels **as well as (delete)** on the demand for more fuel efficient vehicles **as both strategies are complementary**; welcomes, however, the proposal for the revision of the Fuel Quality Directive, which aims to reduce the climate change effect of transport fuels on a well-to-wheel basis in order to improve air quality, promote **(delete) biofuels** and petrol mixes and allow for higher levels of blending, provided that strong safeguards are put in place to ensure that these fuels are produced in a sustainable way;

OTHER ISSUES

We are concerned with the calls for reviewing of Community legislation (Paragraph 31) not excluding environmental legislation, in order to boost development of renewable energy. NGOs strongly support development of various sorts of renewable energies, including large scale tidal projects and believe this is very well possible within the framework of existing Community Environment legislation. In fact a proper application of environmental legislation can help avoid unnecessary trade offs between protection of climate and protection of the wider environment. To this end, we ask MEPs **TO SUPPORT the Amendment 4**

Paragraph 31

Calls for **the** development of large scale tidal projects **while ensuring it is in line with the existing environmental legislation**

Last, but not least, with urge MEPs **TO REJECT the Amendment 9**. Because of the high risks associated with nuclear power and its enormous costs, nuclear power cannot be seen as a solution for reducing greenhouse gases.

Recital E

whereas, in the context of limiting the increase in average world temperatures to a maximum of 2°C, nuclear energy **(delete)** offers a low-emission **(delete)** technology that **together with an important share of renewable, can contribute significantly to combat climate change (delete)**.

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