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2012 EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL BIOENERGY INITIATIVE CONFERENCE
5 June 2012
Conference Centre Albert Borschette - AB OA
European Commission, Brussels

CONCEPT PAPER

Scene setting

The European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative was launched at the Belgian presidency SET-Plan conference in November 2010. This was a result of long and intense work on agreeing common objectives, a roadmap and an action plan between industry, Member States and the European Commission after the adoption of the [SET-Plan Communication in 2007](#)¹. The major milestones of the EIBI are: the 2020 [Technology Roadmap](#) included in the [2009 SET-Plan Communication](#)², the [Implementation plan for 2010-2012](#), agreeing on [Key Performance Indicators](#), [mapping of existing EU and national projects](#), identifying financial needs and barriers, mobilising the aviation sector through the [Biofuels Flightpath Initiative](#), publishing of a [Call for Expression of Interest](#), which is to support the 2012 ERA-NET Plus for demonstration of advanced bioenergy technologies.

Objectives

The key role of both the SET-Plan for accelerating the development of low-carbon technologies and the EIBI in the area of advanced bioenergy technologies is well known and recognised by the specialised audience but not so much by linked sectors or the civil society. The SET-Plan is acknowledged to be the technology pillar of the EU energy and climate policy. Yet, many barriers to implementation remain, especially for financing large-scale demonstration and first-of-its-kind-commercial plants and for ensuring stable and predictable regulatory environment. In order for these barriers to be lifted, the SET-Plan and the EIBI need to gain bigger acknowledgement among the policy and decision makers, the financing community, the media and the general public.

Hence, the aim of the 2012 EIBI Conference is to fill this gap by presenting the EIBI activities and outcomes in a transparent manner and by outlining risks and opportunities for the development of advanced bioenergy technologies.

The Conference will focus on the technological development and steer away from controversial issues such as the "food vs. fuel" debate, social exclusion, loss of biodiversity,

¹ COM(2007) 723 final, Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) 'Towards a low carbon future'

² COM(2009) 519 final, Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Investing in the Development of Low Carbon Technologies (SET-Plan)

impact on water resources, deforestation and soil erosion, which are better addressed in other forums.

Content

After the welcome of the European Commissioner, the Conference will unfold in the following sessions:

- An opening session divided into two parts during which the broad picture of the bioenergy sector will be provided. In the first part, key-speakers from the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission will present the point of view of the EU institutions on the role of bioenergy for achieving in EU climate and energy policy objectives. In the second part, the European Commission and the Civil Society will explain to the public their perspectives on the EU activities in the field of bioenergy technologies research with special focus on the EIBI activities.
The aim of this session is to provide the audience with the policy perspective and the general framework of the EU current and planned activities in the field of bioenergy research as well as to define the boundaries of the issues to be presented and discussed at the Conference.
- Presentation of the core activities – concerning both biochemical and thermochemical technologies – divided in two parts. This session will describe the state-of-the art of both demonstration and flagship plants from all different seven bioenergy value-chains by presenting practical examples of successful stories. Each presentation should be focused on highlighting the contribution to a more efficient use of the biomass resources, to the de-carbonisation of the economy as well as to the sustainable use of bioenergy technologies. The presentations should take into consideration possible risks and outline the needs for public support and private financing to speed up the market uptake.
- Activities, needs and ambitions of the transportation and the Heat & Power sectors. This session will inform the public about the requirements and perspectives of bioenergy use in both the transportation (including road, aviation and maritime) sector and the Heat & Power sector.
- The way ahead: Sustainable supply of biomass and future bioenergy technology. In this session the activities on both sustainable biomass feedstock supply and long-term research for bioenergy will be presented. Presentations of different supply chains and strategies including feedstock, logistics and harvesting will be given. Presentations will also cover the future technologies and their potential in terms of efficiency and contributions to the de-carbonisation of the economy.

Each one of the above mentioned sessions will be followed by an open-discussion. The discussions will be animated by representatives of the civil society or organisations of interest not directly involved in the EIBI and will enable the participants to both express their point of view and give their feedback on the EIBI activities.

Participants³

- Commissioners: Maire Geoghegan Quinn and/or Günther Oettinger;
- MEPs active in energy, agriculture, research and innovation, climate action, environment, structural funds, budget: Romana Jordan Cizelj, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Claude Turmes, Fiona Hall, Judith Merkies, Graham Watson;
- The EIBI stakeholders (EC, MS, industry, research organisations) will have an active role in the presentations and discussions;
- European Commission: SG, BEPA, DG ENER (both research and regulation units), IEE/EACI, DG AGRI, DG RTD (all concerned thematic directorates), DG JRC, DG ENTR, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG MOVE, DG REGIO;
- EIBI MS (including Martin Lidegaard - Danish Minister for Climate, Energy and Building as the Conference is to be organised during the Danish Presidency);
- Financing bodies: banks and investment funds (EIB, KfW banking group, Deutsche Bank SA, Allianz, PKO Bank Polsk, Instituto de Crédito Oficial, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Caisse des Dépôts et consignations, Good Energies Inc).
- Technology Platforms of relevant sectors: Plants for the Future, Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP), European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem), the Heating & Cooling European Technology Platform, European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP), European Biofuels Technology Platform, Agricultural Engineering Technology Platform, European Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform, European Technology Platform Food for Life;
- Sectorial organisations: EREC (European Renewable Energy Council), EUREC (European Renewable Energy Research Centres Agency), AEBIOM (European Biomass Association), EUBIA (European Biomass Industries Association), EABA (European Algae Biomass Association), EBB (European Biodiesel Board), ePURE (European Renewable Ethanol Association), Copa-Cogeca, Europabio (European Association for Bio-industries), eBIO (European Bioethanol Fuel Association), CEPF (Confederation of European Forest Owners), CEPI (Confederation of European Pulp Industries), EAAG (European Association of Agricultural Economists), Eustafor (European State Forest Association), EPSO (The European Plant Science Organisation), FEAP (Federation of European Aquaculture Producers), Europia (European Petroleum Industry Association), ACEA (European Automobile Manufacturers' Association), ASD (European aerospace and defence industry), AEA (Association of European Airlines), AECMA (European Association of Aerospace Industries), ECSA (European Community Ship-owners Association), EuroHeat&Power, Cogen Europe; CONCAWE (Conservation of Clean Air and Water in Europe), Eurelectric, EREF (European renewable Energies Federation);
- NGOs: INFORSE (International Network for Sustainable Energy), IUNC (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Green 10, Bellona, Biofuelwatch, FERN, RSB (Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels), PANGEA (Partners for Euro-African Green Energy);
- Think-Tanks: Ecologic Institute, Robert Schuman Centre, European Policy Centre, Chatham House, CEPS, Centre for European Reform, European Policy Centre, VaasaETT, Policy Exchange, European Climate Foundation;

³ Non-exhaustive list

- Media: European Voice, EurActiv, European Energy Review, Nature, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, Science Business, International Journal of Sustainable Energy International Journal of Green Energy, Financial Times, The Economist.

Timing

The Conference will take place in the first half of 2012. This timing is because the ERA-NET Plus Bioenergy call will have closed, but the companies will need to prepare proposals for its joint call. The technical and financial due diligence for the NER300 proposals will have been completed. The discussions in the Parliament on the Multiannual Financial Framework would be ongoing. Sufficient time will have passed from the SET-Plan Conference under the Polish Presidency on 28-29 November 2011.

Outcomes

- To provide key decision makers, financing institutions, media and the general public with a better and more in-depth understanding of both the urgency and benefits to fully implement the EIBI roadmap and to invest in the EIBI projects.
- To generate new ideas for supporting the EIBI activities.
- To effectively advance the preparation of proposals for the ERA-NET Plus joint call.
- To favour the establishment of new and mutual beneficial links between industries, financing institutions and public authorities.