



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate C - Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency
The Acting Director

Brussels, **10 MAI 2019**
BK/ml ener.c.1(2019)2981107

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your message to First Vice-President Timmermans regarding the use of palm oil for the production of biofuels. I was asked to reply on his behalf.

In your email you call for the Commission to stop the support and use of palm oil-based biofuels in the EU. Let me please clarify the relevant provisions of the revised Renewable Energy Directive regarding conventional biofuels (food and feed crop-based biofuels). The Directive¹, which entered into force on 24 December 2018, includes a limit for the contribution of all conventional biofuels towards the EU renewable energy targets, and an additional gradual reduction of biofuels with a high risk of indirect land use change (ILUC) for which there has been a significant expansion on high carbon stock land. Low indirect land-use change-risk biofuels are excluded from this limit.

The text does not single out palm oil or any other specific biofuel or feedstock. Instead, the Directive requires the Commission to develop rules to implement these provisions based on the latest and best available scientific information. This delegated legislation² has been adopted by the Commission on 13 March 2019. The legal act has been transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council for scrutiny. You will appreciate that, according to latest scientific evidence, palm oil currently qualifies as such a high ILUC-risk feedstock. In practical terms, this means that according to this delegated act, additional quantities of palm oil from 2021 to 2023 will no longer count towards the EU renewable energy target and that the contributions to this target from palm oil will be gradually phased out and end completely in 2030, unless they are certified as low ILUC-risk fuels.

The Commission will continue to regularly assess the developments in the agricultural sector, including the status of expansion of agricultural areas, based on new scientific evidence. The first such review is scheduled to be conducted before 30 June 2021.

I hope you find these clarifications useful.

Yours sincerely,



Hans van Steen

¹ Directive (EU) 2018/2001

² C(2019) 2055 final