



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate C - Green Transition and Energy System Integration
C.2 - Decarbonisation and Sustainability of Energy Sources

Brussels
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Subject: Petitions #StopFakeRenewables

Dear Petitioners,

The Commission would like to thank you for your emails from early July in the context of the campaign #StopFakeRenewables.

Bioenergy accounts for over 10% of EU final energy consumption and about 60% of renewable energy consumption. According to the Commission's analysis underpinning the Climate Target Plan, despite significant energy efficiency improvements and massive deployment of non-bio renewable energies, sustainable bioenergy will be needed to achieve the 2030 climate and energy targets, and particularly the long-term carbon neutrality by 2050.

At the same time, the Commission agrees that we must assure that forest biomass is sourced, produced and used in a sustainable manner, and that any negative environmental impacts are avoided to the maximum extent possible. To this end, the 2018 Renewable Energy Directive (REDII) introduced a first set of sustainability criteria for forest biomass, which have only recently come into force.

Moreover, the Commission adopted on 14 July 2021 in the context of the legislative package delivering the European Green Deal a proposal to amend the current Renewable Energy Directive. This amendment includes a further strengthening of the biomass sustainability criteria, taking up recommendations of the report by the Joint Research Centre "The use of woody biomass for energy production in the EU"^[1], including on the extension of no-go areas for forest biomass to protect in particular primary and old-grown forests as well as wet- and peatlands. The new rules introduce also an obligation on Member States to design their national support schemes in accordance with the cascading principle whereby woody biomass is to be used in the following order of priorities: 1) wood-based products, 2) extending their service life, 3) re-use, 4) recycling, 5) bio-energy, and 6) disposal.

The proposal aims to strike the right balance between using biomass for energy, preserving biodiversity and enhancing carbon sinks in our forests.

[1] <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC122719>

The Commission would like to thank you for sharing your views and welcomes your continued engagement on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

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Head of Unit