



Brussels, the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008

**To: Members of the Environment Committee of the European Parliament**

**NGO recommendations for ENVI vote on the role of biofuels in the  
Renewable Energy Directive**

***Efficient cars and not unsustainable biofuels***

Dear MEP,

In light of the upcoming vote in the Environment Committee on the Renewable Energy Directive, we call on you to reject the 10% target for renewable energy in the transport sector and to strengthen the sustainability criteria.

As it stands the Commission proposal for the Directive would promote the production of unsustainable biofuels that could lead to increased land grabbing, loss of valuable wildlife habitats, deforestation and negative impacts on local communities and food prices. According to recent and robust studies, green house gas (GHG) emission savings from biofuels have been grossly overestimated and at best can be called uncertain, whilst impartial and credible analysis by the UN, the IMF and the World Bank has identified biofuels as a principal cause of the current food crisis.

You have the opportunity to correct this mistake and prevent damage to the credibility of Europe's climate change policy, by voting:

- For the deletion of the mandatory target for renewable energy in transport (Amendment 142) – Lowering the target, i.e. to 8%, is arbitrary and insufficient. It would still require large quantities of biofuels that could not be produced in a sustainable way. So-called 'second generation' fuels from cellulosic material have not yet proven their ability to deliver and thus do not justify such a target. To realise the EU 20% renewable energy target, the sustainable bioenergy resources that are available should be used where they are most efficient: in electricity and heat production, not in transport. GHG savings in transport are better achieved by cleaner cars, which we urge you to support in your vote on the Car Regulation after the summer by setting target of 120 g CO<sub>2</sub> / km by 2012 and by GHG saving targets in the future Fuel Quality Directive, as already demanded by your Committee.

- for a higher GHG emission threshold of at least 60% compared with fossil fuels (Amendments 187 and 191) and introducing indirect land use impacts in the GHG calculation method – this will provide the urgently needed signal to biofuel producers to invest in cleaner production pathways.

We also urge you to support those amendments that strengthen the Commission's proposal and put forward robust environmental and social safeguards.

We trust that you, as an elected representative, will help to ensure that the EU biofuels policy will be balanced in light of the threat of increasing biodiversity loss and world hunger on the one hand and uncertain and - at best - small GHG emission savings on the other hand.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Yours Sincerely

Clairie Papazoglou, Regional Director of the European Division of BirdLife International

John Hontelez, Secretary General, European Environment Bureau

Veerle Dossche, Bio-energy campaigner, FERN

Magda Stoczkiewicz, Director, Friends of the Earth Europe

Luis Morago, Head of Oxfam International's Brussels Office, Oxfam International

Jos Dings, Director, European Federation for Transport & Environment