

Draft Letter, 19 June 2008

To: Members of the Environment Committee of the European Parliament

Renewable Energy Directive must promote efficient cars and not unsustainable biofuels

Dear MEP,

In light of the upcoming vote in the Environment Committee on the Renewables Directive, we call on you to reject the 10% biofuel target and to instead call for tougher standards on car manufacturers in a vote expected later this year.

We fully support Europe's move to adopt ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) and renewable energy targets. But these must deliver real GHG savings, be socially and environmentally benign and avoid competition with food crops. Increasing the share of biofuels in transport is not the right answer.

As it stands, the Commission proposal would promote the production of those types of biofuels which have been shown to increase land take, deforestation and food prices. According to recent scientific findings the GHG emission saving from those biofuels has been grossly overestimated and in many cases may be worse for the climate. At the same time the Commission has proposed to weaken the car industry's target of 120g CO₂ / km in a proposal being now discussed by Parliament.

This does not add-up to a responsible and workable climate strategy.

You have the possibility to correct this mistake and prevent damage to the credibility of Europe's climate change policy, by voting on 7th July:

- against the mandatory 10% biofuel target - lower percentages would still promote current unsustainable biofuel production and not set a signal for car producers to invest in cleaner technologies.

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

Yours sincerely