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Thursday 6th June 2013

REACTION TO INDUSTRY COMMITTEE (ITRE) VOTE ON BIOFUELS REFORM

A gift to biofuels industry and a backwards step for people and the environment

Brussels, 20 June 2013 – Today MEPs in the Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) committee voted on their opinion of proposed [legislation](#) to limit the quantities of ‘food based’ biofuels in renewable energy transport targets. They voted overwhelmingly to reject environmental and social safeguards.

They voted in favour of:

- Increase biofuels from food to 6.5% of transport energy (currently 4.5% are used)
- Make it mandatory for petrol to contain 7.5% ethanol
- Delete estimates of carbon emissions caused by indirect land use change (ILUC) for biofuels, instead requiring the Commission to produce another report on indirect land use change in 2015.
- Introduce a mandatory target for ‘advanced biofuels’ at 2.5% in 2020 and 4% in 2025

Reacting to the results of the vote, **Robbie Blake, biofuels campaigner for Friends of the Earth Europe** said: *“The outcome of this vote is a gift to the sectional interests of the biofuels industry and would be a backwards step for people and the environment. The biofuels industry are out to maintain their subsidies and a guaranteed market, and this is what this vote would give them – taking more food off of people's plates, and burning it in cars instead.”*

Abetnego Tarigan, National Executive Director of Walhi/Friends of the Earth Indonesia [explaining the threat to Indonesian communities and forests](#), said: *“Biofuels demand must be capped and reduced, because Indonesia is having enough difficulty solving the existing problems from palm oil, we don't need to escalate or increase the problems. Maintaining high demand from Europe on biofuels will only increase the problems in southern countries like Indonesia.”*

Today's ITRE Committee vote was an opinion, but the ITRE Committee has special privileges to present its report for the plenary of the European Parliament to vote on, as well as to negotiate with the Council and Commission.

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