

WWF and CEPI recommendations for an effective implementation of European Renewable Energy Sources (RES) policies

Executive Summary

It is now generally accepted by science and supported by the EU that in order to avoid dangerous climate change the mean temperature growth of the planet should stay below 2° Celsius compared to pre-industrial temperatures. This can only be achieved through significant improvements in energy efficiency and conservation in all sectors of society, combined with growth in the production and use of a wide range of renewable energies.

The European Forest-based sector already is a key player with respect to renewable energies. Recognising both the opportunities and challenges that result from Renewable Energy policies, the sector invites policy-makers and governments to look for ways of implementation of such policies that lead to achieving the objectives set by the European Union without putting at risk the competitiveness, economic, and environmental contribution of the forest-based industries.

WWF and CEPI believe that biomass has an important role to play in providing sustainable energy for the future. However, the expansion needed to achieve this must be managed with great care for wider environmental concerns (sustainable forest management, biodiversity, etc.) than just GHG emissions.

Therefore CEPI and WWF see it necessary that policies take into consideration the following recommendations which should build on the recognition of the forest and wood value chain:

1. To generate investment and financing security, WWF EPO and CEPI support a political process developing post 2010 renewable energy targets. The EU could already achieve about 15% of electricity production from biomass through exploiting on average 25% of the potentially sustainably harvestable residues (agricultural, forestry and livestock residues) and utilise 5% of suitable crop and forest biomass growth for power and heat by 2020.¹ This would happen without compromising on food security, fibre raw material supply or nature conservation.

2. Contributions and commitments² of the Forest-based sector should be recognised and supported by policies, which are conducive to better economic, environmental and social performance.

¹ Imperial College London – Centre for Energy Policy & Technology and E4tech (UK) Ltd. *BIOPOWERSWITCH – A Biomass Blueprint to Meet 15% of OECD Electricity Demand by 2020* (2004)

Wuppertal Institut. Target 2020: Policies & Measures to reduce GHG emissions in the EU (2005)

² Today the pulp and paper industry is the largest industrial producer and consumer of biomass-based renewable energies in the EU. It has committed to increase the share of consumed biomass-based energy from 49% in 2001 to 56% in 2010. In the same time, the industry as improved its energy efficiency by reducing the primary energy consumption per produced Kg from 11.85 in 1990 to 10.89 in 2004.



WWF *for a living planet*[®]

CEPI asbl
250 Avenue Louise
Box 80
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium

Tel +32 2 627 49 11
Fax +32 2 646 81 37

3. To achieve a better wood management:

- infrastructures permitting access to forest resources should be improved in a sustainable way,
- transportation should be facilitated,
- jobs in forestry should be encouraged,
- grouping of small forest owners could be supported to make the supply more efficient,
- forest and other crops used for biomass or for raw materials must be managed according to internationally recognised high-level standards of sustainability.

4. National and regional authorities should define renewables development strategies for their territories. These should clearly identify the position of raw material uses and of biomass for power amongst other renewable resources.

5. Governments have a key role to ensure a level playing field for biomass compared to fossil fuels and raw material uses. Subsidy-based or support policy to renewable energy should be based on a proper assessment of the wood market and should consider the optimisation of the uses of wood and forestry policy needs to provide the conditions for biomass feed-stocks to be produced in an efficient and environmentally sound way.

6. Energy crops, including short rotation forestry should be encouraged both at European and national level, in order to increase the amount of biomass available for energy production.

7. The sustainability of EU biomass production and imports from 3rd countries into the EU should be ensured with proper means, in particular through certification.

8. The most efficient biomass transformation, utilisation technologies for energy and related investments should be favoured. Feasibility of the renewable energy projects should be carefully studied in order to avoid any unsustainable use of resources.

9. Research and development in the field of RES should be encouraged and innovations be promoted so as to put Europe at the forefront of renewable energy efficiency.

10. Institutions and Member States should encourage exchange of good practices and assure their promotion.

11. The parallel improvement of mobilisation conditions for wood and for secondary raw materials should be sustained and supported as a means to ensure that woody biomass will be available for both the processing industries and the energy plants.

12. Policy-makers should involve stakeholders at an early stage in the making of renewable energy policies. Objectives, intentions and means to achieve this should be made clear and assessed in liaison with interested parties.