



Press Release

ePURE calls for binding renewable and GHG emissions reduction targets in transport

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Brussels, Today – This Wednesday the European Commission will present its long awaited vision for a new climate and energy policy framework towards the year 2030. The European Renewable Ethanol Association (ePURE) welcomes the European Commission's efforts to build a long-term perspective on climate and energy but calls on the Commission to elaborate upon the successes of the current policy by proposing new binding targets for GHG reductions and renewable energy use in transport by 2030.

The EU transport sector is highly dependent on imported fossil fuels and accounts for a significant share of both EU energy consumption and GHG emissions. Since 1990 EU transport emissions have increased by 36% and are now responsible for 25% of total EU GHG emissions. In 2009, the EU acknowledged the urgent need to decarbonise EU transport by mandating a sectoral target of 10% renewable energy in transport (RED) and a target of 6% GHG emission reductions of transport fuels (FQD). The EU must pursue both these options in any 2030 framework.

"We call upon the European Commission to build on the successes of the current 2020 package by including ambitious, binding targets for renewable energy in transport and the decarbonisation of transport fuels. The need to decarbonise EU transport is important now more than ever. Binding targets for EU transport sector will not only ensure Europe's is at the forefront in the fight against climate change but it will also promote regulatory stability and encourage long term investments", said Rob Vierhout, Secretary General of ePURE.

Additionally, any future framework must set a dedicated sub-target for advanced biofuels. European companies are world leaders in advanced biofuels but investments in commercial scale production are happening elsewhere in the world, in countries where more targeted policy support is given. To avoid this innovation leakage, the EU must make the move towards commercial deployment of advanced biofuels by setting a separate binding target for their use.

"After the uncertainties derived from the ILUC debate, the European Commission has an opportunity to restore investor confidence in the sector by signalling support for the most sustainable biofuels. Failure to do so risks to undermine all the work that has been done by the EU industry, farmers, governments and local communities up to now to ensure that Europe is a leader in producing sustainable biofuels", concluded Rob Vierhout.

Since the introduction of the RED and FQD targets, the use of biofuels in Europe has grown to 4.8% of total transport energy. These binding targets have ensured the necessary guidance and predictability to support investment and allow renewable energy in transport to grow successfully. The introduction of these targets encouraged investments of 8 billion EUR and the creation of 70,000 jobs in the EU ethanol sector alone. Since the introduction of the targets, the use of EU ethanol has led to 22mln tonnes of GHG reductions, equivalent to taking 4.6 million cars off EU roads for a year.

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ePURE represents the interests of European renewable ethanol producers to the European Institutions, industry stakeholders, the media, academia and the general public. Based in Brussels, ePURE represents 53 member companies throughout 16 member states, accounting for 90% of the installed renewable ethanol production capacity in Europe. The organization, established in 2010, promotes the beneficial uses of ethanol throughout Europe.