

EBB

European Biodiesel Board

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March 12th 2009

PRESS RELEASE

EU robust measures against unfairly traded US biodiesel officially published – EBB claims recognised

The European Biodiesel Board (EBB), representing the major biofuels producing industry in the EU, welcomes today's publication of a Commission Regulation applying dissuasive countervailing and anti-dumping duties against unfairly traded biodiesel from the United States of America ("B99"), following Member States approval of the measures last week.

"This decision represents no less than a decisive move for the European biodiesel industry, as it will re-establish the level playing field that our producers have long hoped for. The European Commission has recognised our legitimate right to produce and market biodiesel under fair market conditions, as well as the need to put an end to obvious unfair trade practices critically affecting the viability of a major EU industry" said EBB Secretary General Raffaello Garofalo.

The Commission decision comes as a response to the legal complaints lodged by EBB last April. In June 2008, a formal investigation was launched by Commission trade services, sending an important political signal from EU authorities in favour of fair international trade in biofuels.

For more than two years, US biodiesel has been sold in the European market at a substantial discount, even at a lower price than the vegetable oil raw materials purchased by the EU industry for producing biodiesel. This has created a price-setting competition, progressively disrupting the margins of European biodiesel producers and leading number of them to stop their production or even to go bankrupt.

Since 2007 already, EBB has been requesting the rapid imposition of anti-subsidy and anti-dumping measures, providing Commission services with substantial and detailed evidences in support of its claims. The Commission decision to impose dissuasive measures against unfair US biodiesel imports shows that EBB claims were well-grounded.

The provisional measures published today comes as a first positive step in the process initiated by EBB last year, and should halt unfair US biodiesel trade flows to Europe. In the absence of such measures, the viability of our industry would have been in clear jeopardy. To become definitive, the measure will need to receive the support of a majority of Member States in the Council. In the meantime, it will be as well essential that EU authorities closely consider effective ways to stop already reported circumvention practices, whereby US biodiesel is shipped to other countries, in order to by-pass the EU anti-subsidy and anti-dumping duties, and is then re-exported to Europe.

EBB has repeatedly claimed that US subsidy schemes and dumping practices are breaching WTO rules while threatening the concept of international trade in biodiesel. In that sense, EBB complaints and the measures ultimately adopted today by EU authorities are in no way motivated by protectionist views, but will instead benefit fair international trade in biodiesel.

[For more information on the unfair subsidisation and dumping of US biodiesel, please refer to the attached background note.](#)

The European Biodiesel Board, also known as EBB, is a non-profit organisation established in January 1997. EBB is the voice of the EU biodiesel industry. It gathers 72 companies and associations and aims to promote the use of biodiesel in the European Union. EBB member companies account for around 80% of EU biodiesel production.

For further information please contact the Secretary General of EBB, Mr. Raffaello Garofalo at secretariat@ebb-eu.org, tel +32 (0)2 763 24 77, or visit our website: www.ebb-eu.org