

EBB

European Biodiesel Board

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PRESS RELEASE

EBB welcomes key agreement on the Renewable Energy Directive – calls for timely and appropriate implementation

The European Biodiesel Board today welcomes the political agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission on the Renewable Energy Directive.

The agreement reached this morning on the Renewable Energy Directive confirms biofuels as one major tool for greening the transport sector and mitigating climate change, while securing the industry's commitment to sustainable production.

"In the view of the European biodiesel industry, the confirmation of the 10% target for renewable energy in transport is a very important move but it will be equally important to ensure that the future implementation of the Directive does not undermine its content" said Raffaello Garofalo, EBB Secretary General, stressing that *"as part of the long road ahead, the need is now to elaborate a new and transparent EU scientific reference for assessing the green house gas savings of the different biofuels pathways and of the fossil fuels comparators"*.

The European biodiesel industry set itself high sustainability standards as EU biodiesel is at all effect a sustainable biofuel. Moreover the success of the sustainability challenge for the European biodiesel industry is ensured also by the enforcement of the cross-compliance rules under the Common Agricultural Policy.

By confirming the 10% target for 2020, today's agreement is giving a strong signal to the biodiesel industry in Europe, which with 16 million tonnes of production capacity has already achieved a high degree of maturity and committed considerable resources and investment since many years to reach the 2020 target. In times of economic recession when different economic sectors are hit by declining investment, the confirmation of the European target as a mandatory one is essential in order to pave the way for even more ambitious developments of renewable energy in the transport sector.

Although the agreement on the Renewable Energy Directive is an important step in the negotiations, the Renewable Energy Directive compromise needs the final consensus on the overall Climate/Energy Package. The European Biodiesel Board trusts that the Heads of States and Government as well as Members of the European Parliament will finalise the negotiations in the spirit manifested today. Indeed, this comprehensive agreement is needed to confirm the historical European commitment to renewable energy.

*The European Biodiesel Board, also known as **EBB**, is a non-profit organisation established in January 1997. EBB represents the voice of the EU biodiesel industry. It gathers 75 companies and associations and aims to promote the use of biodiesel in the European Union. EBB member companies account for around 85% of EU biodiesel production*