

**EBB****European Biodiesel Board***Boulevard Saint-Michel, 47 – 1040 Bruxelles**Tel: +32 (0)2 737 76 13 – Fax: +32 (0)2 737 7696/ 7632**e.mail: ebb@ebc-youroffice.com web site: www.ebb-eu.org*April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006**PRESS RELEASE****EU biodiesel production growth hits record high in 2005  
EBB publishes annual biodiesel production statistics**

EBB official figures confirm that overall biodiesel production in EU-25 has increased from 1,9 million tonnes in 2004 to nearly 3,2 million tonnes in 2005. This represents an unprecedented 65% yearly growth for EU biodiesel production. Already in 2004, 2003 and 2002 biodiesel production rose by 30-35% when compared to the previous year, marking a continued expansion of the European biodiesel sector.

Although most biodiesel production can be attributed to EU-15 Member States (see table 1), the number of EU countries with a biodiesel industry has nearly doubled in 2005. Today, 20 countries are producing biodiesel on an industrial scale, up from 11 countries that produced biodiesel last year.

In 2006, capacities for biodiesel production are estimated to reach 6 million tonnes, setting the foundation for a further expansion of the EU biodiesel industry (see table 2).

Both in terms of biodiesel production and capacities, the European Union continues to excel itself as the worldwide leader in biodiesel production. In the US, the world's second largest biodiesel producer, production amounted to around 75 million gallons in 2005 (250,000 tonnes).

Within the EU, Germany once again confirmed itself as the leading biodiesel producer with a production of 1,6 million tonnes last year. The other main producers in 2005 were France (492,000 tonnes), closely followed by Italy (396,000 tonnes). New EU Member States, such as Poland (100,000 tonnes) and Czech Republic (133,000 tonnes) have emerged as major producers within EU-25 over the course of 2005.

Given that biodiesel makes up around 80% of EU biofuels production – bioethanol being the other major biofuel – these figures confirm that the 2% global biofuels target for 2005 set by EC Directive 2003/30 has not yet been met. Still, considering only EU diesel markets, biodiesel production got closer than expected to the 2% target, representing today approximately a 1,5% market share of the conventional EU diesel market in terms of energy content.

This will contribute to cut greenhouse gas emissions, reduce oil import bills and relieve the structural diesel deficit of EU fuel markets. In order to stimulate biodiesel production and consumption, most EU

COUNTRY	2004 Production	2005 Production
Germany	1.035	1.669
France	348	492
Italy	320	396
Czech Rep.	60**	133
Poland	0	100
Austria	57	85
Slovakia	15	78
Spain	13	73
Denmark	70**	71
UK	9	51
Slovenia	0	8
Estonia	0	7
Lithuania	5	7
Latvia	0	5
Greece	0	3
Malta	0	2
Belgium	0	1
Cyprus	0	1
Portugal	0	1
Sweden	1.4	1
TOTAL	1.933,00	3.184,00

**Table 1: EU 2004 and 2005 biodiesel production estimates**  
*Subject to a +/- 5% margin of error*  
**\*\* Subject to a +/- 10% margin of error**

Member States have already put in place supportive legislative frameworks, ranging from tax incentives to mandatory targets.

COUNTRY	2005 Capacity	2006 Capacity
Germany	1.903	2.681
Italy	827	857
France	532	775
UK	129	445
Spain	100	224
Czech Republic	188	203
Poland	100	150
Portugal	6	146
Austria	125	134
Slovakia	89	89
Belgium	55	85
Denmark	81	81
Greece	35	75
Sweden	12	52
Estonia	10	20
Slovenia	17	17
Hungary	0	12
Lithuania	10	10
Latvia	5	8
Malta	2	3
Cyprus	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4.228</b>	<b>6.069</b>

**TABLE 2: EU 2005 and 2006 biodiesel capacity estimates.**  
*Calculation based on 330 working days per year, per plant (situation on 01/07/2005 and 01/07/2006).*

EBB welcomes the continuing growth of biodiesel production in the European Union and encourages the European Commission to continue its efforts in order to assist Member States to implement the EU Directives in favour of biodiesel and biofuels in an effective and sustainable way.

The ongoing review of legislations on biofuels, particularly EU Directive 2003/30, and the Energy Crops Scheme under the CAP, should provide an opportunity to further realize the potential of biodiesel in the EU.

Biodiesel is a product derived from agricultural sources such as vegetable oils (mostly rapeseed oils, sunflowerseeds oil, etc.), or other raw materials (used frying oils, animal fats), which can either be mixed with conventional fuels or used in a pure form. It performs efficiently as both a transport fuel and heating oil and provides a concrete solution to tackle climate change and promote sustainable development in the EU. Today biodiesel is the main biofuel produced and consumed in the EU.

*The European Biodiesel Board, also known as EBB, is a non-profit organisation established in January 1997. EBB represents the 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 EBB Secretariat at  
 info@ebb-eu.org, tel +32 (0)2 737 76 13, or visit our website: www.ebb-eu.org