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## **The use of biofuels in the transport sector in the Republic of Slovenia in 2007**

### **REPORT**

Analysis of data on the use of biofuels in the transport sector in the Republic of Slovenia in accordance with Article 16 of the Decree on the promotion of the use of biofuels and other renewable fuels for the propulsion of motor vehicles (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 103/07) and Article 4(1) of Directive 2003/30/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 8 May 2003 on the promotion of the use of biofuels or other renewable fuels for transport (OJ L 123, 17.5.2003, p. 42) for the 2007 reporting year

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK.....	3
3. DATA ON PROMOTING THE USE OF BIOFUELS IN TRANSPORT .....	5
3.1. Financial incentives .....	5
3.2. Obligations for fuel distributors .....	5
3.3. Incentives to grow crops for biofuel production .....	7
3.4. Scope for own production of biofuels.....	7
3.4.1. Biodiesel .....	7
3.4.2. Bio-ethanol.....	8
3.5. Incentives for local communities for sustainable development of transport.....	8
4. INDICATIVE TARGETS FOR THE USE OF BIOFUELS IN THE SECOND PHASE .....	8
5. BIOMASS FOR ENERGY USES OTHER THAN TRANSPORT.....	9
6. TOTAL SALES OF TRANSPORT FUEL IN 2005 .....	9
7. SALES OF BIOFUELS FOR TRANSPORT IN 2007 .....	9

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

On 8 May 2003 the European Parliament and the Council adopted Directive 2003/30/EC on the promotion of the use of biofuels or other renewable fuels for transport (OJ L 123, 17.5.2003, p.42) (hereinafter Directive 2003/30/EC). This Directive 2003/30/EC introduces measures to promote the use of biofuels and other renewable fuels to replace the use of diesel and petrol in transport. This constitutes a significant contribution to meeting the objectives on improving the security of energy supply, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating new outlets for sustainable rural development.

Directive 2003/30/EC requires European Union (hereinafter EU) Member States to ensure that a minimum proportion of biofuels and other renewable fuels is used in transport and, to this end, requires each country to establish national targets on the proportion of biofuels for transport when placing fuels on the market. Directive 2003/30/EC also establishes reference values for EU Member States for these national targets: 2% by the end of 2005 and 5.75% by the end of 2010. The percentage of biofuels is calculated on the basis of energy values compared to the energy value for all the petrol and diesel used in transport.

In accordance with Article 16 of the Decree on the promotion of the use of biofuels and other renewable fuels for the propulsion of motor vehicles (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 103/07), which transposes Article 4(1) of Directive 2003/30/EC into Slovenian law, Member States must report to the Commission by 1 July of each year on:

- the measures taken to promote the use of biofuels or other renewable fuels to replace diesel or petrol for transport purposes,
- the national resources allocated to the production of biomass for energy uses other than transport and
- the total sales of transport fuel and the share of biofuels, pure or blended, and other renewable fuels placed on the market in the preceding year. Where appropriate, Member States are to report on any exceptional conditions in the supply of crude oil or oil products that have affected the marketing of biofuels and other renewables.

## **2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

1. To implement the measures promoting the use of biofuels and other renewable fuels for transport to replace diesel and petrol from fossil fuels, the Republic of Slovenia has adopted the following legal acts:
  - a. An operational programme to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the revised version of which was adopted by the Slovenian Government in 2006, and which is the basic programming document of the Republic of Slovenia for the introduction of measures to promote the use of biofuels for transport. The operational programme established that the target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the introduction of

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biofuels for transport in the first 5-year target period from 2008 to 2012 of the Kyoto Protocol would be a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by at least 120 000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year, i.e. replacing diesel and petrol by around 45 000 tonnes of fuel per year. If we convert this Kyoto protocol objective into percentage use of biofuels in transport, it means that over the period 2008–2012 average annual use of biofuels will amount to about 3% of all fuels for transport purposes.

- b. The Excise Act (Slovenian Official Gazette No 2/07 – official consolidated text) which establishes that biofuels as transport fuel are excluded from the excise monitoring and payment system provided they are used as transport fuel in their pure form. This means that blends of biofuels and fossil fuels are exempt from excise duties up to a maximum of 5% or more in the case of standardised fuels with a biofuel content.
  - c. In mid-November 2007 the Rules on the content of biofuels in motor vehicle fuels (Slovenian Official Gazette No 83/05, 108/05 – corrigendum) were replaced by the Decree on the promotion of the use of biofuels and other renewable fuels for the propulsion of motor vehicles (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 103/07), which, in accordance with Directive 2003/30/EC, establishes:
    - the types of biofuels used as transport biofuels and
    - the minimum level of biofuels in motor vehicle transport which fuel distributors must ensure for motor vehicles each calendar year up to 2015.
2. In Slovenian law the following concepts are used in connection with the use of biofuels for transport:
    - biofuels are liquid or gaseous fuels for motor vehicle transport produced from biomass;
    - biomass is the organic biodegradable portion of agricultural production, waste and residues, which include matter of plant or animal origin, from forestry and associated production activities and organic biodegradable parts of industrial or municipal waste;
    - other renewable fuels are renewable fuels other than biofuels generated from renewable sources of energy in accordance with the rules governing approved electricity production, provided they are used for transport.
  3. In accordance with Slovenian law, biofuels used for motor vehicle transport fuel are the following fuels:
    - ethanol produced from biomass and/or organic biodegradable components of waste, provided it is used as biofuel (hereafter bio-ethanol);
    - fatty-acid methyl ester produced from plant or animal oil, provided it has the properties of diesel and is used as a biofuel (hereafter biodiesel);
    - gas fuel produced from biomass and/or from organic biodegradable components of waste, provided it can be refined to the properties of natural gas and it is used as a biofuel (hereafter biogas);
    - methanol produced from biomass, provided it is used as a biofuel (hereafter biomethanol);

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- dimethyl ether produced from biomass, provided it is used as a biofuel (hereafter biodimethyl ether);
- ethyl tertiary butyl ether (hereafter ETBE) produced on the basis of bio-ethanol, provided it makes up at least 47% (by volume) ETBE used as a biofuel (hereafter bio ETBE);
- methyl tertiary butyl ether (hereafter MTBE) produced on the basis of biomethanol, provided it makes up at least 36% (by volume) MTBE used as a biofuel (hereafter bio MTBE);
- synthetic hydrocarbons or blended synthetic hydrocarbons produced from biomass (hereafter synthetic biofuel);
- hydrogen produced from biomass and/or from organic biodegradable components of waste, provided it is used as a biofuel (hereafter biohydrogen);
- oil produced from plants through pressing, extraction or comparable processes, crude or refined but chemically unmodified, provided it meets the requirements of the type of engine for which it is used and fulfils the requirements on emissions (hereafter pure vegetable oil).

### **3. DATA ON PROMOTING THE USE OF BIOFUELS IN TRANSPORT**

#### **3.1. Financial incentives**

In accordance with the provisions of the Excise Act (Slovenian Official Gazette No 2/07 - official consolidated text), fuel distributors for motor transport vehicles qualify for an exemption from excise duties, provided that the fuel is blended with the following biofuels:

- bio-ethanol,
- biodiesel,
- biogas,
- bio EBTE or
- biodimethyl ether.

The level of exemption from excise duties is proportional to the share of biofuel added, but may not exceed 5% of excise duties. In the case of new energy products, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia may fix the proportion of reimbursement or exemption from excise duties in accordance with the standards governing the quality of fuels.

#### **3.2. Obligations for fuel distributors**

In accordance with Article 1 of the Decree on the promotion of the use of biofuels and other renewable fuels for the propulsion of motor vehicles (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 103/07, hereinafter referred to as the Decree), fuel distributors for motor transport vehicles must ensure that the annual average content of biofuels in all transport fuels placed on the Slovenian market in the particular calendar year is as follows:

- 2007: equivalent of at least 2.0%,
- 2008: equivalent of at least 3.0%,

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- 2009: equivalent of at least 4.0%,
- 2010: equivalent of at least 5.0%,
- 2011: equivalent of at least 5.5%,
- 2012: equivalent of at least 6.0%,
- 2013: equivalent of at least 6.5%,
- 2014: equivalent of at least 7.0% and
- 2015: equivalent of at least 7.5%.

The content of biofuels is expressed as a percentage of the fuel energy value in the transport sector for motor vehicles.

In accordance with the provision of Article 5 of the Decree, the proportion of the annual quantity of biofuel may be reduced if the price of one or more of the highest daily biofuel prices on the stock exchange exceeds the amount of the daily stock exchange price of the mineral fuel with which biofuel is mixed and the excise duties for this mineral fuel. The reduced proportion of the annual quantity of biofuel is calculated for each distributor separately in the manner set out in Article 5 of the Decree.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 11 of the Decree, if an individual distributor fails to meet the annual obligations to place biofuels on the market, that distributor may be required, when planning to place biofuels on the market for the coming year, to increase the amount of biofuel placed on the market in such a way that the quantity of biofuel in the coming year equals the sum of the proportion that is set out in Article 5 of the Decree for the coming year and the unfulfilled obligation for the previous year.

On this basis, the quantities of biofuel placed on the market in the Republic of Slovenia by year are estimated to be:

- 2008: at least 1.5%,
- 2009: at least 2.0%,
- 2010: at least 3.0%,
- 2011: at least 4.0%,
- 2012: at least 5.0%, and in the subsequent years up to 2015 at least 5% of the total annual quantity of fuel placed on the market for the propulsion of motor vehicles.

The values of the quantities of biofuels to be placed on the market in the Republic of Slovenia in the coming years are estimated on the basis of the current situation of accessibility of biofuels for distributors of motor fuels. Thus, the Republic of Slovenia currently has no substantial production capacity for biofuels, which means that more than 90% of biofuels for the Slovenian market are purchased in other EU Member States or imported from third countries.

The supply of biofuels to the Slovenian market will soon be significantly improved, which will also increase the quantities of biofuels placed on the market in the Republic of Slovenia over the period 2009–2012 for the propulsion of motor vehicles.

The situation will improve because construction permits are currently being obtained for two biodiesel production facilities with an annual production capacity of 60 000 tonnes of biodiesel. Both biodiesel production facilities, which will start operating at the end of

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2008, will create an incentive to produce crops suitable for the production of biodiesel in the Republic of Slovenia, but the facilities will operate mainly using raw materials supplied from markets in south-eastern Europe. These two biodiesel production facilities will make the Republic of Slovenia self-sufficient in the provision of biofuels for the propulsion of motor vehicles under the recommended targets in Directive 2003/30/EC.

### **3.3. Incentives to grow crops for biofuel production**

Upon accession to the EU, Slovenia adopted the market regulations and the system for direct payments for crops, introducing direct payments for the production of energy crops. In accordance with the rules governing direct payments for producers of certain arable crops, producers of energy crops (rape seed oil) may – in addition to direct payments, which in 2005 amounted to SIT 71 291/ha (€98/ha) – also receive aid for the energy crops amounting to SIT 6 474/ha (€7/ha). In accordance with Article 88 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 of 29 September 2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers and amending Regulations (EEC) No 2019/93, (EC) No 1452/2001, (EC) No 1453/2001, (EC) No 1454/2001, (EC) 1868/94, (EC) No 1251/1999, (EC) No 1254/1999, (EC) No 1673/2000, (EEC) No 2358/71 and (EC) No 2529/2001 (OJ L 270, 21.10.2003, p. 1; hereinafter referred to as Regulation 1782/2003), and Article 36 of the Decree on implementing direct payments in agriculture (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia Nos 99/06, 5/07, 49/07, 124/07, 31/08 and 45/08 —ZKme-1), direct aid to producers of energy crops in 2007 and 2008 amounts to €45/ha. However, as the maximum guaranteed area of 2 million hectares in the EU (Article 89 of Regulation 1782/2003) was exceeded in 2007, aid was reduced accordingly (by a factor of 0.70).

### **3.4. Scope for own production of biofuels**

#### *3.4.1. Biodiesel*

In the Republic of Slovenia the scope is mainly for producing biodiesel or pure vegetable oil. The basic raw material to produce both these types of biofuels is oil obtained from pressing the seeds of oil seed rape. Further processes are necessary for the esterification of the vegetable oil in order to produce the final extraction of biodiesel.

According to the data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS), approximately 2 500 ha of land were sown with oil seed rape in 2005, 2 809 ha in 2006 and as many as 5 358 ha of land in 2007, which in the latter year produced about 15 000 tonnes of oil seed to make about 5 000 tonnes of biodiesel. The detailed figures are provided in Table 1

Table 1: Production of biodiesel from domestic oil seed rape in 2007

Area sown with oil seed rape	5 358 ha
Seed yield	14 740 t
Production of biodiesel	4 913 t

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According to Ministry of Agriculture estimates, the Republic of Slovenia has, at most, between 6 000 and 7 000 ha of suitable land available for the production of oil seed rape.

There were only two major producers of biodiesel in Slovenia in 2007. In one place, biodiesel was produced in a plant for decentralised biodiesel production, where production capacity does not exceed 2 000 tonnes of biodiesel per year; however, in the other place production was carried out on a larger, industrial scale (about 7 000 t). Oil seed rape from Slovenian crops and imported raw materials were used to produce biodiesel.

According to producer figures, in 2007 the total production of biodiesel was approximately 7 030 tonnes, more than half of which was sold abroad, mainly in Austria and Germany.

Over the next two years, biodiesel production is scheduled to commence in at least two large-scale units, so total Slovenian production capacity should exceed 100 000 tonnes of biodiesel. Biodiesel production will be based predominantly on imported oil, waste cooking oil and animal fats and only to a lesser extent on domestically grown oil seed rape.

#### *3.4.2. Bio-ethanol*

Slovenia does not have any plants that produce bio-ethanol or other types of biofuels suitable for blending with petrol or any refineries or plants that blend imported biofuels with petrol.

### **3.5. Incentives for local communities for sustainable development of transport**

At the initiative of Ljubljana city council, the Ljubljana Public Passenger Transport Office (LPP) joined the European Commission's CIVITAS II-MOBILIS programme designed to encourage local communities in sustainable development of transport initiatives and to introduce the most effective environmentally-friendly and user-friendly transport solutions. The objectives of the project are to test the use of biodiesel to power urban bus vehicles, to reduce the quantity of environmentally harmful exhaust gases and to lower fuel costs. From July 2005 a blend of fossil diesel fuel (80%) and biodiesel (20%) was tested in two LPP urban buses but, due to the difficulties of storing fuel, in 2006 there was a changeover to 100% biodiesel, with the result that, depending on weather conditions (especially in winter), it is currently used by up to 20 buses.

## **4. INDICATIVE TARGETS FOR THE USE OF BIOFUELS IN THE SECOND PHASE**

The indicative target for the second phase in accordance with Directive 2003/30/EC for the Republic of Slovenia is 5% of biofuels in transport fuel in 2012; the average annual proportion of biofuels in transport fuel in 2007 is about 0.8% and over the period 2008-2012 at least 3% on average, viz.:

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- 2008: at least 1.5%,
- 2009: at least 2.0%,
- 2010: at least 3.0%,
- 2011: at least 4.0%,
- 2012: at least 5.0%, and in the following years up to 2015 at least 5% of the total annual quantity of fuel placed on the market for the propulsion of motor vehicles.

## 5. BIOMASS FOR ENERGY USES OTHER THAN TRANSPORT

The Republic of Slovenia, with its energy programme on the use of several sources of biomass to generate predominantly electricity and heat, contributes to the achievement of EU objectives on improving the security of energy supply, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating new outlets for sustainable rural development. According to data from the Slovenian Statistics Office, in 2006 the wood and other solid biomass used in Slovenia as fuel to produce electricity and heat produced at least 18.7 PJ of energy, which is about 6% of total annual consumption of primary energy (320 PJ/year).

## 6. TOTAL SALES OF TRANSPORT FUEL IN 2007

Table 2 shows the total consumption of fuel which, according to the data of the SURS, was placed on the market in Slovenia for the propulsion of motor vehicles in 2006 and 2007; it should be noted that the data for 2007 are not yet final.

Table 2: comparison of the sale of liquid fuel in 2006 and 2007

<b>Fuel</b>	<b>Sales in 2006 (kg)</b>	<b>Sales in 2007 (kg)</b>
Diesel	<b>962 345 310</b>	<b>1 153 970 040</b>
Unleaded petrol (95<=RON<98)	<b>582 365 690</b>	<b>559 246 050</b>
Unleaded petrol (RON>=98)	<b>57 073 040</b>	<b>60 643 890</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 601 784 040</b>	<b>1 773 859 980</b>

## 7. SALES OF BIOFUELS FOR TRANSPORT IN 2007

In 2007 transport fuel of mineral origin in Slovenia was mainly replaced by biodiesel and, to a far lesser extent, by other biofuels such as bio-ethanol and ETBE (ethyl tertiary butyl ether). Biodiesel as a transport fuel is used pure, i.e. 100% biodiesel, and in blends with traditional, fossil-fuel diesel. Most biofuels were sold as blends of biodiesel and diesel, with the content of biodiesel not exceeding 5%.

In Slovenia biodiesel was used in trial blends with diesel fuel for road transport vehicles back in 2004. In 2005, 2006 and 2007, its proportion in fossil-fuel diesel, like the proportion of other biofuels (e.g. bio-ethanol and ETBE), gradually increased, and we

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expect to see this trend continue in the coming years. Blends of biodiesel and diesel fuels were partly imported from third countries or from other EU Member States and partly made from Slovenian vegetable oil production plants. Owing to the difficulties with the quality of fuel/biofuel during the second half of 2005, the biofuel/fossil fuel blend was temporarily suspended. In 2006 and 2007 the proportion of biodiesel increased significantly, but **we have not yet reached** the established quotas in the Republic of Slovenia. It should be pointed out that all distributors, **apart from one large and one smaller one, met the obligations** to place biofuels on the market in accordance with the provision of the Decree on biofuels. On the basis of the data of distributors (and the data of the customs administration on exemptions from the payment of excise duties), the quantity of biodiesel blended with diesel fuel was 4 642 422 kg in 2006 and **14 756 904** kg in 2007 (according to data on excise duties: 12 324 721 kg). The details of the placing of mineral fuels and biofuels on the market in the Republic of Slovenia are shown in Table 3.

According to the data of authorised monitors of the placing of biofuels on the market, seven distributors placed 4 914 587 kg of biofuels on the market in the Republic of Slovenia in 2006 and 10 distributors placed **16 003 967** kg of biofuels for transport on the Slovenian market in 2007 (according to data on excise duties for 2007: 13 533 264 kg), which is shown in more detail in Table 3.

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Table 3: Data of distributors or authorised monitors of quantities and quality of fuels on liquid fuels and biofuels placed on the market in the Republic of Slovenia in 2007

Figures for 2007:	1st distributor	2nd distributor	3rd distributor	4th distributor	5th distributor	6th distributor	7th distributor	8th distributor	9th distributor	10th distributor	Total
NMB98 (kg)	1 132 769	0	23 419 304	32 438 000	4 214	0	0	0	0	0	56 994 287
NMB95 (kg)	15 842 603	0	394 992 868	125 521 000	0	10 836 290	0	0	0	0	547 192 761
Diesel fuel (kg)	46 453 403	5 083 958	627 074 816	290 975 000	1 515 243	44 796 052	1 383 974	2 255 971	2 201 008	2 635 357	1 024 374 783
<b>Total mineral fuels minus biofuels (kg)</b>	<b>63 428 775</b>	<b>5 083 958</b>	<b>1 022 067 684</b>	<b>448 934 000</b>	<b>1 519 457</b>	<b>55 632 342</b>	<b>1 383 974</b>	<b>2 255 971</b>	<b>2 201 008</b>	<b>2 635 357</b>	<b>1 605 142 527</b>
NMB98 (MJ)	49 671 921	0	1 026 936 480	1 422 406 300	184 784	0	0	0	0	0	2 499 199 485
NMB95 (MJ)	694 698 142	0	17 320 437 262	5 504 095 850	0	475 171 317	0	0	0	0	23 994 402 570
Diesel fuel (MJ)	1 978 914 968	216 576 611	26 713 387 162	12 395 535 000	64 549 352	1 908 311 815	58 957 311	96 104 384	93 762 941	112 266 208	43 638 365 751
<b>Total mineral fuels minus biofuels (MJ)</b>	<b>2 723 285 030</b>	<b>216 576 611</b>	<b>44 033 824 423</b>	<b>19 322 037 150</b>	<b>64 734 136</b>	<b>2 383 483 132</b>	<b>58 957 311</b>	<b>96 104 384</b>	<b>93 762 941</b>	<b>112 266 208</b>	<b>69 105 031 326</b>
Bio-ethanol in NMB98 (kg)	33 558	0	0	408 000	0	0	0	0	0	0	441 558
Bio-ethanol in NMB95 (kg)	124 250	0	148 255	533 000	0	0	0	0	0	0	805 505
Biodiesel (kg)	1 493 492	506 764	5 279 826	5 185 000	779 767	1 323 560	21 528	14 769	104 239	47 959	14 756 904
Total biofuels (kg)	1 651 300	506 764	5 428 081	6 126 000	779 767	1 323 560	21 528	14 769	104 239	47 959	16 003 967
Bio-ethanol in NMB98 (MJ)	894 992	0	0	10 881 360	0	0	0	0	0	0	11 776 352
Bio-ethanol in NMB95 (MJ)	3 313 748	0	3 953 961	14 215 110	0	0	0	0	0	0	21 482 818
Biodiesel (MJ)	55 109 855	18 699 592	194 825 579	191 326 500	28 773 402	48 839 364	794 399	544 976	3 846 419	1 769 687	544 529 773
<b>Total biofuels (MJ)</b>	<b>59 318 594</b>	<b>18 699 592</b>	<b>198 779 540</b>	<b>216 422 970</b>	<b>28 773 402</b>	<b>48 839 364</b>	<b>794 399</b>	<b>544 976</b>	<b>3 846 419</b>	<b>1 769 687</b>	<b>577 788 943</b>
Proportion of biofuel in blended NMB98 (m/m%)	2.88	0.00	0.00	1.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.77
Proportion of biofuel in blended NMB95 (m/m%)	0.78	0.00	0.04	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15
Proportion of biofuel in blended diesel fuel (m/m %)	3.11	0.21	0.84	1.75	33.98	0.00	1.53	0.65	4.52	1.79	1.42
<b>Proportion of biofuel in all fuels including biofuels (m/m%)</b>	<b>2.54</b>	<b>9.06</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>33.91</b>	<b>2.32</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>4.52</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>0.99</b>
Proportion of biofuel in blended NMB98 (E/E%)	1.77	0.00	0.00	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47

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Proportion of biofuel in blended NMB95 (E/E%)	0.47	0.00	0.02	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09
Proportion of biofuel in blended diesel fuel (E/E %)	2.71	0.18	0.72	1.52	30.83	0.00	1.33	0.56	3.94	1.55	1.23
<b>Proportion of biofuel in all fuels including biofuels (E/E %)</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>7.95</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>30.77</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>3.94</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>0.83</b>

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The annual proportion of biofuels in all liquid fuels that were placed on the market in the Republic of Slovenia in 2006 and 2007 can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4: Annual proportion of biofuels in 2006 and 2007

<b>Fuel</b>	<b>Proportion of biofuels in 2006</b>	<b>Proportion of biofuels in 2007</b>
Average proportion of biofuels in transport fuels by mass (m/m%)	0.328	<b>0.987</b>
Average proportion of biofuels in transport fuels by energy (E/E%)	0.275	<b>0.829</b>