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Lack of binding sustainability criteria for biomass for electricity to harm biofuels industry

Brussels, 2 March 2010 - A new report by the European Commission on sustainability requirements for the use of solid biomass and biogas in electricity, heating and cooling does not recommend the adoption of binding sustainability criteria. This creates unacceptable economic barriers for other biomass users, such as the biofuels industry, for whom European regulation imposes binding sustainability criteria.

“eBIO welcomes the implementation of sustainability criteria for industries transforming biomass but, surely, these should be applied to all sectors involved - be it biomass for fuel or biomass for electricity” said eBIO’s Rob Vierhout. “The European Commission should be the guardian of the level playing field and not pick favorite industries” he added.

eBIO calls on the European Commission to invalidate this decision and introduce mandatory sustainability standards for electricity, heating and cooling from biomass, in line with those to be applied to biofuels.

The report can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/transparency_platform/transparency_platform_en.htm

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About eBIO

Founded in 2005, eBIO serves as the voice of the European bioethanol fuel industry, providing advocacy, authoritative analysis and industry data to its members, the European Institutions, strategic partners and the media. eBIO pursues the promotion of European policies and initiatives that lead to increased production and use of bioethanol fuel. With over 60 members, eBIO is committed to raising public awareness of renewable fuels and the positive contribution they make to European energy independence, climate change and the wider economy. If you wish to learn more about eBIO, please visit www.ebio.org, or contact info@ebio.org.