

Press Release



European Bioethanol Fuel Association

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Contact details

Mr. Christophe Bourillon
Director, Communications
106, Rue Joseph II
B-1000 Brussels
T: +33 615 938 445
E: bourillon@ebio.org
www.ebio.org

NGO anti-biofuels paper is biased and self-serving

Brussels, Today - At an event titled "Bio-energy and Bio-fuels: a carbon accounting time bomb" organized at the European Parliament, three environmental NGOs presented their own studies one on bioenergy and one on biofuels. The one on biofuels from CE Delft suggests that the EU Biofuels policies could be increasing GHG emissions compared to fossil fuels. "This study does not go beyond unproven theories and its conclusions are totally unfounded", says Rob Vierhout, Secretary-General, eBIO.

"This exercise is yet another attempt by anti-biofuel organizations to destabilize the EU climate and energy security objectives – and is based on allegations and information that won't stand up to scrutiny", said Vierhout. "To our knowledge, the paper has not been peer-reviewed. The research is not independent and is inherently biased. It is tantamount to propaganda from vested interests."

The paper addresses the unproven theory on Indirect Land Use change (ILUC). Not surprisingly, its conclusions are not very favourable to biofuels. It should be noted that incorrect and out of date data is used. Its results are based on a random averaging of arbitrarily selected studies. Only worst case unconfirmed ILUC factors have been used, conveniently overlooking biofuels pathways showing positive effects on land use change. Moreover, the potential effects of the existing biofuel policy and technology improvements are fully ignored. Had the approach been more balanced and objective, the results and conclusions would have been much different.

"The work presented today is in true sense ILUC-Ideology" said Vierhout. "While the latest independent and peer-reviewed studies clearly show biofuels to be far superior to fossil fuels in many ways, environmental activists still make those unfounded claims. However, it's refreshing to see that policy-makers and interested parties are increasingly looking at this type of allegations with a critical eye rather than falling prey to the scaremongering. Policy discussion must be based on science and facts, not on emotion and passion."

The EU ethanol industry has invested more than 6 billion Euro in production capacity and thousands of jobs are being created in times of economic crisis. Domestic bioethanol offers a welcome alternative to our oil addiction that forces us to increasingly deploy more costly and polluting sources.

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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.