

# Press Release



## ***European political agreement recognises the need for biofuels***

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**Brussels, 9 December 2008:** The European Bioethanol Fuel Association (eBIO) welcomes the political agreement reached between the EU Council of Ministers and the European Parliament on the biofuels part of the draft Renewable Energy Sources Directive and congratulates both the French Presidency and the European Commission with the achieved result.

“This Directive will assure that only those biofuels that comply with unprecedentedly strict environmental and social sustainability standards can be used. Those arguing that this is bad legislation are not serious and disqualify themselves,” said Ramón de Miguel, President of eBIO.

The decision to maintain the binding 10% objective and to introduce reasonable greenhouse gas saving thresholds is an important signal to the European industry. The new legislation will safeguard the current production capacity that required capital investments of over € 5 billion as well as thousands of jobs that are indispensable in this time of global economic crisis. Moreover, this mandate will set the scene for new investments to further improve the technological profile of the European ethanol production.

The industry fully supports the agreement on indirect land use change (ILUC) effects. The decision to deliver a report on ILUC by the end of 2010 is in line with what the industry has constantly advocated. Penalising biofuels producers across the board without studying ILUC first would have been senseless. eBIO is confident that the positive impact of European bioethanol production on ILUC due to its animal feed co-product, as well as the use of vast set aside areas and strong crop yield increases will be eventually recognised.

The European bioethanol sector is firmly committed to regard sustainability as a key priority, respecting both stringent environmental and social criteria. Biofuels are currently the only available large-scale

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alternative to fossil fuel, with a high potential for technological improvement, as it has been recognised by the European legislators beyond doubt.

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*The European Bioethanol Fuel Association (eBIO) serves as the voice of the European bioethanol fuel industry. eBIO's mission is to promote European policies and initiatives in support of the bioethanol industry, increase public awareness of renewable fuels and the positive contribution they make to European energy independence, climate change and the economy. eBIO provides advocacy, authoritative analysis and important industry data to its members, the European Institutions, strategic partners, the media and other opinion leaders. eBIO was founded in May 2005, and today counts 60 members.*

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EUROPEAN BIOETHANOL = SUSTAINABLE BIOFUEL

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