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FEDIOL welcomes closure of the iLUC file, but warns policy makers about potential repercussions on bioeconomy and bio-products

28 April 2015 - Today, the European Parliament voted on the compromise text with the Council, formalizing the adoption of Europe's first indirect Land-Use Change (iLUC) Directive. FEDIOL welcomes closure on the file after 4 years of intense debate.

Commenting on the Parliament vote, FEDIOL President Kevin Brassington said:

"Setting the cap on first-generation biofuels at 7%, up from the originally proposed 5%, is an improvement. However, we remain concerned that reporting of iLUC values, which are based on immature scientific models with widely diverging results, is not an appropriate policy tool and will have a negative effect on investments and jobs."

The EU Vegetable Oil and Protein Meal Industry regrets that safeguard provisions to exclude application of iLUC values to protect existing jobs and investment were not made part of the final text. The biofuels supply chain comprises more than 200,000 jobs and represents billions of euros in investments, all of which is at risk without safeguard provisions.

The biodiesel outlet for oilseed crushing is essential in order to supply over 10 million tonnes of protein meal to the animal feed and livestock sectors. Thus, the European Vegetable Oil and Protein Meal industry is critical to food and feed production in Europe.

In the debate for biofuels policy post-2020, FEDIOL will strongly make the case for recognition of important benefits of our sector and its products' contribution to food and feed security, climate change mitigation and renewable energy.

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Background & FEDIOL Stand on iLUC values

While iLUC models remain immature and not reliable, the introduction of highly uncertain iLUC concept as well as the values as a policy instrument, even for reporting, is inappropriate and will have no causal effect on limiting or preventing the occurrence of iLUC.

As far as the indirect land-use change emissions are concerned, iLUC is driven by the wider agricultural and forestry sectors (i.e. Land-Use Change – LUC – for food, feed, urbanization and ecological objectives) and other factors than biofuels. As such, the attribution of such "indirect" emissions to operators where emissions are outside their control or influence is unacceptable and against the polluter-pays principle.

The International Standards Organisation (ISO) has recently reviewed 161 publications on iLUC and concluded by consensus that iLUC science is inconclusive and unable to assign effects of biofuels. ISO therefore decided not to include iLUC into standards until the science is more developed.