



Brussels, April 28th, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

Biodiesel Chain relief at European Parliament plenary adoption of imperfect agreement on ILUC

Today, the Plenary of the European Parliament voted to adopt the outcome of the trilogue negotiations with the Council and the European Commission on the ILUC proposal. This confirms the ENVI Committee's April 14 vote and puts an end to long and protracted negotiations. The European Associations representing the biodiesel chain are relieved that a compromise could be found, which recognises the importance of the EU biofuels sector and the investments made, while acknowledging the existing doubts around the concept and measurement of the so called ILUC factors (Indirect Land Use Change).

The biodiesel industry needs long term legislative stability and visibility to properly assess and then sustain its massive investments in Europe. Revisiting the Directive so soon after its first adoption was therefore a dangerous signal to send out. If closure on the file today partially restores the much needed regulatory certainty, the compromise is far from perfect. The new text fails to fully protect with a grandfathering clause the huge investments undertaken by our industries in the last decade. It also imposes disproportionate reporting obligations on all operators based on ILUC factors, which are not cohesively supported by the international scientific community.

After much confused and emotional debates, the EU biodiesel chain looks forward to tackling the future of renewable transportation in Europe in a different way. The debate on biofuels in the post-2020 period needs to be more pragmatic, based on real facts and perspectives for biofuels. Among other considerations, the direct contribution of biodiesel to substituting diesel imports from Russia, or improving the environmental profile of diesel-driven transportation (including lorries, maritime and aviation fuels) should be evaluated more objectively.

Speaking for the Biodiesel Chain, Raffaello Garofalo, states "*Our industries stand ready to open a constructive dialogue with all stakeholders and will strive to continuously improve the sustainability of biodiesel, in order to fully contribute to the decarbonisation of fuels in the EU in the next decade*".

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Note to editors:

The European Biodiesel Board (EBB) is a non-profit organization established in January 1997. Today, EBB gathers nearly 80 members across 21 Member-States, which represents 75% of the European output. Biodiesel is the main European solution to reduce emissions from transport and dependence on imported oil. EBB aims to promote the use of biodiesel in the European Union and is committed to fulfil the International standards for sustainability in GHG emissions and sustainable feedstock. EBB is constantly working towards the development of improved and greener technologies. Contact: Raffaello Garofalo, Secretary General of EBB (+32 (0)2 763 24 77)

The European Oilseed Alliance (EOA) brings together the oilseed organizations of the major European producing countries (Germany France, United Kingdom, Poland, Czech Republic, Finland, Belgium) EOA members represents 90 % of EU oilseed production - EOA works in association with the European organizations representing the oilseed supply chain, producers, processors, and seed breeders: Copa- Cogeca, FEDIOL, EBB, ESA. Contact: Philippe Dusser, Secretary General of EOA (+33 (0)1 4069 4880)

FEDIOL represents the interests of the European vegetable oils and protein-meal industry. With over 150 facilities in Europe, the sector provides over 20.000 direct employments. Our members process approximately 56 million tonnes of basic products a year for the food and non-food markets. Oilseed crushing produces vegetable oils and protein meals as co-products. While vegetable oils are used for food and technical uses (pharmaceuticals, paints, detergents, biodiesel, etc.), protein meals are used to meet the increasing global demand for meat and protein. Contact: Nathalie Lecocq, Director General of FEDIOL (+32 (0)2 771 53 30)