

Press release 19 April 2010

3rd Stakeholder Plenary Meeting of the European Biofuels Technology Platform, Brussels, 14th April 2010: *Developing the contribution of sustainable biofuels to the EU 2020 targets.*

European Commission invites industry to join the governance body of the European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI) as it moves into implementation phase.

European Biofuels Technology Platform opens public consultation on the 2010 update of its Strategic Research Agenda and calls for enhanced public funding and support for

- ***R&D on sustainability indicators, data and models***
- ***demonstration and reference plants in the framework of EIBI***

Worldwide biofuels production and consumption are on the rise despite considerable swings in market conditions for feedstocks and end products. The wider policy frameworks which drive and shape biofuels development are also evolving rapidly, as seen in the Renewable Energy and Fuel Quality Directives adopted by the European Commission in June 2009.

The European Biofuels Technology Platform (EBTP) is adjusting its activities to this fast moving and complex context. At its 3rd Stakeholder Plenary Meeting, 180 actors from across Europe gathered in Brussels to discuss the 2010 update of the EBTP's Strategic Research Agenda and the latest developments around the European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI).

"Within the SET Plan, the European Industrial Initiatives are a central instrument to shift into a higher gear for fast technology deployment. For all applications, and especially for the transport sector, bioenergy will play a key role in reaching the 2020 targets", said Raffaele Liberali, Director for Energy within DG Research at the European Commission. To achieve these targets, the EIBI will focus on supporting demonstration projects and reference plants for innovative bioenergy value chains with large market potential, based on different sustainable feedstocks and technological options.

Mr Liberali explained the governance structure recently defined for the European Industrial Initiatives. Highlighting the proactive contribution of EBTP to elaborate on the EIBI, he invited Véronique Hervouet, Chair of the EBTP Steering Committee, to nominate industry members for the governance body (EIBI team), which will implement the Initiative together with the European Commission and the Member States. Liberali also indicated that the European Parliament was calling to increase the EU budget for the Industrial Initiatives, by EUR 2 billion per year at least.

Following a panel discussion on the implementation of EU sustainability requirements, EBTP stressed the need to strengthen public funding of R&D on sustainability related criteria, data and models to support corresponding legislation. All thematic sessions – on feedstocks (including algae), bio- and thermo-chemical conversion technologies, biofuels distribution and use (including for aviation) – included the R&D priorities of the 2010 Strategic Research Agenda. The presentations and the 2010 update are available on www.biofuelstp.eu. Stakeholders are invited to join the consultation process of the SRA update, open until end of May 2010.

Summarising key messages on EIBI, Véronique Hervouet highlighted the importance of sustainability criteria in the EIBI project selection and concluded the meeting with a call for public private partnerships to share risks and funding. "The early actors are ready to move, others will follow: provided sustainable feedstocks are available, it is now time to deploy innovative technologies in the market place to contribute to EU 2020 targets".