



*Brussels, 19 December 2017*

## **EU Energy Council agreement sends mixed messages on the role of renewables in transport**

On Monday, 18 December, the EU Energy Ministers agreed on the Council General Approach on the post-2020 EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED II). The EU Biodiesel Chain welcomes the Council decision to increase the minimum share of renewable energies in transport from 10% in 2020 to 14% in 2030. Moreover, maintaining of the 7% share for crop-based biofuels until 2030 is an important signal recognising the crucial role played by conventional biofuels in the decarbonisation of the EU energy mix.

At the same time, the Council text foresees the possibility for Member States to reduce their renewable energy target in transport if their respective cap on crop-based biofuels is equally reduced. This approach is highly concerning as it might lead to internal market disruption and reduced investors' confidence and, coupled with the introduction of high artificial multipliers for the electricity sector, it would end up benefitting fossil fuels and lower transport decarbonisation ambition in the EU.

In addition, the possibility to distinguish between biofuels based on their perceived Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) effect should be removed. There is no existing consensus on the ILUC concept in the international scientific community, therefore no reason to rely on those values for any alleged differentiation.

Mr. Garofalo, EBB Secretary General, stated: "In the upcoming triologue negotiations with the European Parliament and the Commission, the RED II ambition should be increased, as the current text does not ensure sufficient decarbonisation of the transport sector, especially for heavy-duty vehicles, as well as aviation and maritime sectors, where electrification is not a feasible solution."

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The EU Biodiesel Chain includes:

**EOA (European Oilseed Alliance)** brings together the oilseed organizations of the major European producing countries (Germany France, United Kingdom, Poland, Czech Republic, Finland, Belgium, Sweden) 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.

**FEDIOL** is the European Association representing the **vegetable oils and protein meal industry**. The sector covers more than 180 facilities belonging to 35 companies in 17 countries and employs directly 20,000 people. Its members process oilseeds, refine and bottle vegetable oils.

The **European Biodiesel Board (EBB)** is a non-profit organisation established in January 1997. Today, EBB gathers close to 70 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 International standards for sustainability in GHG emissions and sustainable feedstock. EBB is constantly working towards the development of improved and greener technologies.