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FEDIOL's response to palm oil use for biodiesel

FEDIOL, the vegetable oil and proteinmeal industry, would like to express its views in response to the publication of an analysis by Transport & Environment¹ which allegedly referred to data obtained from FEDIOL on the use of palm oil for biodiesel production.

While the data shown by T&E were meant to be rough estimates for internal purposes, they were never published nor validated as such by FEDIOL. It is also worth noting that the basis for such figures is Oil World annual statistics. Oil World² provides figures on the different feedstocks used for biodiesel production on a 5-year time span: in its latest available data, it found that biodiesel produced from palm oil raised from 1.45 Mn T in 2010 to 3.22 Mn T in 2014, a far lower increase compared to the figures mentioned by T&E in its report.

Moreover, the actual absolute quantity of palm oil going into biodiesel production is still relatively low if compared to other feedstocks: still more than 60% of biofuels used in Europe, indeed, come from European feedstocks - mainly rapeseed - hence biodiesel production improves energy security by reducing fossil fuel imports.

Only certified sustainable palm oil can be used to produce biodiesel, because the feedstock production for biofuels is subject to the world's strictest legal sustainability requirements by the European Union: these sustainability criteria prevent feedstocks for biofuels from being grown on deforested land, peat lands, or in areas with a high biodiversity value; therefore, palm oil used for biodiesel cannot be linked to deforestation. This ensures that today, European biofuels are the most sustainable biofuels in the world.

The use of 100% sustainable certified raw material in the biofuels sector has brought a substantial share of sustainable certification to the entire agricultural sector including for food, feed and other palm oil applications, yet the outcome of T&E analysis seems to counter the validity of these sustainability certification schemes and therefore the work of the European Commission in this sense. In addition, the EU, with only 11% of the total world palm oil production, is not the biggest importer of palm oil for food, feed and technical applications; such share is becoming more and more sustainable via EU legislation and private initiatives.

If sustainable vegetable oils, including palm oil, were not allowed anymore for biofuels production after 2020, we would only support more fossil fuels' use in transport, since first generation biofuels are the only sustainable mainstream alternative for fossil fuels in the transport sector. As per compliance with the

¹https://www.transportenvironment.org/sites/te/files/publications/2016_05_TE_EU_vegetable_oil_biodiesel_market_FINAL.pdf

² Oil World Annual 2015 Vol. 1, ISTA Mielke GmbH



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Renewable Energy Directive, biofuels already reduce CO2 emissions by at least 35% compared to fossil fuels, and will have to save at least 50% as of January 2018.³

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³ Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources