

16 May 2022

To:

Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

CC:

Mr Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal

Mr Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for An Economy that Works for People

Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy

Mr Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market

Ms Adina Vălean, Commissioner for Transport

Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

Mr Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture

**SUBJECT: Ensuring the positive contribution of sustainable biofuels to RePowerEU's ambitions for Europe's energy independence**

Dear President von der Leyen,

The war in Ukraine, and the EU's plan to ban imports of Russian oil, have raised what were already high stakes – meeting ambitious emissions-reduction targets by 2030 – even higher. Europe's need to reduce its fossil fuel dependence and secure its energy independence is urgent.

We write on behalf of European and national associations representing Europe's farmers and agri-cooperatives, vegetable oil production, renewable ethanol and biodiesel sectors, to urge you to **look at a proven, domestically produced and affordable technology for sustainably and immediately reducing emissions from road transport: sustainable biofuels.**

RePowerEU promises to be an important political step to reducing dependence on imported crude oil and ensuring stable domestic production of fuel and food, while continuing the drive to carbon-neutrality and a circular economy. **As the leading source of renewable energy in transport, biofuels have a valuable strategic role to play in this effort. In fact, they are already delivering.** As the most recent Eurostat EC SHARES report illustrated, all biofuels together account for over 90% of renewables in transport.

For the EU to fully realise its goals of achieving energy and food independence, it must mobilise its entire bioenergy sector – making full use of domestic biorefineries that convert sustainable raw materials into food, feed, fuel and other valuable co-products. Europe clearly has the capacity to do so: As Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans has said, the answer to reducing Europe's dependence on oil imports "lies in renewable energy and diversification of supply," and "renewables give us the freedom to choose an energy source that is clean, cheap, reliable and ours"; biofuels respond to all this.

**Sustainable renewable ethanol and biodiesel are proven to significantly reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from the petrol, diesel and hybrid cars, vans, trucks, and buses that continue to predominate on Europe's roads and will continue to do so until at least 2030 according to the Commission' own projections.** They deliver results now, without requiring new infrastructure investments, and can continue to do so in the future.

As you know, biofuels production in European biorefineries also contributes to EU food security by creating important protein by-products that offset the need to import such commodities, utilize

wastes & residues that would otherwise be discarded, and provide other co-products that replace fossil chemicals in various applications ranging from cosmetics and hand sanitisers to solvents and coatings. By offering an additional revenue to farmers, biofuels also secure an increase in European food production and contribute to achieving the EU's broader Green Deal and Farm-to-Fork ambitions.

**The equation is simple: without biofuels in the transport mix, Europe would be even more reliant on imported fossil fuels and more exposed to global market fluctuations.** To succeed, the EU must avoid this situation.

As you finalise drafting the RePowerEU strategy, we urge you to keep in mind the important role that sustainable biofuels are already playing in displacing imported oil, and consider ways to make even more effective use of this strategic European domestic resource.

Sincerely,

## **SIGNATORIES**

### EU associations

- CEFS – represents European beet sugar manufacturers, cane sugar producers and refiners
- CEPM – represents the maize chain: corn, maize silage, maize seed, and sweet corn
- C.I.B.E. – represents the European sugar beet growers
- Copa and Cogeca – represent European farmers and agri-cooperatives
- European Biodiesel Board (EBB) – represents the European biodiesel industry
- European Oilseed Alliance (EOA) – represents European oilseed producing organisations
- European renewable ethanol association (ePURE) represents the European renewable ethanol producers
- EWABA – represents the European waste-based and advanced biofuels industry
- FEDIOL – represents the interests of the European vegetable oil and protein meal industry

### National Associations

- APPA – Asociación de Empresas de Energías Renovables
- APPB – Associação Portuguesa de Produtores de Biocombustíveis
- Assitol – Associazione Italiana Dell'industria Olearia
- Assocostieri – Associazione Nazionale Depositi Costieri Oli Minerali
- Assodistil – Associazione Nazionale Industriali Distillatori di Alcoli e Acquaviti
- BDBe – German Bioethanol Industry Association
- Belgian Biodiesel Board
- KIB – Polish Chamber of Biofuels
- MVO - The Netherlands Oils and Fats Industry
- SNPAA – Syndicat National des Producteurs d'Alcool Agricole
- VDB – Association of the German Biofuels Industry