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PRESS STATEMENT

FEDIOL welcomes maintenance of 7% cap for crop-based biofuels in RED III ITRE vote but rejects provisions disadvantaging crop-based biofuels

Brussels, 14 July 2022 - Following the vote in the ITRE committee on the Revision of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED III), **FEDIOL welcomes the maintenance of the 7% cap on crop-based biofuels but does not consider ITRE's overall position balanced.**

Although the committee has not lowered the crop-based cap, its report still limits the potential of crop-based biofuels in various ways, such as by allowing Member States to lower their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets in the transport sector if their crop-based biofuels share is below the 7% cap. Moves to limit crop-based biodiesel sends a wrong signal to farmers and producers, discouraging production in the long run. This also has a negative impact on the production of protein-rich co-products, hampering the EU's efforts towards protein independence.

Behind such provisions is the failure to acknowledge that crop-based biodiesel has real advantages for the climate and environment. Crop-based biofuels offer GHG emission savings of more than 50% compared to fossil fuels.

Another blow for the EU crushing and refining sectors is the decision to phase high ILUC-risk biofuels to 0% by entry into force of the Directive and a change in the high carbon stock expansion threshold for assessing the ILUC-risk status of biofuels against the original deadline for the phaseout which was 2030. This resetting of recent political decisions is deceiving for business interests that are counting on the stability and predictability of the regulatory framework and will have a disruptive impact on the sectors' outlook, impacting also direct and indirect employment in vulnerable areas.

Considering the benefits of crop-based biofuels for long term food security, protein production, farmer access to markets and income, and the climate, FEDIOL maintains that crop-based biofuels should contribute to the EU's renewable energy mix and not be limited unduly. FEDIOL urges the European Parliament to allow crop-based biofuels to appropriately contribute to the EU's transport targets and to prevent further volatility in energy and commodity markets.

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