

Sustainable Bioenergy in the Commission's upcoming Delegated Act on Taxonomy

Dear Commissioner McGuinness,

We welcome the overarching purpose of establishing a sustainable finance framework for the EU.

With the energy sector still accounting for 75% of total GHG emissions it is essential that the Commission's upcoming delegated act on taxonomy promotes further investments in sustainable renewable energy. In its current form, however, the delegated act counteracts this purpose by introducing new criteria that goes well beyond those in the Renewable Energy Directive.

The recently adopted revised Renewable Energy Directive establishes a clearly defined set of criteria for sustainability of energy originating from various biomass sources. The Taxonomy Regulation specifically states that the Commission's delegated act should be in line with these criteria.

Keeping in mind the crucial role of bioenergy in Member States' energy-mix to reach the EU climate goals we would like to strongly emphasise that all forms of solid, gaseous and liquid bioenergy fuels that are sustainable under the Renewable Energy Directive must be declared long-term sustainable energy sources also under the taxonomy delegated act as required by the co-legislators in point (a) of Article 10(1) of the Taxonomy Regulation.

We are copying this letter to Executive Vice-Presidents Timmermans and Dombrovskis and to Energy Commissioner Simson.

March 10, 2021

Mr. Karel Havlíček, Deputy Prime Minister, Czech Republic

Mr Taavi Aas, Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure, Estonia

Mr Mika Lintilä, Minister of Economic Affairs, Finland

Mr Attila Steiner, Minister of State for Development of Circular Economy, Energy and Climate, Hungary

Mr Jānis Vitenbergs, Minister of Economics, Latvia

Mr Dainius Kreivys, Minister of Energy, Lithuania

Mr Michał Kurtyka, Minister of Climate and Environment, Poland

Mr Richard Sulík, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Slovak Republic

Mr Jernej Vrtovec, Minister of Infrastructure, Slovenia

Mr Anders Ygeman, Minister for Energy and Digital Development, Sweden