



# NEWSLETTER



Issue DECEMBER '13



Dear friends,

The European Biomass Industry Association is glad to share with you the latest news concerning its recent activities and the most interesting biomass issues!

Keep up with:

- [EDITORIAL: WHAT'S GOING ON WITHIN EUROPEAN BIOMASS CONTEXT](#)
- [...IN THIS CONTEXT...WHAT IS THE STRATEGY? EUBIA APPROACH AND SPECIFIC FUTURE INITIATIVES TOWARDS A BETTER 2014](#)
- [RECENT EVENTS](#)
- [DON'T MISS OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!](#)
- [MEMBERS](#)

## EDITORIAL: WHAT'S GOING ON WITHIN EUROPEAN BIOMASS CONTEXT.

Biomass for energy and bioproducts industry represent a valuable renewable feedstock with high potentials both for privates and for public sector. It is well known that Biomass represents not only a attractive feedstock for energy, but also the only available renewable resource able to replace fossils in chemicals and polymers production. The large interest of this green feedstock for different industrial sectors contributed to the development of biomass support initiatives both at national and European level. The impact on GHG emissions reduction, the potential import energy savings, the unlimited reserves and the potential socio-economic interest represented a valuable reason for European Union and for Industry to start investing in the sector. A wide diversified spectrum of new technologies now available contributed to increase the competitiveness of the sector in the last decades. The European financing programmes (Seventh Framework, intelligent Energy, Interreg, etc..) provided a strong vital support to research centers every year more. At present, after more than 20 years of impressive fast growth rate, biomass sector seems now to be in front of a crucial challenge. The industrial development of biomass market have been slowed by five identified main aspects, each of them related to the expected development of the supply chain towards a real large scale level:

1. Limited European feedstock potential
2. Food-non food land use (Indirect Land Use Change)
3. Technology scaling up problems and need of installation cost reduction
4. Need of efficient large scale Supply chain S
5. Standardization

Due to the challenges imposed by these factors, most of the European Bioenergy and bioproducts sector have reached a first valuable mean target which can be named: demonstration stage.

To date there are few biomass valorization technologies considered fully developed and mature for large industrial use: i.e. the Biomass combustion for power and heat generation, the production of first generation biofuels (sugar cane ethanol, vegetable oil-biodiesel, ...) and Biogas. These specific technologies reached a valuable level in the past years and they now represent a large part of biomass market. However, there won't be a further increase in the European future without a deep change in the biomass valorization concept. If the bioenergy or bioplastics production would be based on high value feedstock like vegetable oil, corn seeds, and other cultivated biomass usually used for food production, there won't be not enough land in Europe to support a large scale development. ILUC states that. At the same time, high quality wood from EU forests won't be enough in the case of an increase of large biomass power plants, (most of the European biomass power plant already use Canadian feedstock). This mainly because trunked trees take more than 5 years to grow again after cutting, and short rotation plantation not less than 3 years! In summary: even if the global biomass resources are impressively wide, Europe can't not say the same, and if the intent of the EC is to valorize most of our green energy potential, Europe must focus its attention on all biomass residues available. Prunings, straw, rice husk, forests and sawmills residues, organic waste, etc... This low value biomass is a cheaper feedstock, much more sustainable, and with huge reserves available. This direction seems to be the key for a large scale biomass industrial deployment in EU.

## ...IN THIS CONTEXT...WHAT IS THE STRATEGY? EUBIA APPROACH AND SPECIFIC FUTURE INITIATIVES TOWARDS A BETTER 2014

In the last year, EUBIA distributed its efforts working on different initiatives and project expanding its activities in collaboration with our contacts and our members. To this end, the European Biomass Industry Association enlarged its membership with 6 more members and aims to further increase its operating network in the future. This strategy is strongly related to the initiatives started in 2013 and, overall, to the action plan defined by the association for the short near future.

On the basis of what mentioned above, EUBIA has decided to implement its activities to participate to the industrial development of bioenergy and biochemicals market based most on the valorization of European agro-forestry residues. EUBIA has thus done particular efforts to provide a contribution to overcome the well identified barriers, in particular:

1. Refining low quality biomass
2. Technology scaling up and installation cost reduction
3. Supply chain efficiency and standardization
4. New markets identification for wastes valorization products

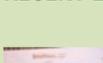
**Supporting biomass investors: A new strategy to facilitate the Biorefinery first investment.** The substitution of wood, or valuable biomass, with a lower quality feedstock, requires obviously a more efficient valorization technology which could well process the feedstock, avoiding damaging effects and producing an high value product. This means higher installation costs. Also maintenance costs increase, but they are balanced by the reduced price of the feedstock. The increase of the installation costs is a huge problem, higher when the market is uncertain as the biomass sector currently is. In this case EUBIA developed an innovative biorefinery co-financing system based on the involvement of public authorities, banks and private investors. The implementation of this strategy with the support of Social Credit Programme named "Social Credit Support Scheme" will represent an important innovative aspect of EUBIA activity in the next year.

**EUBIA extends its network to European Universities.** EUBIA intent is to work closely to Universities and Research centers as this would represent, on one hand, an added value for EUBIA and its industries network to develop new ideas, new patents of industrial use, advanced technologies and initiatives, and on the other hand, this would increase the opportunity for universities to have new EU co-financed projects, placement opportunities, to participate in new large scale international and commercial projects promoted by EUBIA.

**New Technology development for an Efficient Supply Chain.** The European Biomass Industry Association dedicate always part of its to the evaluation and study of new technology and new technical solution to increase the profitability and to support the biomass energy market. Recently EUBIA worked with private investors and industries to develop new solid biomass refining technologies which should be able to reduce the cost of refined biomass supply chain. The objective of these technologies is to facilitate large use of all types of agro-forestry residues (compaction, torrefaction, transportation), in order to define a valuable biomass feedstock for all the most common biorefinery complexes

**EUBIA efforts to analyse, discuss and improve the European policy and legal framework:** EUBIA role as European Biomass Industry Association consists, as expected, also in promoting biomass market at political level. This task is of course not easy and delicate. However, EUBIA analyses the most relevant political and social barriers hindering biomass development in Europe participating at several meetings organized by the European Commission. Due to the large potential and low cost of "low quality" feedstock required to the European Biomass market, EUBIA is promoting its effort on the standardization criteria for this new feedstock which represent a crucial step towards the deployment of a large scale biomass supply chain in Europe.

## RECENT EVENTS



### Biomass Industry Action Plan 2020 launched

The Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) has recently handed over the Malaysian Biomass Industry Action Plan 2020 to the Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to Malaysia Luc Vandebon.

The plan aims to provide a concerted strategy in developing local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as key players in driving the Malaysian biomass industry towards the realization of higher value products from the country's biomass resources.

The action plan is the culmination of four years of activities by MIGHT, undertaken jointly with the Biomass-SP (European Union-Malaysia Biomass Sustainable Production Initiative), a project funded by the EU SWITCH-Asia programme between March 2010 and October 2013. It also highlights positioning Malaysia as the regional focal point for biomass trading, logistics, technology, engineering, equipment, standards development, investment and finance.

As a project partner, EUBIA Secretary General Mr Giuliano Grassi actively worked in the project and contributed providing a full document "Malaysia Biomass Action Plan" which was integrated in the presentation of the Action Plan in Kuala Lumpur.

[Click here to download the program and presentations](#)



### A focused Strategy for enabling European farmers to tap into biogas opportunities

EUBIA is pleased to announce the IEE co-founded project GERONIMO II-Biogas is successfully concluded. Thanks to the great job of all the partners involved in the project, and to a well planned job, it is general consensus that GERONIMO II strongly contributed to the development of anaerobic digestion technology and biogas utilization in European countries. Geronimo II operated specifically to improve the deployment of biogas plants among European farms. In order to present the GERONIMO II project activities, objectives and results, EUBIA collected all the material published by the consortium. We kindly invite you to click here and download the following documents:

**Geronimo II Policy Roadmap:**  
[http://energy4farms.eu/download/en/members/reports/Geronimo\\_II\\_D5.3\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](http://energy4farms.eu/download/en/members/reports/Geronimo_II_D5.3_Report_Final.pdf)

**Guidebook: Farmers Guide for Implementing a Biogas Project:**  
[http://www.eubia.org/images/projects/2013/Geronimo%20II%20D3.2%20Guidebook\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.eubia.org/images/projects/2013/Geronimo%20II%20D3.2%20Guidebook_FINAL.pdf)

**Book of Profitable Farms Biogas Projects:**  
<http://energy4farms.eu/download/en/members/reports/Profitable%20Farms%20Biogas%20Projects-Low.pdf>

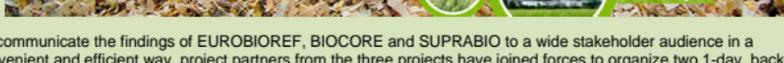
**Booklet on Biogas Business Cases:**  
[http://energy4farms.eu/download/en/members/handbooks/Booklet\\_4.4\\_Geronimo2\\_EN.pdf](http://energy4farms.eu/download/en/members/handbooks/Booklet_4.4_Geronimo2_EN.pdf)

**Geronimo II Project Last Newsletters:**  
[http://www.eubia.org/images/projects/2012/Newsletter04\\_Low.pdf](http://www.eubia.org/images/projects/2012/Newsletter04_Low.pdf)

**Geronimo II Project Leaflets:**  
<http://energy4farms.eu/download/en/leaflets/Leaflet-GeronimoII-Farmers.pdf> <http://energy4farms.eu/download/en/leaflets/Leaflet-GeronimoII-Policy2.pdf>

## DON'T MISS OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

### Tomorrow's biorefineries in Europe, 11-12 February 2014, Hotel Le Plaza, Brussels

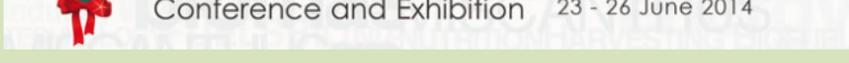


To communicate the findings of EUROBIOREF, BIOCORE and SUPRABIO to a wide stakeholder audience in a convenient and efficient way, project partners from the three projects have joined forces to organize the two 1-day, back-to-back conferences that will showcase key findings and allow stakeholders to better understand the different impacts of these projects.

- **Conference 1 – Shaping policies for advanced biorefineries (11 February 2014)**  
Targeting policymakers and addressing policy factors that support and regulate Europe's future biorefinery industry. A round table is part of the programme, where all conference delegates will have ample opportunity to ask questions and hear the views of policymakers in the European Commission
- **Conference 2 – Technologies for advanced biorefineries (12 February 2014)**  
Targeting industry players and dedicated to presenting exploitable. During the event delegates will first be provided with an overview of the aims and achievements of EUROBIOREF, BIOCORE and SUPRABIO, followed by the opportunity to attend a ½ day technology exhibition and a partnering session.

[Click here to register for free!](#)

## 22nd EU BC&E 23-26 June 2014, Hamburg



**EU BC&E 2014**  
22nd European Biomass Conference and Exhibition

CCH - Congress Center  
Hamburg, Germany  
23 - 26 June 2014

The European Biomass Conference and Exhibition (EU BC&E) ranks as one of the top world leading events in the Biomass sector, combining a highly respected international Conference with an Industrial Exhibition.

- It highlights progress in research, technological development and production processes.
- It brings together all key specialists to make it the most important platform for dialogue between research, industry, research and industry, and policy in the biomass sector.

[Click here to know more](#)

## MEMBERS

**2013 new entries: welcome on board!**

**CoE LCT** is a consortium of partners pursuing the development of alternatives designed to facilitate Slovenia's transition to a low-carbon society.  
<http://www.conot.si/eng/>

**Agro Business Park** is a science park focusing on science-based innovation in the agro-food sector. It has a large network in both the business sector, in research and with authorities.

**IVL**, the Swedish Environmental Research Institute, works with applied research and on commission to promote ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable growth within business and society at large.  
[http://www.ivl.se/english/startpage\\_4.4a08c3cb1291c3aa80e80001374.html](http://www.ivl.se/english/startpage_4.4a08c3cb1291c3aa80e80001374.html)

**Arkema** is a French group, specialized in chemicals production of high performance materials, industrial specialties and coating solutions.  
<http://www.arkema.com/en/>

**Aqua Enviro** offers consultancy and training services in environmental engineering and science.  
<http://www.aquaenviro.co.uk/>

The **Lancaster Environment Centre** is a community of world class environmental researchers, high achieving students, government scientists and commercial enterprises working together to address today's biggest environmental challenges.  
<http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lec/>

Our network is expanding its boundaries and as a consequence, its potential business opportunities.

