



Mr. Andris Piebalgs  
Commissioner for Energy  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi, 200  
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 24 July 2006

Dear Commissioner Piebalgs,

Following the meeting we had with your office on June 1, and based on the outcome of our conference, *A sustainable path for Biofuels in the EU* on June 7, we are writing to you to stress the need for the Commission to initiate a stakeholder process to develop a system of safeguards, including certification, for sustainable biofuels as part of the revision process of the Biofuels Directive.

The environmental risks posed by the unconditional promotion of biofuels are significant, well known and threaten to undermine the objectives of the EU biofuels and sustainable development policy.

In the Biofuel Strategy, the Commission commits to addressing the issue of certification so that only biofuels whose cultivation complies with minimum sustainability standards will count towards the targets. Recognising the critical importance of this, the Council Conclusions on the Action Plan requests that the Commission “explore the issue of simple and cost-effective measures to guarantee that biofuels are produced in a sustainable way, inter alia certification”.

We are therefore requesting that the Commission takes the lead and establishes a working group of stakeholders including industry, agriculture, environmental and social experts, with the clear mandate to develop such a system, and that a commitment to establishing this system within a defined time frame, is made in the revision of the Biofuels Directive.

This request is central to the responses made by our organisations, which together represent a membership of approximately 20 million European citizens, to the Commission's consultation on the revision of the Biofuels Directive and was widely supported by the 120 participants at our June 7 conference.

Without such a system of safeguards, biofuels will not meet their potential, damage the environment and ultimately risk public rejection.

Yours sincerely,

John Hontelez,  
Secretary General  
European Environmental Bureau

On behalf of the signatory organisations

Contact persons from signatory organisations:  
Clairie Papazoglou, Head of European Division, BirdLife International  
Jos Dings, Director of Transport and Environment

Cc: Commissioner Dimas  
Commissioner Fischer Boel