

Dear [[First Name]] [[Last Name]] MEP,

Re: Proposed 10% agrofuel target. Call for Moratorium.

There have been many reports in recent months indicating serious problems with biofuels (agrofuels). These range from competition with food production to promoting forest destruction, thus threatening both biodiversity and climate. The EU institutions have been called upon many times by a large number of civil society organisations to drop the 10% target. This would help to slow down the rush to create agrofuel monocultures around the world.

Agrofuels moratorium needed:

However, even if the target is scrapped, we still believe that it will be necessary to put in place a moratorium on large-scale agrofuels production. Further expansion of monoculture production will cause serious harm to biodiversity, climate and biodiverse agricultural systems. They are currently the cause of land-grabbing, together with enclosure and destruction of common lands that include grazing and forest areas on which local communities depend for food, medicine, fuel and other materials.

In July 2007 the undersigned organisations launched a call for an Immediate Moratorium On EU Incentives For Agrofuels, EU Imports of Agrofuels And EU Agroenergy Monocultures (see full text below). We excluded from this call biofuel production from true waste, such as waste vegetable oil or biogas from manure or sewage, or biomass grown and harvested sustainably by and for the benefit of local communities.

Such incentives include not just targets but also subsidies for agrofuel production. Subsidies need to be halted and we believe that a moratorium on imports is vital because of the impacts of agrofuels in other parts of the world. Within the EU, we consider it essential to install a moratorium on EU agroenergy monocultures, because these will bring no lasting benefits to farmers or to the rural fabric.

Sustainability standards no solution The 10% target is conditional on the sustainability of agrofuel production being guaranteed. However, work to date indicates that the displacement effect and indirect impacts, along with most environmental and all social concerns, will not be addressed. There are also serious issues related to monitoring and compliance. Therefore, these standards are unlikely to be effective and could just act as a false-assurance to consumers.

We are calling on the European Parliament to press for the targets to be dropped and propose an immediate moratorium on agrofuels. We therefore recommend you to vote tomorrow (24 April) in favour of the Greens/Efa Amendment number 10 of the resolution on the "Commission's Annual Policy Strategy 2009".

This would send out an important signal to the rest of the world and could help to slow destruction of biodiversity, land evictions and the adoption of a policy that brings more harm to the climate than benefits.

Signatories:

AEFJN (Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network) - Christine Fouarge, [<cfouarge@aefjn.org>](mailto:cfouarge@aefjn.org)

Biofuelwatch (UK) - Almuth Ernsting, [<almuthbernstinguk@yahoo.co.uk>](mailto:almuthbernstinguk@yahoo.co.uk)

Carbon Trade Watch / Transnational Institute - Tamra Gilbertson, [<tamra@tni.org>](mailto:tamra@tni.org)

Corporate Europe Observatory - Nina Holland, [<nina@corporateeurope.org>](mailto:nina@corporateeurope.org)

Ecologistas en Acción (Spain) - Tom Kucharz, [<agroecologia@ecologistasenaccion.org>](mailto:agroecologia@ecologistasenaccion.org)

Econexus - Helena Paul, [<h.paul@gn.apc.org>](mailto:h.paul@gn.apc.org)

Ecoropa - Christine von Weizsaecker, [<christine@weizsaecker.de>](mailto:christine@weizsaecker.de)

FERN - Jutta Kill, [<jutta@fern.org>](mailto:jutta@fern.org)

GM Freeze (UK) - Pete Riley, [<pete@gmfreeze.org>](mailto:pete@gmfreeze.org)

Grupo de Reflexión Rural (Argentina/Denmark) - Stella Semino, [<stella.semino@mail.dk>](mailto:stella.semino@mail.dk)

NOAH / Friends of the Earth Denmark - Safania Eriksen, [<safania@noah.dk>](mailto:safania@noah.dk)

Pesticide Action Network UK - Dr Stephanie Williamson, [<stephaniewilliamson@pan-uk.org>](mailto:stephaniewilliamson@pan-uk.org)

Rettet den Regenwald (Germany) - Reinhard Behrend, [<info@regenwald.org>](mailto:info@regenwald.org)

Watch Indonesia! (Germany) - Marianne Klute, [<marianneklute@arcor.de>](mailto:marianneklute@arcor.de)