EU Biomass Action Plan

- Biomass action plan adopted December 7, 2005 ... in the form of a communication to the Council and Parliament
- Objectives:
  1) security of energy supply
  2) reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  3) stimulate economic activity in rural areas

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Europe’s Ambitious Targets for Bioenergy

EU25, 1990-2002, biomass & waste only

Targets for 2010 (EU-25; +18 mtoe = 40% increase)

- Transport Biofuels
  - Include the most important security of supply problem (oil)
  - Employment-intensive
  - Most expensive
- Biomass in electricity generation
  - Highest greenhouse gas benefits
- Biomass heating
  - Cheapest (often competitive with fossil fuel)

Conclusion: biomass should be promoted in all three sectors

Energy Uses of Biomass

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Measures

- The plan lists 31 measures
- These measures, if implemented, are expected to increase biomass use to 150 mtoe by 2010 or soon after
- This can be done with good agricultural practice and sustainable production of biomass and without significantly affecting domestic food production

Biomass for Heating and Electricity

- Work towards legislation on renewable energy in heating and cooling. The examination will cover:
  - Amendment of the buildings directive
  - Standards for household biomass boilers
  - New specific legislation (NB: there are good reasons to think that targets may not be the right solution)
- Encourage district heating to modernise and convert to biomass
- Ensure proper implementation of the directive on renewable energy in electricity

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TRANSPORT BIOFUELS

- Report on implementation of the biofuels directive. Look at amending the directive with respect to:
  - national targets
  - “biofuels obligations” for fuel suppliers
  - certification of minimum standards of sustainable cultivation
- “Balanced approach” to biofuels trade, respecting interests of domestic producers and trading partners

TRANSPORT BIOFUELS (2)

- Take biofuels into account in reform of fuel quality directive
- Support developing countries by helping them to produce biofuels
- Specific communication on biofuels in early 2006

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

- Examine how to improve biomass supply through:
  - Common Agriculture Policy (energy crop scheme)
  - forestry action plan
  - waste framework legislation
  - animal by products legislation
  - standardising biomass fuels
- Encourage Member States to take biomass into account in operational plans under the structural funds
- Biomass energy research priorities including:
  - bio-refining
  - 2nd-generation transport biofuels from wood and wastes

ESTIMATED COSTS AND BENEFITS (2010)

- Reliance on imported energy reduced from 48% to 42%
- Greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 209 MT CO₂ per year
- Direct employment for up to 250-300 000 people, mostly in rural areas
- Potential downward pressure on the oil price as a result of reduced demand for oil
- COST about €9 billion per year — equivalent to increases of 1.5 cents/litre for petrol and diesel and 0.1 cents/kWh for electricity

More details (including ranges) are in the impact assessment

EU Strategy for Biofuels

- Adopted by the Commission 8 February
- Three main aims
  - promote use of biofuels in EU and developing countries
  - prepare for large scale use by improving cost-effectiveness and research into 2nd generation
  - support developing countries

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