



CEEweb for Biodiversity  
Széher út 40. 1021 Budapest, Hungary  
Phone: +36 1 398 0135  
Fax: +36 1 398 0136  
ceeweb@ceeweb.org  
www.ceeweb.org

***EU biofuels policy comes to emerging economic, social and environmental costs – civil society organizations urge EU decision-makers to fix a failed policy***

To Members of the European Parliament,

On behalf of CEEweb for Biodiversity, one of the worried organizations among plenty, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the economic, social and environmental costs of EU biofuels policy. We are fully convinced that urgent action is needed to halt the expansion of land-based biofuels<sup>1</sup> which bring few or no climate benefits while putting extra pressure on scarce land resources, especially for food and feed.

Science has convincingly demonstrated that the use of biofuels in the EU is, directly but especially indirectly through increasing pressure on land use, driving the destruction of vital ecosystems and important carbon stores above and below ground, like close-to-nature forests, permanent grasslands and peatlands. This results in most biofuels on the EU market causing similar or even higher greenhouse gas emissions than the fossil fuels they replace. We urge EU decision-makers to take action urgently in order to avoid that a policy supposed to help combat climate change may lead to an increase in carbon emissions from Europe's transport and land use change.

Moreover, Europe's growing demand for biofuels to fuel its vehicles risks driving land grabs accelerating land conversions globally and causing further increases and volatility to the price of food – exacerbating poverty and hunger for some of the world's most vulnerable people. The amount of land required to fill a family car with grain biofuel would provide enough food to feed a child for 200 days.

And we should not forget to mention that all of this comes at a cost to Europeans (taxpayers as well as drivers) of €10 billion per year.

It's time to stop ignoring the evidence, which paints a clear picture of the costs on people and planet, such that ten major international organisations including the OECD, World Bank, IMF, FAO have jointly called for "G20 governments [to] remove provisions of current national policies that subsidize (or mandate) biofuels production or consumption".

Europe must change course. It needs a shift to truly green transport solutions such as better public transport, much more efficient vehicles, a shift towards green renewable electricity, as well as realizing the potential of small amounts of truly sustainable fuels made from waste and processing residues – solutions with real economic, social and environmental benefits.

All affected people within and outside Europe rely on Members of the European Parliament to vote for reforms<sup>2</sup> to urgently halt and reverse the radical expansion of land based biofuels in transport. Therefore, we ask EU decision-makers to stand up for the full accounting of biofuels climate impacts, including emissions from indirect land use change, as well as phasing out mandates and financial incentives for these fuels.

Sincerely yours,  
Mátyás Prommer,  
General Secretary  
CEEweb for Biodiversity

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<sup>1</sup> i.e. biofuels (or agrofuels) made from food crops or dedicated energy crops

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/transport/fuel/docs/com\\_2012\\_595\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/transport/fuel/docs/com_2012_595_en.pdf)