

Newsletter IEA Bioenergy Task 37: 2/2017

News from Europe

The EC published its proposal of the Fertilizer's Revision including organic fertilizers

The Regulation sets out common rules on converting bio-waste into raw materials that can be used to manufacture fertilizing products. It defines safety, quality and labelling requirements that all fertilizing products need to comply with to be traded freely across the EU. Producers will have to demonstrate that their products meet those requirements, as well as limits for organic contaminants, microbial contaminants and physical impurities before affixing the CE-mark. As some fertilizing products are not produced or traded cross-border in large quantities, the Commission is proposing optional harmonization.

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European Biogas Association reports 17,376 biogas plants in EU

The European Biogas Association published the sixth edition of its statistical report with compiled data collected on the European AD industry and markets. The data from late 2015 shows that there are 17,376 biogas plants and 459 biomethane plants in operation in Europe. The number of biogas plants in Europe increased by 3 percent, or by 542 plants, in 2015. Significant increases were achieved in some countries, such as the U.K. adding 77 plants, representing 17 percent growth; Belgium growing 11 percent, or by 20 plants; and the Netherlands adding 16 plants, a growth rate of 6 percent. The biomethane sector saw steady growth with 92 new biogas upgrading units commissioned, an increase of 25 percent from the prior year. Germany remains the leader in this sector with 185 biomethane plants. Significant growth of biomethane installations was observed in a few countries, such as the U.K. with 43 new plants, France with 12 and Switzerland with 11.

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EU is falling behind in its climate policies for transport

European Commission's *Renewable energy progress report 2016* shows that the EU is falling behind in its climate policies for transport. The report stated: Progress has been fastest in the electricity sector, while the largest absolute contribution continues to be provided in the heating and cooling sector. Progress in transport has been slowest so far. The existence of a large untapped potential in the heating and cooling and transport sectors calls for further action as set out in the proposal for a recast of the Renewable Energy Directive for the period after 2020, as part of the Clean Energy for all Europeans package presented in November 2016. The problem would only get worse under the Commission's new proposal to phase out conventional biofuels including biomethane with more than 64% GHG savings compared to petrol. Biomethane together with liquid biofuels are an essential tool for decarbonizing EU transport.

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