

PARLEMENT EUROPEEN



DÉPUTÉ AU PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN

Strasbourg, 20 February 2008

Dear Mrs. Tovšak Pleterski,

Last December the European Parliament indicated to the Council its wish to negotiate a first reading agreement on the fuel quality directive. The Council has yet to decide whether it would like to enter negotiations. It seems that what is needed first and foremost is clarity on what to do with the sustainability criteria for biofuels.

The Environment committee of the European Parliament has clearly spoken in favour of sustainability criteria for biofuels to be included within the fuel quality directive. For me as the Parliament's rapporteur it would therefore be impossible to enter first reading negotiations on the fuel quality directive without a clear commitment from the side of the Council to include sustainability criteria into the directive. If there were no such commitment, the Parliament would proceed with a first reading plenary vote in March. This would be regrettable because of the time fuel suppliers need to accommodate the obligations proposed under article 7a. Any delay of the closing of the fuel quality dossier would mean that valuable time is lost to put into place an important climate change measure.

I would like to propose the following way forward.

1. Lay down in the fuel quality directive clear principles for sustainability criteria, using the various texts including the one by the Commission in its proposed revision of the renewables directive.
2. Elaborate these principles into detailed sustainability criteria within the context of the renewables directive.
3. Clarify that if the revision of the renewables directive is not finalised before April 2009, the comitology procedure starts working out detailed sustainability criteria which would be legally binding within the context of the fuel quality directive.
4. Lay down a deadline for comitology to be finalised.

I would like to stress that as a rapporteur I only have a mandate to discuss the fuel quality directive. I hope the Council will consider the proposed solution in a positive way. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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