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Stakeholders call for revised EU biofuel rules

The EU objective of promoting biofuels is still valid but needs to be revised, according to a consultation run ahead of a European commission progress report expected before the end of the year.

Most respondents agree that the 5.75% biofuels share by 2010 "will probably not be achieved" and that the best option to boost biofuels is to switch to mandatory targets or biofuels obligations.

Support should continue beyond 2010, they say, with the biofuels industry calling for targets ranging from 8%-15% by 2015 and 12%-25% by 2020. However, NGOs and some industry respondents believe that no new targets should be set before an overall assessment of biofuels environmental impact is carried out.

Although it is primarily advocated by NGOs, the idea that future targets should related to greenhouse gas savings or reduced oil consumption is supported by some within the industry and governments like the UK and the Netherlands.

On biofuels certification, the general opinion is that assessing full-chain performance would be better than simply focusing on feedstock production. However, some respondents argue it to cause an "intolerable" increase in costs.

Others argue that biofuels that are the most cost-effective in terms of greenhouse gas reduction should receive more support, and that an increased use of biofuels in transport should come with other measures such as vehicle efficiency improvements.

Follow-up: [European commission](http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm) (http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm) , +32 2 299 1111, plus [consultation summary](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/doc/biofuels/contributions/2006_08_23_summary_responses.pdf) (http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/doc/biofuels/contributions/2006_08_23_summary_responses.pdf) and [biofuels webpages](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/biofuels_consultation_en.htm) (http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/biofuels_consultation_en.htm) .

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