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For a Global Sustainable Bioenergy Certification System - Europe needs to lead July 09 2007

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

At this year's Spring Council of Heads of States the European Union made an important step towards a climate-friendly world when it decided to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 30 percent by 2020, based on 1990 emission levels. Saving 20 percent of primary energy consumption compared to "business as usual" and sourcing 20 percent of its energy sources from renewable energy are major contributors to this climate goal.

The EU renewable energy objective includes a 10 percent biofuels target for road transport. Importantly, the Council Conclusions state that "*The binding character of this target is appropriate subject to production being sustainable, second generation biofuels being available (...)*".

WWF supports such a biofuel target, in conjunction with strong energy efficiency measures in transport, and conditional upon the implementation of a credible certification scheme for bioenergy.

Some Member States, such as the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany are already developing such a certification scheme. The European Commission has started working on a system as well. A Global Roundtable for Biofuels has also been established, with a Secretariat at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland.

WWF believes that a global approach is needed for bioenergy certification, but considers that a harmonised certification system for Europe could be a critical step towards making this happen. ***For this reason, we have asked the consultancy firm Ecofys to prepare a proposal for a "Harmonised Biomass Certification Scheme"***. With this report attached, we hope to inspire policy makers, legislators, NGOs, scientists and the business community and other bioenergy stakeholders to work together towards a common solution for a responsible bioenergy supply and utilisation.

On the 21st of June, 2007, Secretary of State Douglas Alexander announced that the British Government aims to provide rewards for biofuels under the RTFO *only if the feedstocks from which they are produced meet appropriate sustainability standards from April 2011, provided that this is compatible with World Trade Organisation rules (...) and subject to the development of such standards for the relevant feedstocks.* We hope to see the same political courage coming from the other Member States and from the EU Institutions.

We welcome your comments on the proposed scheme.

Sincerely,

Jean-Philippe Denruyter
Global Bioenergy Coordinator

Stephan Singer
Head of Climate and Energy Policy Europe

[Annex 1: WWF Q&A on the implementation of a bioenergy certification scheme](#)

[Annex 2: Towards a Harmonised Sustainable Biomass Certification Scheme, Ecofys, July 2007](#)