

Nederlands Centrum



voor Inheemse Volken

# **European Committee for Standardization's initiative for sustainability criteria for biomass**

CEN/TC383

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8 May 2009



## ***What is CEN?***

**The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) is a business facilitator in Europe, removing trade barriers for European industry and consumers.**

**Its mission is to foster the European economy in global trading, the welfare of European citizens and the environment.**



## **What is a CEN Standard?**

- **CEN's 30 National Members work together to develop voluntary European Standards**
- **These standards have a unique status, since they also are national standards in each of its 30 Member countries (and therefore are binding in practice)**



## **Who can participate in a CEN process?**

- **Everyone who sees an interest in the process or in the standard to be developed can and may participate on a voluntary basis.**
- **Every participant is equal. Everyone can make and defend its point.**
- **Decisions are taken by consensus**
- **CEN is independent from the Commission**

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**Original broad scope:  
“sustainability criteria for biomass”**



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## **6 Working Groups:**

- 1. Terminology and cross-cutting issues**
- 2. Greenhouse gas emission balance, calculations and fossil fuel balance**
- 3. Biodiversity and environmental issues**
- 4. Economic and social aspects**
- 5. Verification and auditing**
- 6. Indirect effects**



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### Where is this process now?

- **December 2008/January 2009: First meetings of Working groups to discuss scope of work**
- **February/March 2009: European Commission (DG TREN, renewable energy unit) wants CEN/TC383 to limit itself to Renewable Energy Directive (RED): RED has been adopted under a legal statute ("art. 95") that does not permit Member States to go beyond EC requirements.**
- **Several working groups decided to postpone the work until the scope of the work is clarified, others continued.**
- **Two options defined: RED or RED+ ? Decision taken on 5 June.**



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## **Position of NGO's:**

**Continue with original scope, because:**

- . Transparency of this process (compared to others)**
- . Comprehensive standard can be used next to RED**
- . Wide stakeholder participation (compared to others)**
- . Paving the way to comprehensive ISO standard**





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## **Observations:**

- **No mandate from Commission for broad scope**
- **Not many NGO's participate**
- **No participation by indigenous peoples**