



EuroBio 2008 – OECD Special Session

Energy Futures: How Will Biofuel and Bioenergy Find Their Proper Place?

Monday, October 6

14.30 – 19.00

**at the
OECD**

This session, developed by EuroBio and hosted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), looks closely at the issues surrounding the production and use of biofuels in the relatively near future.

Many countries and regions around the globe have conceived and implemented strategies directed to increasing the use of ethanol and biodiesel in liquid fuels. The strategies have been justified principally by claims of energy security, the promotion of rural economies, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Much of the detailed analysis that has been undertaken so far has been, in essence, a critique of existing policy approaches that have mainly been interventions that encourage the conversion of grain or waste into liquid fuel (ethanol and biodiesel).

In contrast, the speakers at this meeting will look to the future of both technology and of policy. In the first session, speakers will consider firstly the nature and implementation of future more-broadly-based policies for sustainable biofuels and bioenergy. Those policies might encourage R&D into better technological solutions, and may give weight to factors such as energetic profitability, economic sustainability, and environmental benefit. The adoption of policies may not be uniform as countries seek to build on their existing or future competitive or resource advantages. What might be the impact of a patchwork of measures within the EU or globally, where some countries have little or no bioenergy incentives, others have narrow biofuel-specific measures, and yet others adopt broader policy incentives that go beyond immediate energy applications of biomass?

The second session will deal with the impact of such policies on the market for bioenergy and biorefinery R&D and technology development in the relatively near future. Will a set of broader policy considerations continue to favour ethanol and biodiesel production from agriculture? If not, does what has been achieved in biofuel need to be written off as the result

of undue market skewing? Will other renewable energy sources displace bioenergy and biofuels? Will certain early-stage technical approaches (for example, biorefineries) involving biological processes or feedstocks be encouraged by such broad measures and, if so, which? And within a policy patchwork scenario, where is the R&D more likely to take place?

Among The Expected Guest Speakers:

- Wayne Jones, Head, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, Agriculture and Development Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Roberto Rodrigues, Coordinator of the Agribusiness Center at the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV); Former Minister of Agriculture, Brazil
- Susanne Lee Huttner, Director of the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry
- Iain Gillespie, Head of the Biotechnology Division, OECD
- Willy de Greef, Secretary-General of EuropaBiO; former head of Regulatory Affairs: Plant Genetic Systems; Syngenta Seeds; D1 Oils Plant Science
- Brent Erikson, Executive Vice President, Industrial and Environmental Section, Biotechnology Industry Organization

