

Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. Renewable Energy Directive

2008/0016(COD) - 31/01/2011 - Follow-up document

In accordance with Directive 2009/28/EC (the Renewable Energy Directive), the Commission presents a staff working document reporting on the operation of the mass balance verification method for the biofuels and bioliquids sustainability scheme. The report accompanies the [Communication reporting on progress towards the 2020 target on renewable energy](#).

The Renewable Energy Directive sets out sustainability criteria for biofuels and bioliquids. For biofuels, corresponding criteria are set out in Directive 2009/30/EC (the Fuel Quality Directive.). They apply to biofuels and bioliquids produced in the EU and to imported biofuels and bioliquids. The sustainability scheme became operational on 5 December 2010, the deadline for Member States to transpose the Renewable Energy Directive.

The mass balance system is a key element of the **sustainability scheme**, providing the method by which a connection is made between information or claims concerning raw materials or intermediate products and claims concerning final products. Given that the scheme became operational on 5 December 2010, little information is currently available regarding its operation on the market. Likewise, there is little information regarding the mass balance verification method.

The paper concludes that the mass balance system is a stringent system. It is clear that it requires farmers and industries to adapt their practices. In terms of integrity and effectiveness, there is at present no potential to allow for verification methods for the biofuels and bioliquids sustainability scheme that are less stringent than the mass balance system laid down in the Directives. In line with the Directives the Commission will assess again by 2012 whether there is such potential.