



Directorate-General  
for Energy  
and Transport

# Ongoing work sustainability regime Renewables Directive



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# The renewables Directive

1. Sets **mandatory national RE targets**, including 10% RE in transport, in 2020
2. Requires **national action plans** (template published)
3. Creates **flexibility** by facilitating “joint projects” with Member States or third countries and “statistical transfers” between Member States to help reach targets cost effectively
4. Requires **reduction of administrative and regulatory barriers**, improvements in provision of information and training and improves renewables’ access to the electricity grid
5. Creates a **sustainability regime** for biofuels

# ● EU-wide sustainability criteria for biofuels

- Apply to single consignments of biofuels
- Have to be met in order to:
  - » Count toward the targets (10% and the '20%')
  - » Count toward obligations (put on suppliers)
  - » Be eligible for financial support (for their consumption)
- Apply also to bioliquids: i.e. in power and heat sector
- Single EU scheme
  - » Applies to both EU production and imports
  - » Member States cannot require stricter criteria

# ● Mandatory sustainability criteria

1. GHG saving of at least 35% (50%-60% from 2017/18)
  - » Calculation method and 'default values' included
    - 29 g CO<sub>2</sub>eq/MJ bonus for degraded and highly contaminated land
2. No raw material from land with high biodiversity value (2008)
  - » Primary forest
  - » Protected areas
  - » Highly biodiverse grassland (to be defined)
3. No conversion of land with high carbon stock (2008)
  - » Wetlands
  - » Forested areas
4. No raw material from peat land (2008)
5. EU raw materials must meet “cross compliance” rules

# ● Reporting by companies

- Certain environmental/social issues
- Commission to determine them in ‘comitology’; must be appropriate, relevant and without an excessive administrative burden
- Reporting, so no need for compliance with minimum standards

# ● Commission monitoring and reporting

- Biannual monitoring and reporting (2012-2020):
  - » Land use
  - » Soil, water and air protection measures
  - » Impacts on biodiversity
  - » Social sustainability
  - » Food security, wider development issues
  - » Commodity price changes

*in Community and third countries of supply*

# ● Practical operation of sustainability regime

- Enforcement of the sustainability criteria – responsibility of Member States (including e.g. adequate standard of independent auditing)
- The Commission can recognise ‘voluntary schemes’ as sufficient proof. Member States must accept this evidence.
- Bi- of multilateral agreements with Community

# ● Directive follow-up sustainability

- Comitology
  - » Completion of the sustainability criteria for biofuels (2009/early 2010)
    - Definition of degraded land, bio diverse grasslands, reporting requirements
  - » Recognize voluntary schemes
  - » Update/add default GHG values
- Commission communication on the practical implementation of the sustainability scheme foreseen for the end of 2009
  - » Guide on carbon stocks
- Report/proposal
  - » *Indirect land use* ->
  - » *Solid biomass sustainability criteria* ->



Thank you for your attention

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