

**Priority question for written answer P-000963/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Biomass in the Renewable Energy Directive

The Commission's 2016 impact assessment¹, the Joint Research Centre's 2021 bioenergy report² and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) data from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)³ show that burning biomass can emit more CO₂ per unit energy than fossil fuels⁴. UNFCCC data show that biomass CO₂ was at 213 metric tonnes in 1990 and 595.77 metric tonnes in 2020. Additionally, net CO₂ from forest biomass can exceed emissions from fossil fuels for centuries⁵. Furthermore, 'sustainability' does not ensure that bioenergy contributes to climate mitigation⁶ and the criteria in the Renewable Energy Directive do not assess the full GHG impact of biomass⁷. Finally, UNFCCC data show the weakening state of EU carbon sinks and an impending/total sink collapse in several Member States.

In this context:

1. Does the Commission agree that some Member States are not on track to achieve the 2030 land carbon sink targets?
2. Does it find that biomass logging may be degrading forest carbon sinks? If not, what evidence shows that it is not contributing to the degradation of carbon sinks?
3. Does the Commission agree that the criteria in the proposed revision of the Renewable Energy Directive will not ensure that forest biomass reduces net emissions compared to fossil fuels? If it does agree, what provisions will help to ensure a net reduction?

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¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:1bdc63bd-b7e9-11e6-9e3c-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

² https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC122719/jrc-forest-bioenergy-study-2021-final_online.pdf.

³ https://di.unfccc.int/detailed_data_by_party.

⁴ See: 'An immediate increase in GHG emissions...' in the Commission impact assessment, p. 106 and Box 2 in the Joint Research Centre report, p. 88.

⁵ See: 'compared to crops which regrow...' in the Commission impact assessment, p. 16.

⁶ See: 'Sustainable forest management practices ...' in idem, p. 17 and 'Certain forest management practices...' in idem, p. 107.

⁷ See: 'The purpose of the methodology...' in the Joint Research Centre report, p. 98.