



# Parliament supports shift towards advanced biofuels

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**A draft law to cap crop-derived biofuel production and accelerate the shift to alternative sources was voted by Parliament on Tuesday. It aims to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused by the growing use of farm land for biofuel crops.**

"We succeeded in getting a very technical, technological and ideological file to go ahead", said lead MEP [Niils Torvalds](#) (ALDE, FI), after Parliament endorsed the law (the draft had already been agreed informally by MEPs and ministers).

But Mr Torvalds also wondered aloud whether the law, as amended, was tough enough. "We had much higher goals. Both in terms of greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and technological progress. If Europe doesn't move forward, it will be left behind. We also have the systemic problem of the blocking minority in Council, which sometimes develops into a dictatorship of the minority, with member states who are afraid of the future", he added.

## First-generation biofuels under scrutiny

Current legislation requires EU member states to ensure that renewable energy accounts for at least 10% of energy consumption in transport by 2020. The new law says that:

- first-generation biofuels (from crops grown on agricultural land) should account for no more than 7% of energy consumption in transport by 2020,
- fuel suppliers must report to EU countries and the EU Commission the estimated level of GHG emissions caused by "indirect land-use change" (ILUC), i.e. freeing up more to grow food crops, in order to offset that switched to biofuel production,
- The Commission must report and publish data on ILUC-related emissions, and
- The Commission must report back to the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers on the scope for including ILUC emission figures in the existing sustainability criteria.

## Boosting advanced biofuels

EU member states will have to set a national target, no later than 18 months after the EU directive enters into force, for the share of advanced biofuels, e.g. those sourced from certain types of waste and residues and new sources such as seaweed, in total transport consumption.

## Next steps

Member states must enact the legislation by 2017.

## Background for editors

*Using farmland to produce biofuel crops reduces the area available for food crops. This adds to pressure to free up more land, e.g. through deforestation, to grow more food – a process known as indirect land use change (ILUC). But deforestation increases greenhouse gas emissions, which may cancel out part or in some cases even all of the*

# Press release

*beneficial effects of using biofuels.*

*Procedure: Co-decision, second reading agreement*

## Facts - Biofuels

- Most of first-generation biofuels are made from maize, sugar cane or rapeseed
- Second-generation biofuels are made from waste, residues, and seaweed

## Useful information

- Adopted text will be available here (click on 28.04.2015)  
: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/texts-adopted.html>
- Video recording of debate (click on 28.04.2015)  
  
: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/plenary/search-by-date>
- Video of the press conference  
: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/other-events/schedule>
- EbS news: biofuels  
: <http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/Assetdetail.aspx?ref=1101465>
- Audiovisual material for professionals: <http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/default.aspx>
- EP Research:  
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2015/554185/EPRS\\_ATA\(2015\)554185\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2015/554185/EPRS_ATA(2015)554185_EN.pdf)
- Procedure file:  
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2012/0288\(COD\)&l=en](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2012/0288(COD)&l=en)

## Political groups

- Press release by S&D Group: <http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/newsroom/european-union-sets-limits-land-grown-biofuels-used-transport>

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