

CIAA comments on the vote in the EP ITRE Committee on the Turmes report in particular on Article 3 of the draft Council Directive on Renewable Energy

CIAA – the Confederation of food and drink industries of the EU - represents the food and drink manufacturing industry, the largest EU manufacturing sector, major employer and exporter in the EU.

CIAA's main objective in the debate on renewable energy and biofuels is to ensure that particular attention is given to the availability and competitiveness of agricultural raw materials supplies for the production of food and drink. Food, non-food and energy outlets are competing for the same agricultural raw materials and for the same limited resources (water, soil). For CIAA, food must remain the primary outlet for agricultural products.

CIAA notes that, with the vote held on 11 September, the EP's ITRE Committee has given serious consideration to a number of concerns expressed by the food and drink industry as regards the draft renewable energy directive and its impact on raw material supplies for food production.

A large majority¹ of CIAA Members welcome the compromise amendment of the ITRE Committee regarding art. 3.3.

- CIAA stressed that the **Council conclusions in March 2007 were conditional** upon second-generation biofuels being commercially available and biofuels production being sustainable. Since over recent months, doubts have arisen about whether these conditions would be met, the Turmes report is giving this clear attention.
- ITRE voted in favour of an increasing share for **renewable sources** in 2020 from "*electricity or hydrogen, energy from waste, residues and ligno-cellulosic biomass or algae produced in vats, or energy from feedstock grown on degraded land with a net carbon benefit regarding land use emissions over 10 years*". The 40% share of biofuels from feedstock that is not competing with food and feed production, can be considered as an adequate response to the claim that the target should be conditional upon the availability of second-generation biofuels.
- The Compromise Amendment regarding Article 3.3 of the proposed directive contains provisions to carry out an **impact assessment** taking into account the consequences on food security and a **formal review clause**, according to which the targets and share set for 2020 need to be reviewed in 2014. Both provisions were part of the changes requested by CIAA for the proposed directive. CIAA has particularly emphasised the need for providing flexibility to Member States and to take the national situation and potential into account. The adjustments aimed at building control points and introducing a review clause into the directive, contribute to a better assessment of the consequences of the policy.

The ITRE Committee, with its report, has given support to the arguments as promoted by CIAA. Therefore a majority of CIAA members supports this ITRE compromise position for the vote by the EP Plenary in October.

¹ A minority of CIAA members, among which Fediol, have a different view on the issue