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Press Release

#EnergyUnion

Reacting to EU Commission plans for a European Strategy for low Emission Mobility, Copa and Cogeca welcome move to phase in advanced biofuels but reject phasing out of EU targets for conventional biofuels after 2020

Reacting to EU Commission plans for a new European Strategy for low Emission Mobility, Copa and Cogeca welcomed today the move to phase in advanced biofuels in the EU but rejected outright the phasing out of EU targets for conventional biofuels after 2020, warning they are vital to ensure a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

Under the move, the Commission proposes to progressively eliminate conventional biofuels after 2020 and replace them by more advanced biofuels. But Copa & Cogeca argue that both types of biofuel are crucial in the future if the EU is to achieve a sustainable, low carbon economy.

Copa & Cogeca Secretary Pekka Pesonen explained “Conventional biofuels produced from EU arable crops not only provide the EU with environmentally-friendly transport fuels to decarbonise road transport in an inexpensive way but also ensure food security and balance the EU agricultural markets. They boost animal feed supplies as only a fraction of the crop is used to produce biodiesel or bioethanol. The rest is a protein-rich by-product used for animal feed which is crucial for livestock producers especially in the current crisis. They also create an extra source of income for farmers and the biofuels industry is a key source of growth and jobs in EU rural areas. They are also an important part of the bioeconomy. They are part of the solution and help the European agriculture sector to fight climate change and achieve the objectives of the #COP 21 Paris agreement and the EU bioeconomy strategy”.

Wrapping up, Mr Pesonen said “The Commissions’ Communication released today does not provide any concrete measures to implement the climate and energy policy targets in the road transport sector. Copa and Cogeca believe that to achieve this, advanced biofuels need to be developed on a commercial scale in parallel with conventional biofuels”.

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