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## Press Release

### RED II implementation – Copa and Cogeca concerned about potential loopholes in ‘low ILUC’ risk biofuels

In a letter sent to the European Commission on 29<sup>th</sup> January, Copa and Cogeca expressed their deep concerns about the implementation process of the RED II Directive, and more specifically about the establishment of a criteria for ‘low ILUC’ risk biofuel certification. The RED II political agreement, which caps ‘high ILUC’ risk biofuels at the 2019 consumption level, could effectively be bypassed by lax certification of ‘low ILUC’ risk biofuels.

Following the approval of the new Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) in 2018, the European Commission has now started working on delegated and implementing acts. By 1<sup>st</sup> February, the European Commission is due to adopt a proposal drawing up a criteria for the certification of low Indirect Land Use Change-risk biofuels, also referred to as ‘Low ILUC’ certified biofuels.

According to Pekka Pesonen, Copa-Cogeca Secretary General, “Without strong legally binding provisions in the delegated act, Copa and Cogeca fear that there will be some loopholes in the directive, opening a back door to ‘high ILUC’ risk biofuel imports being certified as ‘low ILUC’. This would not be acceptable to any European farmer that respects high environmental standards and that faces a cap on the EU crop-based biofuel market.”

Without closely monitoring the countries concerned, it will be impossible to avoid major negative impacts and bypasses. In their letter to the Commission, Copa and Cogeca call for observatories to be set up to evaluate deforestation trends. The European Commission’s delegated act should also include the publication of periodic reports and provisions on the possibility for the European Commission to prohibit the issuance of “low ILUC” certificates when deforestation persists.

**-ENDS-**

Translations (in French, Italian, Spanish, German and Polish) will soon be available [www.copa-cogeca.eu](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu)

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