



**EBA**  
**ACTIVITY REPORT 2009**

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

After the foundation meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, EBA was successfully registered as non-profit organisation in Brussels. The first year of the association was much about developing the corporate identity and to raise the awareness of the new player amongst national biogas associations, EU institutions and companies. This start-up phase succeeded and empowered EBA to continue the work on future requirements. It can be concluded that EBA is on a good track but will have to further develop the number of members, i.e. resources, in order to tackle new tasks and reach the goal set of being constantly present in Brussels in the near term.

This year's report shall be the basis for discussion in the General Assembly in February 2010. It covers the period since the foundation. All members are welcome to comment on the activity report.

EBA thanks all its members for their support and trust in the last year and is confident to develop an even better relation in the coming years.

## **2. COMMENTS AND POSITIONS PAPERS**

### ***2.1 Comment on “Green Paper: Management of bio-waste in the European Union” (March 2009)***

As requested in the Waste Framework Directive the Commission started in December 2008 an evaluation process to explore the impacts and options of a biowaste legislation within the European Union. The EU's goal is to reduce green house gas emissions and to increase resource-efficiency and energy recovery. As a first step in December 2008 the European Commission published the Green Paper on biowaste and afterwards launched the consultation process on the Impact Assessment.

The consultation document consisted of 8 questions related to the biowaste management which were answered by EBA. The comment highlighted the need for a separate collection of biogenous waste and the role of biogas for energy recovery and recycling of the nutrients as fertilisers.

### ***2.2 Comment on Draft Final Report „Assessment of the Options to improve the Management of Bio-Waste in the European Union“ (January 2010)***

The Impact Assessment represented the 2<sup>nd</sup> step in the process after the Green Paper on biowaste. EBA participated again in the following consultation process and provided relevant information on the advantages of the utilisation of biogas.

### ***2.3 Joint position paper concerning an EU Biowaste Directive together with the Biowaste Alliance (June 2009)***

The Biowaste Alliance consists of 6 members who are besides EBA: European Compost Network, European Environmental Bureau, European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services, International Solid Waste Association and Reuse and Recycling EU Social Enterprises.

The Biowaste Alliance was formed as a forum to exchange ideas and intentions on all biowaste related topics. Common positions are articulated towards the European Commission to assist the legislation process on the way to a sound EU Biowaste Directive. With its membership in this alliance, EBA ensures that the advantages of biogas are considered appropriately.

The common position paper called on the need for a European-wide legislation covering the treatment of biowaste to:

- harvest the full benefits potential of sound biowaste management for soil, climate and resource protection purposes;
- help Member States fulfil the organic waste diversion targets of the Landfill Directive;
- provide legal certainty by ensuring long-term confidence for public and private investors; and
- ensure cross-compliance consistencies between different European Acts and Strategies.

### **3. PRESS INFORMATION**

#### ***3.1 Press release on creation of EBA (February 2009)***

After the creation of EBA on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, EBA sent out press releases in German and English to the media, public institutions and relevant persons informing on the existence of the new European Biogas Association. The press release had a big impact on the awareness of EBA: Numerous magazines and news services reported on EBA and were asking for interviews and more information.

#### ***3.2 Joint press release with AEBIOM on sustainability criteria for biomass use (December 2009)***

The Directive for the promotion of energy from renewable sources [RES Directive 2009/28/EC] indicates that the European Commission, by December 2009, had to publish a report on sustainability criteria of solid biomass. The European Commission was preparing such a report analyzing the need for sustainability criteria for heat and electricity production from solid biomass. In the press release, the Consortium of European Biomass Associations (AEBIOM and EUBIA), European Forestry associations (EUSTAFOR, CEPF and NSF) and European Biogas Association (EBA) supported non-binding criteria on sustainability for solid and gaseous biomass for heat and electricity.

## **4. NEWSLETTERS & PUBLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Newsletters (August + November 2009):**

2 Newsletters were sent by e-mail to all members with updates on latest developments within EBA, on EU policy and national biogas news.

### **4.2 Regular updates on EBA in the German Biogas Journal (3x in 2009)**

The latest developments within EBA and its activities were published in the quarterly German Biogas Journal. EBA also initiated a series which presents one member and the biogas situation in the respective country per edition.

## **5. CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONFERENCES**

The members of the board have been invited for contributions to a number of conferences and workshops. Whenever possible and reasonable, the invitations were accepted. The most important ones where:

### **5.1 COGEN Europe Annual Conference (Brussels, April 2009, Sebastian Stolpp)**

Amongst the speakers were: Ms. Pirjo-Liisa, Koskimäki (Head of Unit for Energy Efficiency, DG TREN, EC), Mr. Claude Turmes (MEP) et al.

### **5.2 Bio-waste – Need for EU-Legislation? Conference (Brussels, June 2009, Arthur Wellinger & Jan Stambasky)**

The conference consisted of several thematic blocks of lectures, and two panels and plenary discussions. The major themes were: Green paper on biowaste, views of stakeholders, scientific views and the Impact Assessment. Amongst the participants were e.g. Mr. Jos Delbeke (Deputy Director-General DG Environment, EC), Mr. Helge Wandenburg (Director General, Federal Environment Ministry, Germany) and Ms. Mona-Lisa Norrman (Swe, Rapporteur of the Committee of the Regions).

### **5.3 Biogasmax: “European Biomethane Fuel Conference” (Göteborg, September 2009, Arthur Wellinger & Jan Stambasky)**

The 250 participants coming from 30 different nations and the 33 speakers made clearly the Conference to be a major event on biomethane at the international level. Mr. Claes Västerteg (Swedish Parliament Deputy chairman, Committee on Environment and Agriculture) and Mrs.

Anne Houtman (Director of «Internal Market and Sustainability», DG TREN, EC) were two of the plenary speakers together with EBA's president.

#### **5.4 World Bioenergy Clean Vehicles & Fuels Conference (Stockholm, September 2009, Arthur Wellinger)**

The conference was held in association with the Swedish EU presidency. Speakers were amongst others: Maud Olofsson (Minister of Enterprise and Energy, Sweden) and H  l  ne Pelosse (Director General, IRENA)

#### **5.5 Global Biogas Congress (Brussels, October 2009, Harm Grobr  gge)**

#### **5.6 Biogas Upgrading Conference (Tulln, October 2009, Jan Stambasky)**

All the speakers presented EBA during their presentation.

## **6. EU PROJECTS**

EBA was partner of two project proposals: BiogasIN and BOOST. The BiogasIN project, was accepted by the European Commission which is a great success. Final negotiations on the detailed tasks and budget are ongoing with EC.

BiogasIN aims to create a sustainable biogas market in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE): Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia. The breakthrough will be achieved by targeting the strongest framework barrier in CEE: high administrative barriers both in planning and financing phases. These bottlenecks were emphasised in many former European projects, but never addressed in such depth as planned in BiogasIN. BiogasIN builds capacity among the public sector (national, regional and local governments and administrations responsible for permitting process of agricultural biogas plants).

## **7. DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERSHIP**

Nine new members joined EBA since its foundation. Seven of them are full members, two are associated members. EBA counts now 20 members (18 full members).

The seven new full members are national biogas associations from:

- Estonia (Estonian Biogas Association - Eesti Biogaasi Assotsiatsioon MT  )

- France (ATEE Club Biogaz)
- France (Méthéor - Association pour la Méthanisation Écologique des déchets)
- Germany (FNBB - Fördergesellschaft für nachhaltige Biogas- und Bioenergienutzung)
- Luxembourg (Luxembourger Biogas Association - Biogasvereenegung asbl)
- Sweden (Swedish Biogas Association - Svenska Biogasföreningen)
- UK (UK Renewable Energy Association - Biogas Group)

Two new associated members:

- DSM Biogas (Netherlands)
- Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) - Renewable Energy Information Office (Ireland)

The development of the membership shows a growing interest in EU policies and international exchange of information in the biogas sector. Many other contacts to national associations, institutes and companies have been established in the year 2009 and some of them have already shown interested in a potential membership of EBA.

## 8. PARTNERSHIPS

During 2009, EBA could create and deepen numerous contacts to other European associations, e.g. EREC, national associations from the renewable energy sector and representatives from public authorities, institutes and the media. These contacts are the basis for effective information channels in terms of EU policy and potential actions.

### **8.1 Membership with EREF (European Renewable Energies Federation, [www.eref-europe.org](http://www.eref-europe.org))**

EBA is member of EREF since June 2009. Their support during the foundation and registration process of EBA was very much appreciated as well as their offer to start in their offices.

### **8.2 Partner of the Biowaste Alliance (since June 2009)**

Please see point 2.3.

### ***8.3 Member of AEBIOM's biogas work group: The role of biogas in the National Renewable Action Plans (RES-Directive).***

The biogas work group was established in December 2009. The focus is on EU legislation and how to deal with it. The group is currently working on a position paper on the role of biogas in the National Action Plans of the RES Directive which shall be published by end of February 2010.

## **9. BOARD MEETINGS**

Four board meetings were held during 2009 with a wide range of tasks and decisions. As a newly created association the focus was on the operation of the organisation, the development of contacts, the creation of a corporate identity and the formulation of a strategy. The board also set up internal bye-laws and the membership fee regulation of EBA.

## **10. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

***10.1 Website launched and e-mail accounts installed (July 2009)***

***10.2 Creation of corporate identity (logo, member logo, business cards, letter paper, presentation template, conference banner, company brochure)***