



EUBCE 2019

LISBON - PORTUGAL

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LISBON CONGRESS CENTER - CCL

27TH EUROPEAN BIOMASS CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

PRESS RELEASE

EUBCE 2019 Opening

On Monday 27th May in Lisbon, Portugal, the **EUBCE 2019**, 27th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition, opened its door to a record edition with 1,600 delegates from almost 80 countries and 43 exhibitors.

The EUBCE has long become a world leading event for the biomass and bioenergy sectors based on a global forum for exchanging knowledge, debating policy options and addressing innovation in an open forum. Against this background, the EUBCE aims to highlight the scientific achievements and the key role of the technology developers and industry across all sessions and topics of the programme.

The 1,105 contributions received come from 75 countries and are now presented in 281 keynote plenary and oral presentations.

The EUBCE Conference programme is coordinated by the European Commission Joint Research Centre.

The theme of this edition is the **role of biomass in delivering the Paris targets and sustainable development goals**.

The Conference is chaired by Maria DA GRAÇA CARVALHO (EUBCE Conference General Chair), European Commission, Directorate-General Research and Innovation, Member Scientific Advice Mechanism Unit.

Hosting this event of global outreach in Lisbon is symbolic as Portugal is a pioneer country in renewable energy: March 2018 Portugal generated more renewable energy than it needed.

Here are some statements and quote from the Conference Opening.

Maria DA GRAÇA CARVALHO, EUBCE Conference General Chair, European Commission, Directorate-General Research and Innovation, Member Scientific Advice Mechanism Unit,

"It is really a great honour to be the Chair of such a fantastic Conference that brings together over 1,500 delegates from 75 countries and 5 different Continents to discuss the role of biomass in delivering the Paris targets! During the four days, we will discuss the scientific advancements, the new technological developments, the industrial applications and the science-based policy making in the field of biomass and bioenergy. The Opening Addresses Session mirrors this holistic approach of the Conference. We will listen to the point of view of Portugal at the political level, the European policy making perspective and the private sector standpoint."

João Pedro MATOS FERNANDES, Minister of Environment and Energy Transition

"Portugal has been a front runner promoting renewable energy and we remain committed to maintaining that status. In 2016, and in line with the ambition of the Paris agreement, the Portuguese government outlined its commitment to a Carbon Neutrality Roadmap towards 2050 and a National Energy and Climate Plan for 2030. The Roadmap translates the vision, sets the path and provides the most cost-effective options to achieve this goal. Soon, a Resolution of the Council of Ministers establishing the strategy for biomass and the revision of DL 64/2017 will be adopted. This Resolution will be adapted to the new vision favouring proximity to the biomass resource and consumers of

thermal energy thereby making more efficient and sustainable use of biomass.

Safeguarding forest heritage has an important impact on jobs in rural areas and helping rural populations through new forest-related activities as well as developing greater respect for sustainability and biodiversity. Biomass use is also a crucial way to prevent forest fires, a critical task for the present and for the future, not only in Portugal. We know, and the European Commission also knows, that the potential of forestry and agriculture in the supply of biomass is far from exhausted, and indeed there are still many unexploited sources.”

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation (extracted from video message)

“Biomass will be crucial in the fight against climate change, the next European flagship. We have a vision in Europe to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 and biomass will be a key part of achieving it.

Biomass is important for the citizens and that’s why Europe is committed to supporting it. Last weekend we had European elections and for the first time since I remember, the environment was at the forefront of the campaign together with climate change. Biomass should be part of our environment in the most sustainable way possible. That’s what we expect, that’s what citizens expect from us and that’s why we must find new ways to bring citizens into the discussion.”

Paula ABREU MARQUES, European Commission, DG Energy, Head of Unit - Renewables and CCS Policy

“Biomass is currently the largest source of renewable energy in the EU and will continue to play an important role to achieve the EU energy and climate targets in 2020 and 2030 and for long-term decarbonisation goals. With the Clean Energy package and the new pieces of legislation entering into force from 2020 we are confident we will guarantee the sustainable use of biomass for energy.”

João Paulo OLIVEIRA, Board Member of The Navigator Company, Industrial Area and the I&D

“More than 50% of all power generated in Portugal from biomass is produced by The Navigator Company. The Company generates 5% of all electricity in Portugal.”

Piotr SZYMANSKI , European Commission Joint Research Centre, Director of Energy, Transport and Climate

“Sustainable biomass has a special role to play in the decarbonisation of the economy. Many technologies are being developed and made available. We need to advance toward industrial applications of bioenergy technologies. International cooperation is essential to achieve global climate and sustainable development goals.”

Nicolae Scarlat, European Commission, Technical Programme Chairman

“We need to achieve large scale deployment of innovative bioenergy technologies in order to ensure delivering the Paris targets and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). We need to show the multiple benefits of bioenergy to improve public perception and increase public acceptance for bioenergy. Diverse options offered by bioenergy show the potential of many technologies in offering different, viable solutions to the present challenges.”

Nuno Coelho, A4F Algae for Future, Chief Executive Officer

“I report on marine/aquatic biomass, based on an EU funded Demonstration Projects (BIOFAT) which is one of the most sustainable types of biomass (if not THE most sustainable one), and, consequently, it should play a decisive role long into the future.”

René Venendaal, BTG Biomass Technology Group, Chief Executive Officer

“Conferences like EUBCE are important to provide the latest insights in R&D and to bring researchers,

developers, market parties, policy makers and governments together.

- 1) for successful innovation continuous interaction between R&D and markets are of crucial importance;
- 2) the technology should not only work, but the economics should fit and markets must be (made) ready for the new technology as well;
- 3) capital intensive technologies like flash pyrolysis from idea to full scale commercial roll-out takes more or less 40 years, so a long term view is extremely important, as well as a steady investment climate;
- 4) the programs of the European Commission over the years have been extremely helpful for achieving this stage."

Marko Janhunen, Director, Public Affairs, UPM and Chair, Leaders of Sustainable Biofuels

"Great developments have taken place in the advanced biofuels industry in recent years. The EUBCE2019 in Lisbon comes again at a great moment when industry, academia and policy makers come together to discuss what must be done to even further speed up developments in the biofuels scene. Advanced biofuels provide a significant opportunity to reduce transport emissions, and broad collaboration throughout the value chain is needed to accelerate developments".

Geraldine Kutas, UNICA - Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association, Head of International Affairs (title of speech "Renovabio: a market answer to a policy challenge")

"The Brazilian sugarcane sector already contributes to more than 50% of the SDGs. With Renovabio, the carbon trading mechanism that will promote the further decarbonization of the transport sector, bioenergy in Brazil will be even more sustainable."

Uwe R. FRITSCH, IINAS, Scientific Director, was the moderator of the Panel Discussion on "The role of biomass in delivering the Paris targets and supporting sustainable development goals".

Giulio Volpi, Renewables and CCS Policy Unit of the Directorate General for Energy, European Commission

"A net-zero emissions economy will require increasing amounts of biomass compared to today's consumption. According to some scenarios, bio-energy consumption could increase by around 80% by 2050. A significant policy and investment effort will be therefore needed to mobilize sustainable biomass from a combination of sources, while ensuring that the natural sink is maintained or even enhanced."

Bah F. M. SAHO, (ECREEE - Ecowas Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency) Principal Program Officer - Renewable Energy and Responsible for Bioenergy Program

"The ECOWAS Region aims to contribute to sustainable economic, social and environmental development in west Africa by way of ECREEE Bioenergy Programme; increasing utilization of biomass resources extending from traditional use to modern technologies, without compromising food security."

Jenny Walther Thoss, WWF, Policy Officer Sustainable Biomass

"Biomass, which will help us to reach the Paris goal and support the aims of the SDGs in equal means is a very limited resource. Very often the use of biomass can be sustainable in an ecological view, but not if we are looking on the climate impacts. Therefore, we should have a serious discussion, in which sectors and pathways the biomass resource should be used."

Further information:

The EUBCE Conference programme is coordinated by the European Commission Joint Research Centre. The event is supported by European and international organizations such as the European Commission, UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Natural Sciences Sector, WCRE - the World Council for Renewable Energy, EUBIA - the European Biomass Industry Association, CEI - The Central European Initiative, FNR - Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe, GBEP - Global Bioenergy Partnership, and other organizations, Biofuels Platform, Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP), Leaders of Sustainable Biofuels (LSB), UNICA Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association.

EUBCE is part of the EU Green Week 2019.

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