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## Press Release

# Additional Land Use Change impact modelisation exercise published amid doubts on its transparency and academic value

**Brussels, 14 March 2016** – An additional Land Use Change Impact modelisation, the Global Biosphere Management Model (Globiom), has been published on the Commission DG Energy web-site. This publication was said to be on hold for review by the Commission services, which recently indicated that a scientific peer review of the study would be desirable.

Globiom was performed by the IIASA<sup>1</sup> research institute and Ecofys, an energy and climate consultancy, based on a model which has still not been disclosed nor validated by peers. The Land Use impacts for biofuels and biodiesel are totally inconsistent with the findings of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) of September 2015 – the same agency that investigated recent cars' emissions rules violations in the US. In the revision of its Low Carbon Fuel Standard regulation, CARB found indirect land use change (ILUC) values for biodiesel which are four to five times lower than the Commission's results.

The European biodiesel supply chain is quite concerned about the lack of transparency around this publication and has doubts (shared by many experts) on the reliability of the information contained in this Globiom review.

The biodiesel supply chain shares the wide-spread doubts on the scientific transparency of the Globiom study. Despite various written and verbal requests to IIASA, our associations – as many others - were refused access to the final dataset, definitions and methodologies retained to run the model. In a letter (see annex) written by the Cabinet of First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and addressed to the European biodiesel supply chain on 16 September 2015, the European Commission acknowledged that a "scientific peer review of the study would be desirable" but also conceded that "if the model structure cannot fully be disclosed, such a review cannot meet the quality standards set by academic rules". Given these acknowledgments, how can the industry and EU decision makers consider Globiom as a credible study, compliant with academic international standards? Such lack of transparency and public scrutiny further adds to the ambiguity and uncertainty surrounding the ILUC science.

The open process employed by the state of California and the CARB research Board to set up its revised biofuels policy this year<sup>2</sup> led to much more solid conclusions: technical input was peer-reviewed by a number of independent academic experts, while the draft law and environmental analysis were also open to public review<sup>3</sup>. The ILUC values put forward in California's new legislation define biodiesel as the most sustainable liquid fuel, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from 50% to 81% on average compared with petroleum<sup>4</sup>.

Speaking on behalf of the biodiesel supply chain, Raffaello Garofalo, Secretary General of European Biodiesel Board (EBB) highlighted: *"We share, with many other experts, reservations over the academic value and scientific reliability of this additional Land Use review. Following strong pressures and transparency doubts by many stakeholders, the Commission was obliged to publish this new Land Use review without any model disclosure nor a peer-review having been performed. The results obtained differ to a great extent from those put forward in the CARB legislation, an open and peer-reviewed process which led to ILUC values for biodiesel which are four to five times lower than those found by the Globiom study"*.

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<sup>1</sup> International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

<sup>2</sup> The new Low Carbon Fuels Standard (LCFS) adopted in September 2015 by the California's Air Resources Board (CARB).

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.arb.ca.gov/fuels/lcfs/peerreview/peerreview.htm>

<sup>4</sup> See page 60 in the new Low Carbon Fuels Standard. The regulation affirms that, depending on its feedstock, biodiesel reduces greenhouse gas emissions from 50% to 81% on average compared with petroleum.

The **European Biodiesel Board (EBB)** is a non-profit organisation established in January 1997. Today, EBB gathers nearly 80 members across 21 Member-States, which represents 75% of the European output. Biodiesel is the main European solution to reduce emissions from transport and dependence on imported oil. EBB aims to promote the use of biodiesel in the European Union and is committed to fulfil International standards for sustainability in GHG emissions and sustainable feedstock. EBB is constantly working towards the development of improved and greener technologies.

**FEDIOL**, the EU vegetable oil and proteinmeal industry association, represents the interests of the European seed and bean crushers, meal producers, vegetable oils producers, refiners and bottlers. FEDIOL's members are 12 national associations and associated company members in 5 other EU countries. With about 150 facilities in Europe the sector provides 20.000 direct employments. Its members process approximately 36 million tonnes of basic products a year, both of EU origin and imported from third country markets. The sector processes notably rapeseed, sunflower seed, soybeans and linseed into oils and meals for food, feed, technical and energy uses essentially on the European market.

Founded in 2002, the **EOA** brings together the oilseed producing organizations from the main European countries (Germany, France, UK, Poland, Czech Republic, Finland and Belgium) and represents 90% of European oilseed production.

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