

Press Release

15 January 2014, Nuremberg

The new EBA President presents the latest European biogas statistics – growth continuous!

“The electricity produced today from biogas in Europe could replace seven nuclear reactors in Belgium or produce nearly as much power as coal power plants in the Czech Republic“ - said the newly elected EBA President – Dr. Jan Štambaský - at the Biogas Convention and Trade Fair in Nuremberg. Nevertheless, stagnation is observed in the biggest biogas contributor - Germany - and this is symptomatic for the rest of Europe. Continuous growth of the biogas-based energy in the whole continent is extremely important for Europe’s energy security and decarbonisation.

According to the recently published EBA Biogas Report, there are already more than 13 800 biogas plants in Europe and the number is still growing. Even Bulgaria and Serbia – for a long time white spots on the biogas map - opened the first installations in 2012 and joined the club of 31 European biogas countries. On a contrary to the previous years, the industry is currently booming in France, UK, Slovakia and Italy in particular, which doubled its number of installations from 521 up to 1264 within one year 2012. A great increase of biogas production was observed also in the Czech Republic, although until 2020 no additional capacity will be added due to the cut of Feed-in Tariffs for the new installations. Similarly, a significant slowdown of the biogas development occurs in Germany, where only 340 new plants were commissioned by the end of 2012 in contrary to the previous year with 1 270 plants added.

“Over 13 800 biogas plants and nearly 7,5 GW_{el} of installed capacity is a significant contribution to Europe’s energy security and decarbonisation” – said Jan Štambaský, the newly elected EBA President - “All electricity produced from biogas in 2012 in Europe could replace seven nuclear reactors in Belgium or produce nearly as much power as coal power plants in the Czech Republic“. Indeed, biogas has an ambitious target to replace fossil fuels in electricity, heating and biofuels sector and the potential is available in the whole continent. What happens in Germany is symptomatic for the rest of Europe, therefore it is extremely important to keep continuous growth of the biogas-based energy, especially that it is one of the cleanest and sustainable energy sources. The new EBA President wants to set an ambitious target for EBA and the biogas industry – at least 1.5% share in primary energy in the EU by 2020.

On 14 January in Nuremberg EBA members voted for Dr. Jan Štambaský to replace Dr. Arthur Wellinger in his position, after a 5-year long presidency of the latter. Also a new Executive Member –David Collins from the UK’s Renewable Energy Association, Biogas Group - has been elected to join the Board. “I feel that EBA is now mature enough to continue its mission under new leadership with young and dynamic executives” – stated Wellinger at the General Assembly – “I am leaving the association in good hands“. In 2014 it is already 5 years since the 11 national associations decided to establish European Biogas Association and since that time enormous work has been done to support the sector. At the end of September 2014 EBA will be presenting its achievements and vision for the Europe-wide biogas development at its biannual conference in the Netherlands. It is already second big event of the association and will cover i.a. biomethane production and utilisation, digestate as a fertiliser and efficiency improvements. The call for posters has been already opened; academia and students in particular are encouraged to respond to the call. More details can be found on www.BiogasConference.eu

Further information:

Agata Prządka (Technical Advisor), Email: Przadka@european-biogas.eu, Tel: +32 24 00 10 87

About European Biogas Association (EBA)

European Biogas Association aisbl (EBA) was founded 3 February 2009 as a Belgium non-profit organization aiming at promoting sustainable biogas production and use in Europe. EBA’s membership comprises currently national biogas associations, institutes and companies from 26 countries all across Europe. EBA unites a large number of the most experienced biogas experts in Europe and has highly experienced and skilled staff providing policy advice, know-how and information to promote beneficial legislation and framework conditions in the field of biogas. For further information visit: www.european-biogas.eu