



EBA
European Biogas Association

WORKSHOP REPORT

2ND EBA WORKSHOP ON DIGESTATE

15 October 2014, Renewable Energy House, Brussels

Around 50 participants gathered at Renewable Energy House, at EBA's headquarters in Brussels on October 15. The diverse audience, with guests from the Netherlands, France, Germany, UK, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Ireland and Italy came together to discuss several ongoing topics, such as the revision of the Fertilisers regulation and also define digestate's definition in several EU legislation, namely REACH, End-of-Waste criteria and Animals by-products directive, as well as digestate's role in sustainable agriculture. Speakers from the European Commission (DG Environment, DG Enterprise and DG Health and Consumers) and associations initiated very constructive discussions between the policy makers and audience. EBA's president Jan Štambaský welcomed the attendees and pointed out the fact that a lot of digestate is produced by the industry and this was the reason to gather main stakeholders in this field. He also briefly presented EBA's policy recommendations when it comes to addressing digestate as a valuable product.

Vincent Delvaux from DG Enterprise explained the recent developments of the Fertilisers regulation and its review. Safety and quality requirements have to ensure that digestate products placed on the market are safe and have certain quality as soil improver or organic fertiliser. He explained that the End-of-Waste criteria will now be developed under the Fertilisers regulation as an Annex, instead of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) and that the requirements will be based on a report from Joint Research Centre, however a procedure that will follow will allow this list to be amended.

Digestate plays an important role in sustainable agriculture and can contribute on several levels, explained Antonia Andugar while presenting Copa-Cogeca's latest position paper. She called for a liberalisation of digestate market and the routes this product enters the market and pointed out that digestate is treated differently in each Member state and that any European wide rule must not overrule the national standards.

The German Biogas Association prepared a good overview of the current state-of-art of digestate production from different feedstock and its



Above: A Q&A session with Vincent Delvaux, DG ENTR on revised Fertilisers Regulation

Below: Eric Liegois, DG ENTR with Franz Kirchmeyr, EBA vice-president and David Wilken, German Biogas Association during a coffee break





application. David Wilken once more stressed out the importance of digestate as a valuable product that has various environmental benefits, i.e. nutrient recycling and at the same time shared his concern that the energy use of manure is threatened by WDF.

Julien de Cruz structured presentation on DG Environment's REACH Directive gave the audience a better understanding of how digestate is treated by that Directive. He closely focused on Annex V of the Directive that defines exemptions such as naturally occurring substances, compost and biogas. However, he encouraged the stakeholders to address the need for exempting digestate from the scope of the Directive, as the European Commission is open for such a broadening of the Annex V. Jan Štambasky added that by achieving this, we can clearly push the industry forward.

This workshop also included a presentation from Matjaž Klemenčič, from DG Health and Consumers who delivered a very explanatory presentation on Animals by-products Regulation. He put a special spotlight on the Category 3 of the Regulation that covers material that is intended for biogas production and composting without a need for pasteurisation (except in cases of LT, LV, EE and Sicily) and the article that enables digestion residues to be placed on the market. He then explained the detailed treatment of this Category 3 material and transformation parameters. New amendments will exclude some materials which are products of compost transformation into biogas and that is not intended for non-arable land. This means that if this material is used for landscaping, park engineering etc. where animals or humans have no contact with the environment, this material will be excluded from veterinary control. Another exemption is foreseen for fertilisers intended for personal use.

Jan Štambasky closed the workshop and expressed his satisfaction with the content, number of participants and his gratefulness to the speakers.



Above: and below: snaps from the sessions and networking



**NEXT EBA WORKSHOP:
MARCH 25, BRUSSELS**

ON BIOMETHANE

[MORE INFORMATION SOON](#)

PRESENTATIONS AND PICTURES

- **ALL PRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE ATTENDEES**
- **EBA MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS TO THE PRESENTATIONS AND PICTURES IN THE MEMBERS SECTION OF THE WEBSITE**