



EBA
European Biogas Association

WORKSHOP REPORT

EBA'S CIRCULAR WORKSHOP

6 April 2016, Renewable Energy House, Brussels

Over 35 participants gathered at the Renewable Energy House, at EBA's premises in Brussels on the 6th of April. Participants came from ten different countries across the European continent. Amongst the attendees there were biogas companies, grid operators, EU-policy makers, national biogas associations as well as EU umbrella associations.

The Workshop gathered a wide array of experts and stakeholders, with the aim to establish the significance of the anaerobic digestion (AD) sector within Europe's Circular Economy. Jan Stambasky, EBA's president, introduced AD's success in Europe during the last years, he described its multiple benefits for the bioeconomy and then highlighted the relevance of EU policies to further develop the sector. Then Professor Erik Meers from Ghent University focused on the Nitrogen Cycle and the advantages that AD can bring to Europe's agriculture and environment, he also developed on the biorefinery concept. After that Jonathan de Mey of Biogas-E introduced DIGESMART, a project focusing on innovative techniques to produce and market processed digestate from animal slurry.

Franz Kirchmeyr, EBA's Vice-President, outlined the huge potential in Europe to make digestate fertiliser from residues and by-products, he then stressed on the importance to have in place the right EU legislation on both waste and fertilising products. The last presentation of the morning session was given by Piotr Barczak of the European Environmental Bureau, an NGO working on waste management. Mr Barczak called for strong waste management legislation based on the separate collection of biowaste, as this is fundamental to avoid GHG emissions and to boost nutrient recycling.



Above: Jan Stambasky, EBA

Below: participants benefit from the networking opportunities during one of the breaks





Following a networking lunch, Paolo Patruno presented the Italian company HEILIFE which produces compostable diapers and sanitary towels containing bioplastics. He explained that producing clean non-fossil materials is vital for Europe's Circular Economy and AD is an important step along this cycle.



Above: Paolo Patruno, HEILIFE

Johanna Bernsel and Eric Liegeois from the European Commission introduced the new EU proposal to include organic fertilising material within the Fertilisers Regulation. Participants had several questions on how to produce CE marked fertilisers. The Commission encouraged those present to give written feedback on the proposed text, which their service will compile and then forwarded to the European Parliament and the Council.

and below: Johanna Bernsel and Eric Liegeois, DG GROW

Dominique Dejonckheere from Copa Cogeca presented the farmers perspective. She acknowledged that AD brings many environmental and economic advantages, but also stressed that legislation should at the same time protect consumers. Lastly Davor Skrlec gave his views on the Waste Package revision as a Member of the European Parliament. He saw great potential in digesting and composting organic waste to reduce both nutrients and GHG emissions.



Jan Štambasky summed up the key points of the discussion. He invited the people present to come to EBA's future workshops and Conference. The President of EBA then thanked the speakers and participants for coming and closed the workshop.



**NEXT EBA EVENT:
BIANNUAL EBA CONFERENCE**

ON 27-29 SEPTEMBER

[SEE THE AGENDA AND REGISTER HERE](#)

PRESENTATIONS AND PICTURES

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