Founded in 2009, the European Biogas Association (EBA) promotes the sustainable production and use of biogas and biomethane from anaerobic digestion (AD) and biomass gasification in Europe. This covers all energetic applications of biogas, including heat, electricity and automotive fuel. The EBA’s membership comprises national biogas associations, institutes and companies from over 26 countries across Europe. The member associations include the majority of producers, companies, consultants and researchers in the field of biogas within Europe.

EBA strategy identifies three priorities: to establish biogas as an important part of Europe’s energy mix; to promote source separation of household waste with a view to increasing the gas potential; and to support the production of biomethane as vehicle fuel.

The EBA’s strategy is based on reaching the full potential for biogas and biomethane production, which equals roughly 10% of the EU’s current natural gas consumption. Furthermore, the EBA’s work revolves around the significant part played by biogas and biomethane in key EU policies such as climate targets, energy security, resource efficiency and circular economy, and a range of environmental legislation including that relating to air quality, prevention of contamination, bioeconomy and waste management.
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You are reading the eighth Annual Report of the EBA.

“The previous year will be remembered as a year of a further EBA growth, as well as a year of major achievements. It is a privilege to share these news with you in this Annual Report.”

The EBA activities in 2016 were already fully focussed to policy work on aspects concerning anaerobic digestion, gasification, and power-to-gas technology. With an increased team, the EBA was able to cope with an increased activity of the European Commission, and successfully addressed topics which relate to our all industries.

Eight years of work is already a significant portion, and I am proud to conclude that EBA is already fully recognised by the policy makers in Brussels as the knowledge centre of biogas industry. It is much satisfying to experience this change, and it is a pleasure to share this with you, with our members.

The year 2016 will be remembered as the year when a year’s long work of the EBA has been crowned by creation of the European Renewable Gas Register (ERGaR). Every single entrepreneur is much aware that a size of his product’s market matters very much. One may feel surprised, but a single market for biomethane does not exist in the current European Union. ERGaR is the instrument aiming to change this into a history. This is a great opportunity for our industries, and I am confident ERGaR will be a solid fundament of the future biogas industry growth.

2016 was also the year of the EBA Conference. This biennial event starts to be a good tradition, as well as a growing event too. Number of you personally experienced the hospitality of Ghent and Flanders, together with contributions of some of the top European policy representatives, including the Commission Vice-President Katainen himself.

Naturally, the vast majority of the year was occupied by our day-to-day work, meaning the lobby work in Brussels. Numbers of policies have been successfully processed, commented, and discussed with the politicians. The legal packages on heating and cooling, circular economy, organic fertilisers, RES policy beyond 2020, biofuels directive, and security of gas supplies being among the most extensive and important files in 2016.
The EBA also continued its work in the Gas Quality Working Group at the Technical Association of the European Gas Industry, as well as in the Sustainable Transport Forum.

An important part of our policy work is in workshops, where the key stakeholders have the chance to meet up together and to actively exchange their views. We have organized four workshops on the most pressing issues; on circular economy, on trans-European biomethane market, on renewable gases, and on gas engines and their role in decentralised energy supply. The number of people from the EU institutions, who attended these workshops, confirmed both, our communication strategy, and the importance of the presented topics, which we brought towards audience in Brussels.

I would also like to highlight the work of our Advisory Councils. It is the credit of Erik Meers and Philipp Lukas, the chairmen of the Scientific Advisory Council and the Company Advisory Council respectively, who made these councils work with vibrant and productive atmosphere again.

All these achievements are underlined by a number of documents we did publish for you, our members. It greatly motivates our effort, knowing these documents are used by our members, in their effort, when working on national level, in their home countries.

It is my pleasure to encourage you to read this report, and to read more on this successful story. Last, but definitely not the least, I would like to acknowledge the work of the EBA office team. Susanna Pflüger proved to be an excellent Secretary General and Senior Policy Advisor, combining both positions with unprecedented skills. As in previous years, I am pleased to have welcomed newcomers who have successfully linked their careers with the EBA. The following names should be applauded when summing up the 2016 EBA achievements: Nicolás de la Vega, Senior Policy Advisor; Martina Conton, Policy Advisor; Beatriz Peón, Communications and Events Officer; Lea Sorak, Communications Assistant; Stefanie Scheidl, Technical and Project Officer; and Bruno Deremince, who joined our team as the new Technical Assistant.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the EBA board members, who contribute in the fields of their expertise on voluntary basis. This report would be much thinner without their professional work. It is of my great pleasure to be a part of this team.

Jan Stambasky,
President of the European Biogas Association
Biogas is a versatile energy source and the EBA’s goal is that the fuel should contribute at least 1.5% of the EU’s primary energy mix, corresponding to about 5% of the EU’s natural gas consumption (in energy equivalent terms).

Since 2015, the EBA has also advocated sustainable biomethane production from the gasification of renewable organic material.

Anaerobic digestion and gasification industries can produce sustainable biogas from biomass, which can replace imported natural gas.

2016 is the fourth year that the EBA has successfully worked on the strategy set by its Board in 2013: namely, to increase the market share of the products of anaerobic digestion – biogas, biomethane and digestate. Specific production targets for biogas and biomethane were set for the years 2020 and 2030, and key policy areas for lobbying at EU level were identified.

**2020**

| Biogas is a versatile energy source and the EBA’s goal is that the fuel should contribute at least 1.5% of the EU’s primary energy mix, corresponding to about 5% of the EU’s natural gas consumption (in energy equivalent terms). |

**2030**

| The EBA believes in an overall potential of at least 30 billion m³/year biogas production from anaerobic digestion. Thermal biomass is also capable of contributing substantial volumes of syngas and biomethane. Taken together, an estimate for the total production of biomethane is 50 billion m³ per year. With the right policies in place, the industry could produce renewable energy equivalent to approximately 10% of the EU’s current natural gas consumption, for use in electricity generation, for heating and cooling and as a vehicle fuel. |
2016 Highlights

Initiation of the Biogas Action project

**January**

**EVENT:** EBA General Assembly and CAC & SAC meetings, Nuremberg, DE

**PR:** European Biogas Association elects a new Board Member

**PR:** European Biogas Association appoints a new Secretary General

**February**

**EVENT:** EBA General Assembly and CAC & SAC meetings, Nuremberg, DE

**EVENT:** EBA at ACI Gasification Summit, Rotterdam, NL

**EVENT:** EBA at FEE Gasification Workshop, Brussels, BE

**Joint PR:** EBA speaks at AD & Biogas Conference, Birmingham, UK

**Joint PR:** Binding renewable energy target – legislative proposals must now deliver

**EBA contributes to REN 21 "Renewables 2016 Global Status"**

**March**

**EVENT:** EBA at ACI Gasification Summit, Rotterdam, NL

**PR:** EBA speaks at FEE Gasification Workshop, Brussels, BE

**Joint Event:** Trans-European Biomethane Market, Brussels, BE

**April**

**EVENT:** EBA Circular Economy Workshop, Brussels, BE

**PUBLICATION:** Success Stories: Anaerobic digestion of biodegradable municipal solid waste in European cities

**PR:** European Biogas Association appoints a new Secretary General

**May**

**EBA participates at REGATEC, Malmo, SE**

**PUBLICATION:** Establishment of the European Renewable Gas Registry (ERGaR) aisl

**Joint PR:** Biogas CHPs are key to greening heating & cooling in a very energy-efficient way

**Joint Event:** Workshop at the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2016, Brussels, BE

**June**

**PUBLICATION:** Statistical Report of the European Biogas Association 2016 published

**PR:** EBA at ACI Gasification Summit, Rotterdam, NL

**Joint PR:** Biogas CHPs are key to greening heating & cooling in a very energy-efficient way

**Joint Event:** Workshop at the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2016, Brussels, BE

**PR:** European Biogas Association appoints a new Secretary General

**PR:** EBA Statistical Report 2016 published: Biogas sector grows steadily in Europe

**July**

**Joint Event:** Breakfast Debate at the European Parliament

**EBA speaks at the AD & Biogas Conference, Birmingham, UK**

**Joint PR:** Binding renewable energy target – legislative proposals must now deliver

**EBA contributes to REN 21 "Renewables 2016 Global Status"**

**August**

**EBA announces partnerships with Biogas World and the Syngas Technologies Council**

**EBA speaks at Biogas Science, Szeged, HU**

**September**

**EVENT:** EBA Conference: Greening Gas & 1st EBA Poster Award, Ghent, BE

**PR:** The great potential of biogas and its role in the upcoming gas revolution were the main messages of the EBA Conference 2016

**PR:** Establishment of the European Renewable Gas Registry (ERGaR) aisl

**October**

**EBA attends EUFORES Inter-Parliamentary Meeting, Copenhagen, DK**

**November**

**EBA meets with Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete**

**EBA exhibits at the Biogas Convention and Energy Decentral, Hannover, DE**

**EBA joins joint-initiative for the promotion of renewable energy: #renEUable**

**December**

**PUBLICATION:** Statistical Report of the European Biogas Association 2016 published
During 2016 there were important developments at EU level concerning waste and fertiliser legislation, which falls under the European Commission’s Circular Economy Strategy, published in December 2016. A core element of this strategy is the Waste Package Commission proposal of late 2015, which was discussed throughout 2016 by the European Parliament and the Council. There are several measures under discussion which, if adopted, would have an impact on the quality and quantity of feedstock available for digestion. These include municipal waste recycling targets, a stronger separate source collection system for biowaste, better recognition of by-products in national legislation and a cap on the landfilling of biowaste.

The EBA has been active in the revision of waste legislation for several years. In the early stages, the EBA met Commission officials and provided technical advice in preparation for the legislative proposal. During 2016 the EBA has prepared a waste position and scheduled several rounds of meetings with key actors working on this file, including political groups in the European Parliament, permanent representations of member states and stakeholders. The EBA will keep working on this file in 2017.

During 2016 the EBA also worked on a related topic – the Commission’s upcoming Waste-to-Energy Communication. The main aim of this non-legislatve file is to quantify the energy potential of existing waste and residues in the EU as well as to evaluate the performance of different technologies (e.g. anaerobic digestion and gasification). The EBA has provided technical support to the Commission as well as to the researchers preparing a related background report for the Joint Research Centre. Work on this is drawing to a close and the Communication is expected to be published in early 2017.

Another important file within the Circular Economy agenda is the revision of the Fertilisers Regulation to include organic fertilisers. This will make it possible for digestate and compost to be traded across the EU as a CE marked product, while ensuring their end-of-waste status. The EBA is an active member of the Commission’s Fertilisers Working Group, to which it contributes with technical information. In 2016 it also joined a related Technical group at the Joint Research Centre dealing with innovative fertilisers (e.g. struvite and biochar).
Since the publication of the Commission’s proposal in March 2016, the EBA has been actively engaging the European Parliament and the Council as the European umbrella organisation for the digestate sector. This activity will continue for most of 2017 until a compromise is found between Parliament and Council.

The fertilisers revision is also related to three other policy topics on which the EBA has worked during 2016. The first is the status of digestate within the EU’s REACH legislation covering chemicals; the second is the place of digested manure within the Nitrates Directive; and the third is the EU’s Animal By-Products legislation. All three will remain relevant for the EBA in 2017.

New RES policy beyond 2020: RED & Governance:

Under the European Council’s mandate of October 2014, in which the 28 EU Member States committed to raising the share of renewable energy in Europe by 27%, and the momentum created by the ratification of the Paris agreement by the national Parliaments, the long awaited new policy for renewable energies in Europe was published in December 2016. The target of at least 27% renewables in energy consumption by 2030 will have to be met collectively by the 28 EU countries. The proposal is part of a larger package designed to keep the European Union competitive as the clean energy transition changes our energy markets.

The integrated national energy and climate plans and reports form part of the governance proposal and are a completely new tool, merging together all previous single reports needed by the Member States to detail progress towards their different climate targets. They constitute the backbone of the package, offering a guarantee of the consistency and accountability of national objectives within the framework of the 2030 EU decarbonisation targets. The EBA has worked jointly with the other RES industry associations to ensure a holistic and coherent approach facilitating the exploitation of the many synergies between the different energy dimensions.

By 2018, the Member States are called on to pledge contributions through their integrated national energy and climate plans. The draft plans will serve as a basis for the Commission’s first assessment to detect any potential shortfall with regard to the 27% goal and recommend further measures to individual Member States in order to coordinate efforts to meet the objective. Ultimately, the Commission could revise the collective ambition upwards.
EU sustainability policy for biogas:

With the publication of the “Clean Energy Package” in December, the EBA also welcomed the latest proposal for sustainability criteria post-2020. On the transport side, the European Commission capitalised on the previous extensive ILUC debate to introduce a gradual phasing-out of food and feed-based biofuels. No further substantial changes are envisaged for transport, but for the next decade electricity, heating and cooling will be challenged with new criteria. From 2021, only bioenergy produced from sustainable feedstock ensuring a GHG emissions savings of 80% (85% from 2026) will count towards the 27% general target when consumed as electricity, heating or cooling.

Ahead of this publication, the EBA developed a position paper with the scientific input of its members to modify the fossil fuel comparator for biomethane and value thereby its GHG emissions savings. Close cooperation with the European Commission ensured the successful removal of natural gas as fossil fuel comparator, and its replacement with a new methodology which compares all biofuels fairly and on the same level playing field. In 2017, the new criteria will be discussed as part of the Renewable Energy Directive by the European Parliament and the Council for further consideration.

Biomethane trade and use as a transport fuel

The role of biomethane keeps on growing at a steady pace, as it gains an increasingly larger share in the European fuels mix. Biomethane is presenting itself as one of the most effective options for the decarbonisation of the transport sector in Europe. This is already acknowledged by some European countries that have decided to set their national target and rely on biomethane to meet their climate mitigation goals. The year 2016 has seen also the launch of the activities of the European Renewable Gas Registry (ERGaR), which will contribute to the integration of biomethane markets across Europe. Ahead of the publication of the new Renewable Energy Directive for the period post-2020, the EBA’s activities in 2016 focused on providing constant information to EU policy makers. Two open consultations and a position paper have been key to proposing concrete solutions to improve the new RED version so as to support them in their work. This commitment to the institutions and the links developed with other EU stakeholders sharing common interests resulted in a new favourable legislative framework for biomethane.
An ambitious target for advanced biofuels, such as biomethane, has been put forward, heading towards a minimum share of 3.8% of total fuels consumption by 2030. The extension of Guarantees of Origin and the mass-balancing system to include renewable gases will fix those technical gaps present in the old RED, easing cross-border administrative procedures and trading among EU countries.

The EBA’s work on the promotion of biomethane in the transport sector in 2016 also included participation in two open consultations concerning the revision of EU legislation to set CO₂ emission limits for new cars and vans, and the introduction of similar legislation for buses and lorries. The new obligations for Member States under the reformed non-ETS Regulation, which covers transport among other categories, has been also part of the EBA’s regulatory monitoring activities.

“Biogas and biomethane production are the most efficient ways to store CO₂ in the soil”

Giovanni La Via,
President of the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament
Security of gas supply:

The Commission’s “Energy Security Package”, presented in February 2016, showed that gas will stay high on the EU agenda in the coming years. Reducing dependency on third country suppliers while allowing a more efficient crisis management to mitigate the risks of internal supply shortage is the aim of the revised Regulation on Security of Gas Supply, also part of the Package.

The EBA worked closely with the co-legislators to ensure that the development of this Regulation will recognise biogas and biomethane as valuable renewable energy carriers able to contribute to the security of domestic gas supply along with natural gas by tackling the expansion of the domestic diversification of sources first. The negotiations will come to an end early in 2017 and the EBA will make sure that the co-legislators will be receptive to biomethane as a source of gas supply, able to provide short term flexibility in times of high demand.

“Over 1.2 million jobs have already been created in Europe by the renewable energy industry and this is just the beginning...”

Miguel Arias Cañete,
European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy
In February 2016, the European Commission published a Heating and Cooling Strategy; this was the first EU publication to deal exclusively with the thermal sector in an effort to highlight current challenges and possible options for decarbonisation. The EBA provided its comments to the Commission prior to this publication and after that worked on a related Initiative Report at the European Parliament. The EBA’s efforts during 2016 include preparing a Heating and Cooling position paper and organising a breakfast event in the European Parliament dealing with biogas for heat production. Work in this field will continue during 2017 under three important revisions for the thermal sector: the Renewable Energy Directive; the Energy Efficiency Directive; and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.
As the umbrella organisation for the biogas industry in Europe and for the benefit of its members, as well as ensuring and confirming the sustainability of biogas, EBA has to bring together both industry and science and enable close interaction between the two communities.

The Company Advisory Council (CAC) is a platform representing the European biogas industry, including planners, manufacturers of biogas plants and components, operators, representatives of science and research, consultants and providers of training. These companies are EBA associate members that engage actively in the EBA’s decision and policy making.

The CAC offers them a strong platform for promotion and access to a wide target audience and opportunities with a broad outreach to Europe in general. Such a platform enables companies to enter new markets, promote their products and services and generally improve their businesses through wide-ranging advertising and sponsorship opportunities.

The CAC is led by Chairman Mr. Philipp Lukas, Managing Director of Future Biogas UK, and Vice-Chairman Mr. Michael Niederbacher, CEO of BTS Biogas Italy.

Four meetings of the CAC were held in 2016:
- 16th of February – Nuremberg
- 09th of June – Strasbourg
- 27th of September – Ghent
- 16th of November – Hannover

This year also marks the establishment of two Working Groups that address issues common to companies active in the biogas sector. One Working Group is concerned with the public image of biogas. Their findings will result in a public image campaign launched in 2017. A second Working Group started examining the topic of biomethane in transport.
The Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) comprises the EBA’s network of researchers, scientists and university teachers dedicated to the promotion of the biogas sector by means of scientific evidence. The main objectives of the SAC are to provide scientific evidence in support of the EBA’s position papers and other communications, to advise on the programmes of EBA workshops and conferences and to support the EBA Board in its evaluation of project proposals. The SAC is led by Chairman Prof. Erik Meers from the University of Ghent Belgium and Biogas-E, the Flemish Biogas Association, and Vice-Chairman Prof. Frank Scholwin from the Institute of Biogas, Waste Management and Energy Germany.

Five meetings of the SAC were held in 2016, two of which were conference calls:

- 16th of February – Nuremberg
- 05th of April – Brussels
- 13th of June – Conference call
- 27th of September – Ghent
- 13th of December – Conference call

The main topics addressed by the SAC in 2016 were the EBA conference in September in Ghent, the advocacy of Horizon 2020 (the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation), implementing gasification actively into the EBA’s agenda, extending the analysis of biogas economics from Italian calculations to the whole of Europe and developing further calculation methods for the CO₂ footprint of anaerobic digestion processes.
The EBA has completed another successful year in terms of communication activities, which have included online visibility, presence in both online and offline media, and the use of a wide range of communication tools all aimed at promoting the network and its members, as well as championing biogas in general terms as a sustainable and locally-produced fuel.

In 2016, he EBA followed through more than 20 partnerships with numerous media channels and European-wide events, including the Biogas Channel, Biogas Convention (DE), Expobiogaz (FR), the Biogas Journal and many others.

EBA’s website is continuously updated with EBA, EU and country specific news, as well as position papers and press releases.

In 2016, the EBA developed the strategy of its first communications campaign, a joint-effort with its dedicated members that will be launched in 2017. The one-year-long initiative, “Biogas for You”, aims to improve the way biogas is understood and perceived in Europe.

The Gasification Campaign has been ongoing as the result of focusing efforts on expanding the EBA’s remit to include gasification. So far, the EBA has attracted the support of renowned experts, as well as creating a brochure and a dedicated space on its website, among other materials.

A strong and well-prepared social media performance is paying off: the EBA continues to enjoy a considerable increase in its public impact, this year reaching more than 4,100 followers on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.
Each year, the EBA launches its **Statistical Report of the European Biogas Association**, a comprehensive analysis sourced from national associations, national statistical reports and EBA experts’ own research. The result is an edition aimed at building on the analytical research of past years, offering a one of a kind overview of the biogas and biomethane sectors as well as future policies and opportunities across Europe.

The **Companies Catalogue** and **Success Stories** disseminate information on the services offered by the biogas companies active in international business and their examples of good practice. The catalogue includes basic data about each associated member, geographical areas of activity and references, while the Success Stories cover achievements in the biogas industry, such as process optimization, energy efficiency, feedstock use or increased sustainability. In 2016, the EBA compiled 21 success stories from 9 countries. Around 1,000 printed and digital copies were disseminated in 2016.

The EBA has continued its series of **factsheets** with the publication of **Biomethane in Transport**. The brochure contains a summary of the main arguments in favour of the use of biomethane in the transport sector. It also offers a complete overview of the current challenges and future opportunities for gas-powered transport, as well as the current state and future of biomethane in Europe, and identifies best practices and innovative projects. These publications are developed in cooperation with national associations and other partners of the EBA.

Following recent policy developments in the waste management sector, including the push for source separated collection of biowaste, improved recycling targets and further shift from landfilling of biowaste, the EBA has produced its **Success Stories: anaerobic digestion of biodegradable municipal solid waste in European cities**. The 6 cities featured in this publication have applied anaerobic digestion as the best option for the treatment of biowaste coming from urban activities as a share of the total municipal solid waste, showing the benefits and opportunities a biogas plant brings to local authorities.
With a consortium of 11 partners from 7 countries, the BIOSURF project strives to increase the production and use of biomethane (from animal waste, other waste materials and sustainable biomass), for grid injection and as transport fuel, by removing non-technical barriers and by paving the way for a European biomethane market. Key actions include:

- Develop a value chain analysis from production to use reflecting territorial, physical and economic features
- Analyse, compare and promote biomethane registering, labelling, certification and trade practices in Europe
- Address traceability, environmental criteria and quality standards, aiming to reduce GHG emissions and indirect land-use change (iLUC)
- Identify the most prominent drivers for CO2-emissions along the value chain as an input for future optimisation
- Exchange information and best practice throughout Europe concerning biomethane policy, regulation, support schemes and technical standards.

The EBA has taken the lead in 3 work packages: Biomethane trade; Impact analysis and policy dimension; and Dissemination, exploitation and communication.

Duration: January 2015 – December 2017
Partners: EBA, ISIS, AKB, AGCS, CIB, FNR, HBA, DBFZ, GRCETA, REA, GBA
The EBA has been granted a role in this project, to be launched in 2016. The overall aim of the project is to serve as vehicle for the development of the European biogas sector and to help increase the production of biogas and biomethane in the European Union. In order to achieve this, it will focus on removing non-technical barriers so as to contribute to the creation of better frameworks. The EBA will be responsible for working packages providing administrative toolkits to facilitate the successful development of regional biogas initiatives and deployment, and will also undertake dissemination and communication tasks.

The project is based on a deeper cooperation between the different policy levels (European, national and regional), and on its implementation in various EU regions by:

- Identifying and disseminating proven support strategies and guidelines, to fulfil the potential for biogas and biomethane development in Europe.
- Defining and implementing a specific biogas/biomethane intervention strategy in each target country/region. The strategies will consist of a range of specific activities and measures, focusing on the removal of non-technical barriers to the widespread production and use of biogas/biomethane from codigestion of manure and organic wastes. The project plans 50 specific quality, sustainable biogas projects in the intervention regions.
- Exchanging knowledge and experience within and beyond the target areas and the project lifetime. The project will establish systematic knowledge sharing, through learning and networking, so that the actions could be replicated at the European level, and after the project lifetime.

Duration: January 2016 – December 2018

Partners: EBA, ECNet, DFFB, RAEE, CCS, IBBK, Fedarene, Ekodona, CzBA, EIHP, SWEA, AILE, ESS
2016 has brought further success in terms of event organisation by the EBA, with a total of 6 events organised by the EBA alone or in collaboration with others, of which the EBA Conference: Greening Gas, was one of the highlights. EBA representatives were also present at various relevant events and actively participated in several trade fairs such as Expobiogaz (FR), as well as being invited to speak at the FEE Gasification Meeting (DE), the ATBEST Conference: Biogas for the future (SE) and the Methane Emissions Industry Meeting (BE), among many others.

Over 35 participants gathered on the 6th of April to learn about the value of organic waste as a secondary raw material, both for the economy and for the environment, within Europe’s Circular Economy.

EBA President Jan Stambasky’s opening was followed by other high-level speakers such as Ms Johanna Bernsel and Mr Eric Liegeios from the European Commission’s DG GROW, who introduced the new EU proposal to include organic fertilising material within the Fertilisers Regulation. The European Parliament was represented by MEP Mr Davor Skrlec, who closed the event by praising the great opportunity, in the digesting and composting of organic waste, to reduce both nutrient loss and GHG emissions.

The EBA, EUROGAS and GIE (Gas Infrastructure Europe) organised a joint workshop on the Trans-European Biomethane Market on the 26th of April in Brussels, to highlight the potential of biomethane for decarbonisation and energy security across Europe.

The event attracted relevant stakeholders from academia, political institutions, national biomethane organisations and natural gas operators. Participants enjoyed an overview of the current biomethane situation in Europe and the progress made so far by three pioneering EU countries – Sweden, Germany and France – driven by different national support systems. Ms Ruta Baltause (Commission’s DG ENER) contributed to the event by confirming that power-to-gas will receive growing attention as a possible means to absorb and value the current surplus of electricity in the EU.
In the context of the European Sustainable Energy Week 2016, the key stakeholder groups for gas – the 5 Brussels-based organisations CEDEC, Eurogas, the EBA, FCH JU & GEODE – came together to highlight the potential of renewable gases in decarbonising the energy system.

The session explored the potential role that renewable gases can play in the EU energy mix and how the existing gas grids can be used to accommodate them. This event was unique in that it brought together the key stakeholder groups on this topic on a European basis for the first time: the biogas and biomethane producers, the distribution gas grid operators and the gas suppliers.

On the 29th of June, the EBA and the European Engine Power Plants Association (EUGINE) co-organised a breakfast event in the European Parliament on “Greening Heating and Cooling with Biogas”, hosted by MEP Algirdas Saudargas, Shadow Rapporteur for Heating and Cooling Strategy in the ITRE Committee.

The discussion amongst Members of the European Parliament and industry experts was both lively and very timely due to the upcoming EU legislative initiatives on renewable energy, energy efficiency, the energy performance of buildings and the electricity market design. Participants learnt about and discussed the different opportunities for decarbonising the heating and cooling sector with very energy efficient cogeneration units using biogas. The closing remarks from MEP Algirdas Saudargas stressed the importance of considering the use of biogas CHPs to decarbonise the energy sector in a sustainable way.
More than 200 delegates gathered in Ghent, Belgium, on the 27-29 September, to attend the latest edition of the EBA Conference. The programme, with contributions by a record number of 47 speakers, 2 co-hosts, 10 sponsors, 19 exhibitors and 33 poster presenters, was attended by stakeholders coming from 29 different countries.

On the second day, the programme included three blocks of three sessions each, covering issues such as biogas and biomethane production, current and future markets, biomethane in transport and biorefineries and digestate. The last sessions were focused on power to gas, methane emissions production and sustainable raw materials before the final session on climate change.

The event started with a plenary session on political affairs that included interventions by high-level speakers from the European Commission and the European Parliament alike, including Mr Jirky Katainen, Mrs Marie Donnelly and Mr Giovanni La Via, who then shared a panel discussion with EBA President Dr Jan Stambasky and Secretary General Susanna Pflüger.

“We have the potential to double the production of biogas by 2020”

Marie Donnelly, Director for Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency, European Commission
On the last day of the Conference, 56 participants joined a Study Tour of the nearby facilities of Ivaco (Gistel) and Digrom (Ardooie), to learn about these local installations and their role in the Circular Economy.

Exhibition

This year’s edition included a parallel exhibition, which counted with a total of 19 exhibitors.

Poster Award

During the final plenary session, EBA President Dr Stambasky presented the First EBA Poster Award, received by Ms Lucy Culleton for her work titled "Underpinning green energy: Reference gas standards & methods for measurement of siloxanes in biogas".

Thanks to the great acceptance of this initiative, also future EBA Conferences will hold the EBA Poster Award.

All efforts are now focused on the organisation and promotion of the upcoming 4th EBA Conference. The Conference will take place in Antwerp (BE) in January 2018 and will aim to achieve the same high levels of success reached in previous years.
Nine members from eight different European countries met on the 28th September in Ghent, Belgium, to attend the founding meeting of ERGaR, an association that seeks to establish an independent, transparent and trustworthy documentation scheme for the mass balancing of biomethane distributed via the European natural gas network.

Building on national registries, the documentation system enables cross-border trade of renewable gases through the European natural gas network while preventing double sale and double counting. The first task of the ERGaR association is to elaborate the detailed procedures for performing the mass balancing of biomethane injected into the European natural gas system and to apply for the recognition of the voluntary scheme by the European Commission in accordance with the Renewable Energy Directive, the Fuel Quality Directive and other related legislative documents.

The founding members of ERGaR welcome and expect other organisations (such as national biomethane registries, national biogas associations, natural gas industry partners, and other stakeholders in the European biogas and biomethane industries) to join the ERGaR association and to participate in establishing a documentation system applicable all over Europe.
Organisational Structure

The EBA is managed by the Executive Board and the Secretariat. Following this year’s General Assembly in Nuremberg, Mrs. Susanna Pflüger was appointed by the Board as the new Secretary General.

An increase in the scope and activities of the EBA resulted in the addition of new colleagues to the Secretariat in Brussels.

The EBA’s Secretariat is thus run by Susanna Pflüger (Secretary General), who deals with the association’s day-to-day business and executes tasks delegated by the Executive Board.

The rest of the EBA team is made up by Nicolás de la Vega (Senior Policy Advisor) along with Martina Conton (Policy Advisor), Beatriz Peón (Communications and Events Officer) and Lea Sorak (Communications Assistant), as well as Stefanie Scheidl (Technical and Projects Officer) and Bruno Deremince (Technical Assistant).
In 2016, the EBA continued to be a member of EREF (the European Renewable Energies Federation) and EUFORES (the European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources). Furthermore, the association continued its collaboration with the European Compost Network (ECN), the European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform (ESPP) and the Baltic Sea Action Group concerning digestate and animal by-product issues. With NGVA Europe (the Natural Gas Vehicle Association), the EBA worked to advocate increasing use of biogas as a vehicle fuel. During 2016, the EBA has joined forces with other renewable energy associations in the preparation of several joint position papers, including AEBIOM, Solar Power Europe, the EWEA, EGEC, EHPA, ESTIF, the HEA and Ocean Energy Europe. This year, they have collectively launched the #renEUable communications campaign on Twitter to highlight the role of renewable energy in Europe.

The EBA continues its successful collaboration with GIE (Gas Infrastructure Europe), Eurogas, Marcogaz (Technical Association of the European Gas industry), ENTSOG, GEOD and CEDEC to remove administrative barriers to biomethane trade.
ARGE Kompost & Biogas
www.kompost-biogas.at

ValBiom - Association de valorisation de la biomasse
www.valbiom.be

EDORA - Fédération des producteurs d’énergies renouvelables
www.edora.be

Biogas-E - Anaerobic Digestion platform for Flanders
www.biogas-e.be

Vlaco - Vlaamse Compostorganisatie
http://www.vlaco.be/

CzBA - Czech Biogas Association
www.czba.cz

Brancheforeningen for Biogas
www.biogasbranchen.dk

MTÜ - Eesti Biogaasi Assotsiatsioon
eba.eestibiogaas.ee

Suomen Biokaasuyhdistys
www.biokaasuyhdistys.net

AMF - Association des Agriculteurs Méthaniseurs de France
www.pardessuslahaise.net

ATEE Club Biogaz
www.atee.fr/biogaz

Fachverband Biogas
www.biogas.org

FNNB - Fördergesellschaft für nachhaltige Biogas- und Bioenergienutzung e.V.
www.fnbb.de

HEL.BI.O - Hellenic Biogas Association
www.helbio.gr

Magyar Biogáz Egyesület
www.biogas.hu

CRE - Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland
www.cre.ie

IrBEA - Irish Biomass Association
www.irbea.ie

RGFI—Renewable Gas Forum Ireland
http://renewablegasforum.com/
CIB – Consorzio Italiano Biogas e Gassificazione  
www.consorziobiogas.it

FIPER - Federazione Italiana di Produttori di Energia da Fonti Rinnovabili  
http://www.fiper.it/

Latvijas Bigazes Asociacijā  
latvijasbiogaze.lv

Bioduju Asociacijā  
www.lbda.lt

VGGP - Association of Green Gas Producers  
www.vggp.nl

BBO – Biogas Branche Organisatie  
http://www.bbo.nu/home

PIGEO - Polish Economic Chamber of Renewable Energy  
www.piego.org.pl

UPEBI – (Union of Producers and Employers of Biogas Industry)  
http://www.upebi.pl/site/aktualnosci

ARBIO - Romanian Association of Biomass and Biogas  | www.arbio.ro

Udruženje Biogas Srbija  
www.biogas.org.rs

AVEOZ - Asociácia výrobcov energie z obnoviteľných zdrojov  
www.aveoz.sk

Biogas section of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Food and Agriculture  
www.gzs.si/slo/panoge/zbornica_kmetijskih_in_zivilskih_podjetij

AEBIG - Spanish Biogas Association  
www.aebig.org

Energigas Sverige  
www.energigas.se

Biomasse Suisse  
www.biomasseschweiz.ch

ADBA - The Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association  
www.adbiogas.co.uk

REA Biogas Group - UK Renewable Energy Association  
www.r-e-a.net
The European Biogas Association enjoys a steadily-growing membership from Europe and beyond, creating a unique network of national biogas associations, companies, universities, research institutes, public authorities and individuals.

Join us today to help build and promote the sustainable production and use of biogas and biomethane from anaerobic digestion (AD) and biomass gasification in Europe.

For more information on membership advantages and the EBA membership application process, please contact us at info@european-biogas.eu, call us at +32 24 00 10 89 or visit our website: