

(08) PR 11  
7.07.2008

**FEFAC's general viewpoint on the draft proposal for a  
Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on the promotion of  
the use of energy from renewable sources**

**(COM(2008) 19 – C6-0046/2008 - 2008/16(COD))**

- FEFAC acknowledges the strategic importance of a EU energy policy promoting renewable energy sources for the European Union seeking to decrease dependency from third countries and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. FEFAC also believes that biofuels can provide an interesting contribution to this objective while offering new economic opportunities for EU agriculture.
- FEFAC however stresses that a number of studies tend to confirm that the increasing global demand for cereals and oilseeds for biofuels production purpose had a negative impact on food security worldwide, something which was highlighted by the European Parliament in the resolution on "Rising food prices in the EU and developing countries" adopted on 22 May 2008. It is therefore essential that the highest attention is paid to the EU policy on biofuels to minimise the impact on the feed and food sectors.
- FEFAC also holds the view that the EU has not sufficiently investigated the economic consequences on expanding biofuel production on feed prices and their subsequent impact on the competitiveness of the EU livestock industry. If there is no doubt that prices for "energy" crops such as cereals will rise due to the new global demand for biofuel worldwide, FEFAC believes that the assumption that prices for vegetable proteins may fall as a result of growing offer of protein rich co-products of the biofuel industry is contradicted at the moment by facts.
- FEFAC therefore urges EU authorities, when considering the proposed Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources:
  - to reconsider the opportunity of maintaining a mandatory target for biofuels;
  - to condition, in any case, compliance with any minimum target to
    - the availability of the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation biofuels in commercial scale;
    - the availability of sufficient agriculture resources to ensure the security of supply of food and feed in the EU;
    - an assessment of the impact of the development of biofuels on availability of feed & food worldwide;
    - the introduction of a review clause based on the above report.
  - to introduce a mechanism to prevent crisis situations in agricultural markets and especially food markets to ensure rapid reaction if necessary;
  - to request the EU Commission to establish a report on the aids granted for the support of biofuel production in the EU and to present a legal proposal establishing criteria for eligibility of such subsidies;
  - to support the energy allocation method proposed in the draft Directive to calculate the GHG savings
  - to consider extending the sustainability criteria to any energy uses of biomass.