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Brussels, 4 May 2026

To: Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Cc: Christophe Hansen, *European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food*
Wopke Hoekstra, *European Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth*
Dan Jørgensen, *European Commissioner for Energy and Housing*
Teresa Ribera, *European Commissioner for a clean, just and competitive transition,* Jessika Roswall, *European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy*

Subject: Bioenergy as a strategic pillar for Europe's energy independence and competitiveness

Dear President von der Leyen,

We are writing on behalf of the Board of **Bioenergy Europe**, representing over 5,000 companies across more than 20 European countries and trading partners active throughout the biomass value chain.

Recent geopolitical developments have once again highlighted Europe's vulnerability to disruptions in fossil energy supply, with direct consequences for households and industry. These challenges highlight the urgency of **reinforcing Europe's energy security while delivering on climate goals and preserving economic competitiveness.**

The Commission's focus on accelerating electrification across sectors is a necessary and welcome step. The bioenergy sector can support and accelerate this transition, particularly where direct electrification remains constrained. Bioenergy complements electrification by providing dispatchable, storable energy that reduces peak electricity demand, supports grid stability, and avoids overreliance on critical raw materials.

The current energy crisis hits the transport and heating sectors the hardest, given their continued reliance on imported gas and oil. They also lag significantly behind the electricity sector in terms of renewable energy deployment[i].

While bioenergy already represents the largest share of renewable energy in these sectors, overall renewable penetration remains low, and fossil fuels continue to dominate.

Increasing the share of renewable energy in heating and transport, including through sustainable bioenergy, would strengthen resilience by reducing exposure to external supply shocks and price volatility.

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Bioenergy offers several key advantages:

- **Energy security and resilience**[ii]: According to Eurostat, 96.4% of biomass feedstocks are sourced within Europe and the remainder from diversified supply chains. Bioenergy reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels and exposure to global price volatility.
- **System flexibility and complementarity**[iii]**:** Bioenergy provides reliable and flexible energy for both power and heat, supporting grid stability, reducing peak electricity demand, and complementing variable renewables, particularly during winter periods.
- **Carbon management**[iv]: Biomass enables scalable carbon removals through BECCS and biochar, and supports decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors, including aviation fuels and industrial heat.
- **Industrial competitiveness**[v]: European companies are global leaders in biomass technologies, supporting domestic value chains and export opportunities.
- **Sustainable land management and resource potential:** Bioenergy makes productive use of forestry and agricultural by-products and residues, contributing to sustainable forest management, climate adaptation, and biodiversity, while significant additional sustainable potential remains underutilised.

At a time when Europe is defining its long-term energy and industrial strategy, it is essential to ensure that sustainable bioenergy is fully recognised and integrated into the solution. Clear, consistent policy signals and a stable regulatory framework will be critical to providing long-term predictability for investors, unlocking investment, and scaling up innovative solutions across the sector.

We therefore call on the European Commission to:

- **Ensure regulatory stability and coherence** across key frameworks, avoiding unnecessary revisions and improving alignment between RED, EUDR and the EU Taxonomy;
- **Recognise the full role of sustainable bioenergy**, including solid biomass and biomass-based carbon removals, within industrial decarbonisation, energy security, and competitiveness strategies;
- **Enable accelerated deployment in heating, transport, and industry**, where bioenergy provides immediate, scalable and complementary solutions;
- **Support a pragmatic, subsidiarity-based approach**, allowing Member States to tailor implementation to national conditions across energy, forestry, and agriculture

Sustainable bioenergy is a proven, available, and scalable solution. Fully integrating it into Europe's future policy framework is essential to strengthening energy security, delivering climate objectives, and maintaining industrial competitiveness.

Yours sincerely,
The Bioenergy Europe Board Directors

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[i] By 2023, renewable sources already represented 45% of total electricity consumption in the EU, against 26% for heating and cooling, and 11% for transport (with multipliers).

[ii] JRC Publications Repository - Brief on biomass for energy in the European Union

[iii] The role of bioenergy in the energy transition, and implications on the global use of biomass | Bioenergy and Bioenergy Power Generation – Analysis - IEA

[iv] IPCC AR6 WGIII (2022), Technical Summary, section TS.5.7

[v] JRC Publications Repository - Clean Energy Technology Observatory: Bioenergy in the European Union - 2025 Status Report on Technology Development, Trends, Value Chains and Markets