

To the kind attention of **President Ursula von der Leyen**  
**Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans**  
**Commissioner Kadri Simson**  
**Commissioner Thierry Breton**

**RE: OPEN LETTER - Let bioenergy make a decisive contribution to European energy security and independence**

05 May 2022

Dear President Von der Leyen,  
Dear Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans,  
Dear Commissioner Kadri Simson,  
Dear Commissioner Thierry Breton,

**We, the undersigned CEOs, and high-level representatives of the bioenergy industry, urge the EU institutions and Member States to properly include solid biomass and biofuels in the EU strategy to become independent from Russian fossil fuels.**

Recent events have demonstrated the shortcomings of European energy policy and how the EU suffers from its high dependency on Russian fossil fuel imports.

We are concerned by the lack of vision within the REPowerEU proposals from the EU Commission that do not include solutions that can offer a quick reduction of this dependency, such as an array of bioenergy applications, waste for energy, and district heating.

We call for a coherent long-term approach to help Europe develop diversified options and foster a secure, stable, and affordable energy mix of the future, based on renewable-only solutions.

Bioenergy is a readily available indigenous solution that can be applied in the short-term to substantially contribute to achieving EU 2030 and 2050 objectives. We note that:

- Bioenergy offers concrete solutions to **substitute gas, oil, and coal in ALL sectors of society:** in heating, power production, industry, transport, and agriculture.
- Solid biomass is **primarily sourced from within Europe (95%) and imports largely come from trusted allies**, making it an invaluable asset to foster EU energy independence and energy security.
- The European bioenergy sector is a **global leader in renewable technologies** with 800.000 jobs and 50.000+ companies across the value chain.
- Bioenergy is readily available and can be **deployed quickly, often at a low cost**. For example, in district heating, switching from fossil fuels to biomass and waste has reduced costs and emissions in many countries. For residential and commercial buildings, pellet; briquettes, or wood chip heating offers a clean and efficient alternative to gas and oil.
- Bioenergy is a **virtuous example of circular bioeconomy also in the industrial sector**, as it can produce renewable energy using residues and waste from several industries and feedstocks, helping to strengthen the concept of a productive supply chain.
- Finally, **a sustainably managed forest is a more resilient forest**. Our sector brings multiple co-benefits for nature conservation, increasing the carbon stock, and reducing disturbances, while generating jobs and income in Europe.

In the [latest report from the IPCC](#), bioenergy is one of the major pathways to climate mitigation, and BECCS (bioenergy + carbon capture and storage) is the **only solution** that can contribute to negative

emissions at a reasonable cost. The IEA included a major contribution from bioenergy power generation in its [10-point plan](#) for reduced European dependency on Russian gas. Unfortunately, the EU Commission only focused on biogas in REPowerEU missing the overall [potential of the sector](#). Similarly, the proposal for **the revised Renewable Energy Directive aims at limiting support for biomass solutions instead of promoting a sound and sustainable framework**.

The bioenergy sector fully supports the energy and climate ambitions of the EU Green Deal that is giving an enthusiastic vision for Europe. The bioenergy industry is highly committed to delivering increasingly efficient technologies which can drastically reduce emissions. We also strongly believe in a sound sustainability framework for biofuels, biogas and solid biomass that will guarantee environmental performance. No other energy source has an equivalent system in place, and this reinforces our belief that we are frontrunners in the energy transition.

European policy makers cannot be doubtful about the role that bioenergy plays. We, the leaders of the bioenergy industry and utilities in Europe, call on our political leaders to allow us to contribute. Together, we can foster the use of sustainable bioenergy in Europe to replace imported coal, oil and gas and ensure a renewable energy mix.

Yours sincerely,

Wolfram Krabbe, 1Heiz Energie GmbH, CEO, Germany  
Leopold Bayer, 3h consult e.U., Owner, Austria  
Manolo Pardiñas, A MARIÑA BIEGAL, General Manager, Spain  
Jörgen Andersson-Strand, AB PiteEnergi, CEO, Sweden  
Ctirad Bryol, AB top, Owner, Czech Republic  
Christoph Pfemeter, ABA, CEO, Austria  
Alexander Schank, abc advanced biomass concepts GmbH, CEO, Germany  
Markus Fürst, ABO Kraft & Wärme AG, General Manager, Germany  
Virgilio Gamez, ACEITES GUADALENTIN S L, CEO, Spain  
Richard Zweiler, ACR - Güssing Energy Technologies, President, Austria  
María Vázquez García, ACTTIA MEDIOAMBIENTAL S.L., Quality Manager, Spain  
Lars Lind, Adesso BioProducts AB, CEO, Sweden  
Anders Ericsson, Adven/Värmevärden, CEO, Sweden  
Anna Wallin, Affärsverken Karlskrona AB, CEO, Sweden  
Paolo Garbellini, AFRY, Senior Advisor, Italy  
David Frykerås, Againity, CEO, Sweden  
Markus Mühleisen, AGRANA Bet.-AG, CEO, Austria  
Georgios Paraskevopoulos, Agrigas Energy SA, CEO, Greece  
Adriano Dall'ongaro, AGRIPANT S.R.L., Legal Representative, Italy  
Jiří Vacek, AGROLIT Litomyšl s.r.o., Managing Director, Czech Republic  
Konstantinos Alexandridis, AGROMETHANE HELLAS S.A., VP And COO, Greece  
Domenico Brugnoli, Aiel - Italian Agroforestry Energy Association, President, Italy  
Frédéric Moyne, Albioma, Chairman And Chief Executive Officer, France  
Jose Serrat, Alcay sl, General Manager, Spain  
Rickard Bern, Alingsås Energi Nät AB, CEO, Sweden  
Maurizio Annovati, alpinpellet sas, CEO, France  
Vladimír Plašil, ALTA, a.s., President, Czech Republic

Tuomo Kantola, Alva-yhtiöt Oy, CEO, Finland  
Richard Burrell, AMP Clean Energy, CEO, United Kingdom  
Lars Asklöf, Aneby Miljö & Vatten AB, Chair Man Of The Board, Sweden  
Björn Stendal, Aneby Miljö & Vatten AB (Medlem), CEO, Sweden  
Alastair Stewart, Angus Biofuels, Area Manager, United Kingdom  
Jordi Aguiló, APPA Biomasa, President, Spain  
Roberto Bravo, Apropellets, President, Spain  
Christian Holzinger, Aqotec, CEO, Austria  
Javier Villalta, ARAPELLET, General Manager, Spain  
Ilias Papageorgiadis, ARBIO - Romanian Association of Biomass and Biogas, President, Romania  
Ivan Agostini, Arderlegno srl, Owner, Italy  
Kuido Kuntro, Ardor OÜ, CEO, Estonia  
Vilma Baturo, Association LITBIOMA, Director, Lithuania  
Elmar Baumann, Association of the German Biofuel Industry, Managing Director, Germany  
Antonio Di Cosimo, Associazione EBS, President, Italy  
Anton Aschbacher, ASTRA II Energieversorgung GmbH, Executive Director, Austria  
Franz Angerer, Austrian Energy Agency, Managing Director, Austria  
Rudolf Rosenstatter, Austrian Forest Owner Cooperative, Chairman, Austria  
Peter Engert, Austrian Sustainable Building Council, CEO, Austria  
Stefan Aichholzer, Austroflex Rohr-Isoliersysteme GmbH, Managing Director, Austria  
Luisa Martin, Avila County Council Energy Agency, Managing Director, Spain  
Mattia Guerra, Az Agr Guerra Renato, Owner, Italy  
Valentino Casagrande, AZ. Casagrande Valentino, Owner, Italy  
Ole Madsen, B&W Renewables, Technology Director, Denmark  
Klaus Bachmann, Bachmann Commerce srl, Legal Representative, Italy  
Stelvio Basei, BASEI DUEBI S.R.L., Legal Representative, Italy  
Constanze Gohlke, BDOel e.V., Managing Director, Germany  
Paul Stuart, BEES SAS, CEO, France  
Jörgen Mattsson, Bergs Tingslags Elektriska AB, CEO, Sweden  
Steven Bimson, Berkes, Commercial Manager, Spain  
Henrik Laursen, Bigadan A/S, CEO, Denmark  
Natalie Binder, Binderholz, CEO, Austria  
John Andersen, Biobrændselsforeningen, President, Denmark  
Elisabete Miranda, BIODENSA - Biocombustíveis, Lda., Manager, Portugal  
Claes Rosengren, BiodrivMitt, Chairman, Sweden  
Alois Voraberger, Bioenergie OÖ eGen, Executive Director, Austria  
Anders Haaker, Bioenergitidningen.se, Editor In Chief, Sweden  
Sartori Luigi, BIOENERGY ANAUNIA S.P.A., President, Italy  
David Chavarría, BIOERCAM SL, CEO, Spain  
Juan Manuel Perez Rodriguez, BIOFORGA, S.L., CEO, Spain  
Arne Smedberg, BioFuel Region, CEO, Sweden  
Martin Schlerka, Biogest, CEO, Austria  
Hans Anders Kjos, Bioland AS, CEO, Norway  
Isabel Cano-Caballero Ramirez, BIOLIZA, CEO, Spain

Domenico Langellotto, Biom Srl, CEO, Italy  
Zdeněk Černý, BIOMAC s.r.o., Owner, Czech Republic  
Santiago Montero, Biomosas forestales del cantabrico s.l, Manager, Spain  
Wolfgang Wimmer, Biomassehof Achental GmbH & Co.KG, Executive Director, Germany  
Ezio Rusco, Biomasseltalia s.p.a., Biomass Purchasing Director, Italy  
Miquel Estarellas Dols, BIOMASSES BALEARS PER ENERGIA SL, Owner, Spain  
Pavol Lenhart, BIOPEL, a. s., Director, Slovakia  
Ingwald Obernberger, BIOS BIOENERGIESYSTEME GmbH, General Manager, Austria  
Christer Gustavsson, BioShare AB, CEO, Sweden  
Ricardo Fernandez Fernandez, BIOVEGAMASA, S.L.U., Managing Director, Spain  
Roman Tihelka, BLAZE HARMONY s.r.o., CEO, Czech Republic  
Mikael Strandberg, Bollnäs Energi AB, CEO, Sweden  
Antonio Di Cosimo, BONOLLO ENERGIA SPA, Presidente Cda, Italy  
Magnus Kårestedt, Borås Energi och Miljö, President / Managing Director, Sweden  
Joan Kincaid, Border transport services ltd, Director, United Kingdom  
Bernhard Böcker-Riese, BR Green GmbH, CEO, Germany  
Martin Henrysson, br.Svensson SKog AB, CEO, Sweden  
Alexander Barmin, Briapell SRL, Director, Italy  
Ludvík Pavel, Brizant Tade s.r.o., Managing Director, Czech Republic  
Pär Eriksson, Bruks AB, CEO, Sweden  
Peter Jonsson, Bruks Siwertell Group AB, CEO, Sweden  
Arnd Brüning, Brüning Group Germany GmbH, CEO, Germany  
Gerhard Muggen, BTG Bioliquids, CEO, Netherlands  
René Venendaal, BTG Biomass Technology Group, CEO, Netherlands  
Krenn Johannes, BWLG Thörl reg.GenmbH., Executive Director, Austria  
Tomas Melich, C m C, spol. s r.o., CEO, Slovakia  
Luigi Galloppa, c&t spa, President, Italy  
Edmund Langer, C.A.R.M.E.N. e.V., Managing Director, Germany  
Kajsa Hedberg, C4 Energi AB, CEO, Sweden  
Marilena Michelis, Calore Verde srl, Chief, Italy  
Juan Manuel Cabello Escudero, CALORIFICA DOMESTICA, Director, Spain  
Carlos Illade, CALQUEGA BIOMASA S.L., CEO & Founder, Spain  
Alexandros Samoukatsidis, Camino Design / PelleTech, CEO, Greece  
Carlo Campagnaro, CAMPAGNARO F.LLI SAS, Legal Representative, Italy  
Christoffer Norén, CANOIL AB, CEO, Sweden  
Torsten Becker, carbonauten GmbH, CEO, Germany  
Paolo Giarda, Carbotermo spa, Biomass Energy Manager, Italy  
Luca Caronni, CARONNI GROUP S.R.L., Quality Manager, Italy  
Rui Carreira, Casal & Carreira Biomassa SA, CEO, Portugal  
Pietro Calò, CEB (Compagnia Elettrica Bellunese), President, Italy  
Henrik Lefvert, Cellwood Machinery, CEO, Sweden  
Luis Redondo Ruiz, CHIMENEAS REDONDO S.L.U., CEO, Spain  
Gorka Eraso, Chimney sweeps association of spain, President, Spain  
Eberhard Nacke, CLAAS KGaA, Product Strategy Consultant, Germany

Thomas Böck, CLAAS KGaA mbH, CEO, Germany  
Francisco Javier Álvarez, Cluster Biomasa Galicia, President, Spain  
Simon Christensen, CM Biomass Partners A/S, CEO, Denmark  
Magnus Nyfjäll, Colabitoil, CEO, Sweden  
Giovanni Ciniero, Consorzio forestale dei produttori di cippatino e biomasse di qualità, President, Italy  
Luciano Zanocco, CONTAGRI CEGNI COOP SRL, President, Italy  
Frederic Bourgois, Coopeos, CEO, Belgium  
Frederic Janssens, COPO sprl, Managing Director, Belgium  
Rolf Ljunggren, Cortus AB, Deputy CEO, Sweden  
Riccardo Cosimi, cosimi srl, Owner, Italy  
Sigismondo Canzian, CS Thermos srl, Owner, Italy  
Martin Wetter, CSTfire s.r.o., CEO, Czech Republic  
Helmut Herbst, CTB Automatisierungstechnik GmbH, CEO, Austria  
Stephan Schuster, Cycleenergy Holding GmbH, Founder, Shareholder, Austria, Germany  
Peter Overgaard, Danstoker A/S, CEO, Denmark  
Nicolò Del Curto, Del Curto Srl, Commercial Representative, Italy  
Antonio Ros, DELIAS BIOENERGIA SC, CEO, Spain  
Konstantinos Kiriakopoulos, DHCA - District Heating Company of Amindeo, Managing Director, Greece  
Carlos Calvo, DHG Servicios Energéticos de Galicia, S.L., CEO, Spain  
Federico Andreoli, Di Filippo Legnami srl, Technical Office - Sales, Italy  
Andrea Ferrari, ditta ferrari andrea, Owner, Italy  
Owen Doherty, Doherty wood shavings, Managing Director, Northern Ireland  
Daniel Castander, DOMUSA CALEFACCIÓN, Managing Director, Spain  
Will Gardiner, Drax Group, Group CEO, United Kingdom  
Tomáš Hais, Dřevošrot, a.s., Member Of Board, Czech Republic  
Marc Hoffman, E.ON Sverige AB, CEO, Sweden  
Davide Circolo, Ecoflora 2 srl, Owner, Italy  
Eladio Pérez Fernández, ECOFOREST, CEO, Spain  
Luis Pacheco, ECOFRICALIA SOSTENIBLE, CEO, Spain  
Andrés Queijo, ECOMIND BIOCOMBUSTIBLES SL, Representative, Spain  
Francesco Pesante, Ecosesto Spa, CEO, Italy  
Francisco Javier Álvarez, Ecowarm de Galicia SL, Administrator, Spain  
Marco Sant'unione, EDILKAMIN IBERICA, S.L.U, Director Commercial, Spain  
Robert Egger, Egger PowAir Cleaning GmbH, Executive Director, Austria  
Martin Geško, EkoEnergia Distribúcia, s.r.o., CEO, Slovakia  
František Dočekal, EKOGALVA s.r.o., Business Manager, Czech Republic  
María Jesus Romero, El Cubo Verde, soluciones ambientales, S.L., CEO, Spain  
Daniel Portela Campos, Emision 0, ing de EERR S.L., Managing Director, Spain  
Torbjörn Claesson, ENA Energi AB, CEO, Sweden  
Ignacio De Colmenares, ENCE, CEO, Spain  
Markus Heese, Endress Holzfeuerungsanlagen GmbH, Executive Director, Germany  
Miguel Angel Guijarro Plaza, Energias de la Alcarria SL, Director, Spain  
Joaquin Oltra Armero, ENERGIAS RENOVABLES TARAZONA S.A (A02433563), CEO, Spain  
Tobias Ilg, EnergieWerk Ilg GmbH, Executive Director, Austria

Charlotte Elander, Energifabriken AB, CEO, Sweden  
Karin Varverud, Energifabriken Norge AS, CEO, Norway  
Åsa Pettersson, Energiföretagen Sverige, CEO, Sweden  
Erik Eid Hohle, Energigården/The Energy Farm - Senter for bioenergy, CEO, Norway  
Apostolos Kandylas, Energy community of karditsa, President, Greece  
Fernando Val, ENERGYLAB, Managing Director, Spain  
Roman Monasterio, ENERLAN SOLUTIONS S.L., CEO & Vice President Avebiom, Spain  
Ludwig Heinloth, Enerpipe GmbH, Executive Director, Germany  
Sergio Fernández Costa, ENERTRA, CEO, Spain  
Jan Turek, engee ekobalance s.r.o., CEO, Czech Republic  
Elías Rodolfo Hernández Igeño, ENSO ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY,S.L.U., Director General, Spain  
John Keppler, Enviva, CEO, USA  
Marco Arcelli, EP New Energy Italy, Chairman, Italy  
Nikolaos Marinos, EPSILON ENERGY & CONTRUCTIONS, Owner, Greece  
Simona Vackeova, ePURE - European Renewable Ethanol Association, Secretary General Ad Interim, Belgium  
Maria Eschlböck, Eschlböck Maschinenfabrik GmbH, CEO, Austria  
Mihkel Annus, Estonian Renewable Energy Association, Board Member, Estonia  
Ferdinand Tischler, ETA Heiztechnik GmbH, CEO, Austria  
Joachim Pixner, Etatech srl, Manager, Italy  
Stig Larsson, European Willow Breeding AB, Chairman Of The Board, Sweden  
Jean-Baptiste Marin, Européenne de Biomasse, CEO, France  
Björn Kjellström, Exergetics AB, CEO, Sweden  
Walter Ottorino Righini, F.I.P.E.R., President, Italy  
Gerolf Bücheler, Fachverband Holzenergie (FVH) - German Wood Energy Association, Executive Director, Germany  
GuillermI Pueyo, Factor Biomasa S.L., CEO, Spain  
Bo Anders Antonsson, Falkenberg Energi AB, CEO, Sweden  
Per Dahlberg, Falu Energi & Vatten AB, CEO, Sweden  
Damien Ricordeau, FINERGREEN, CEO, France  
Mikael Andersson, Finspångs Tekniska Verk AB, CEO, Sweden  
Vanessa Gallo, FIPER, General Secretary, Italy  
Elvira Della Schiava, FIRELUX S.R.L., Legal Representative, Italy  
Giovanni Papaccio, Firestix GmnH & CO KG, Commercial Responsible, Germany  
Henrik Lundberg, First Bioenergy Fbio AB, CEO, Sweden  
Thomas Edvardsen, Flogas Sverige AB, Managing Director, Sweden  
Hans Werner, florafuel AG, CEO, Germany  
Carlos Amaral Netto, Florecha SA, Director, Portugal  
Jens-Ole Aagaard Jensen, Focus Bio Energy, CEO, Denmark  
Fernando Capilla, FORESTACION GALICIA S.A., CEO, Spain  
Iago Piñeiro, forestacion galicia sa, Director, Spain  
Antoine D'amécourt, Fransylva, President, France  
Tiziana Barili, FRATELLI BARILI SRL, President, Italy  
Josef Frauscher, Frauscher Thermal Motors GmbH, CEO, Austria  
Jean-Louis Bal, French Renewable Energy Trade Association, President, France  
Thomas Haas, Fröling Heizkessel- und Behälterbau GmbH, CEO, Austria

Ernst Hutterer, Fröling Heizkessel-und Behälterbau GmbH, President & CEO, Austria  
Mario Scharf, Fuerzas Energéticas del Sur de Europa I, S.L., Managing Director, Spain  
Andrés Llombart Estopiñán, Fundación CIRCE, CEO, Spain  
Leif Breitholtz, FVB Sverige, CEO, Sweden  
Theresa Savonen, Gällivare Energi AB, CEO, Sweden  
Ronald Gattringer, GASOKOL GmbH, CEO, Austria  
Bernd Geisen, German Bioenergy Association (BBE), Executive Director, Germany  
Juan Carlos Garrido Gonzalez, GESTCALOR SL, Manager, Spain  
Gerhard Glechner, Glechner GmbH, CEO, Austria  
Miguel Angel Urtaran Del Campo, GLOBAL EFFICIENCY ARANGUREN SL, CEO, Spain  
Günter Gigacher, GLOCK, Director, Austria  
Georgios Tsovilis, Goldeco, President & CEO, Greece  
Norbert Goldnagl, Goldnagl GmbH, Owner, Austria  
Abraham Carracelas Broullon, GONCER CALEFACCION S.L., Manager, Spain  
Lisa Oltegen, Götene Vatten & Värme AB, Manager, Sweden  
Johan Törner, Götene Vatten och Värme AB, CEO, Sweden  
Alf Engqvist, Gothenburg Energy, CEO, Sweden  
Raul Kirjanen, Graanul Invest AS, CEO, Estonia  
Maurice Ryan, Green Belt Ltd, Director, Ireland  
Manuel García, Greenalia, CEO, Spain  
Alfons Kuhles, GRENOL, CEO, Germany  
Martin Zoglauer, GRESKO Power Solution GmbH, CFO, Austria  
Ulrich Francois, Groupe Francois SA, CEO, Belgium  
Andrea Girardi, GRUMESENERGY SRL, President, Italy  
Alfonso Barbero, GRUPO BARBERO, CEO, Spain  
Reginal Garcia, GUIFOR, S.L., CEO, Spain  
Christian Seeger, Gutachterbüro Seeger, Owner, Germany  
Petr Hamtil, H4Company - Ivana Hamtilová, CEO, Czech Republic  
Václav Cintl, HAAS+SOHN Rukov, s.r.o., Managing director, Czech Republic  
Daniela Schwarz, Hacktec des Göller Karl, Secretary, Italy  
Roeland Baan, Haldor Topsoe, President And CEO, Denmark  
Friedrich Harrich, HAMONT Trading GmbH, General Manager, Austria  
Pär Gabrielsson, Haparanda Värmeverk AB, CEO, Sweden  
Markus Hargassner, Hargassner GesmbH, CEO, Austria  
Steven Trogisch, Hargassner Iberica SL, Manager, Spain  
Martin Ecker, HDG Bavaria GmbH, Executive Director, Germany  
Anders Engdahl, Hedemora Energi AB, CEO, Sweden  
Robert Pretzl, HEGER EDELSTAHL, CEO, Austria  
Gerd Christ, Heizomat Geräte+ und Energiesysteme, Sales Manager, Germany  
Anthony Gerassimou, Hellenic Biomass Association (HellaBiom), President Of Board, Greece  
Bernard Deboyser, HESBENERGIE, CEO, Belgium  
Håkan Karlsson, Hjo Energi AB, CEO, Sweden  
Frank Kienle, HKI Industrieverband Haus-, Heiz- und Küchentechnik e. V., Executive Director, Germany  
Christian Hofer, Hoval Gesellschaft m.b.H., CEO, Austria

David Madlener, Hydro-X GmbH, CEO, Germany  
Carsten Neumeister, IB Biomasseconsulting, CEO, Germany  
Harry Wilhelm, IB Wilhem, Owner, Germany  
Salvatore Puccia, IBLEA CALOR SRL, Administrator, Italy  
Joseph Haas, IBV & Cie s.a., Administrator, Belgium  
Peter Heck Prof. Dr., ifas, Executive Director, Germany  
Andreas Böffel, Ilmenauer Wärmeversorgung GmbH, Managing Directors, Germany  
Theo Coolen, INADCO, CEO, Netherlands  
Leo Riebenbauer, Ing. Leo Riebenbauer GmbH, CEO, Austria  
Alexander Bächer, Ingenieurbüro Alexander Bächer, Owner, Germany  
Mats Mared, Ingenjörsfirman J Mared AB, CEO, Sweden  
Bertil Leijding, Innofreight Scandinavia AB, CEO, Sweden  
Frank Scholwin, Institute for Biogas, Waste Management & Energy, CEO, Germany  
Paddy Phelan, IrBEA, President And Director, Ireland  
Seán Finan, Irish Bioenergy Association, CEO, Ireland  
Antonio Pecchia, Ital Green Energy, Amministratore, Italy  
François Lotin, ITS Energy, COO, Belgium  
Ulf Lindqvist, Jämtkraft AB, Business Area Manager Heating, Sweden  
Norbert Goldnagl, JENZ Österreich GmbH, Executive Director, Austria  
Magnus Holmgren, Jernforsen Energy AB, CEO, Sweden  
Marie Bártová, JH SOLAR s.r.o., CEO, Czech Republic  
Roman Jilek, Jihobrik v.o.s., CEO, Czech Republic  
Fridolf Eskilsson, Jönköping Energi AB, CEO, Sweden  
Josef Pinc, Josef Pinc-Krby, kamna, kotle, Owner, Czech Republic  
Matthias Mulser, JuMa Biomasse, Owner, Italy  
Dan Rohde, Justsen Energiteknik A/S, Managing Director, CEO, Denmark  
Premysl Kolar, Kadria, CEO, Czech Republic  
Pavel Hostomský, Kamna, kotle - Hostomský, Owner, Czech Republic  
Joakim Ahlin, Karlsborgs Värme AB, CEO, Sweden  
Sebastian Cabander, Karlskoga Energi & Miljö AB, CEO, Sweden  
Erik Kornfeld, Karlstads Energi AB, CEO, Sweden  
Johan Nilsson, Katrinefors Kraftvärme AB, CEO, Sweden  
Roger Holm, Katternö Group / Oy Herrfors Ab, CEO, Finland  
Eduard Vitković, KBE BioENERGIE doo, Managing Director, Croatia  
Michael Schranz, KBT Bioenergie Technologie GmbH, General Manager, Germany  
Jussi Lehto, Keravan Energia oy, CEO, Finland  
Michael Schranz, Kohlbach Energieanlagen GmbH, Vice President, Austria  
Martin Kohut, Kohut Trade Company s.r.o., CEO, Czech Republic  
Heinz Leitner, Komptech GmbH., CEO, Austria  
Sami Markkanen, Kotkan Energia, CEO, Finland  
Alena Kremzarová, KOTLEKAMNA.CZ s.r.o., Executive, Czech Republic  
Hans Larsson Ljungblad, Kungälv Energi AB, CEO / CEO, Sweden  
Esa Lindholm, Kuopion Energia Oy, CEO, Finland  
Helmut Matschnig, KWB - Kraft und Wärme aus Biomasse GmbH, CEO, Austria



Tomi Vartiamäki, L&T Biowatti Oy, CEO, Finland  
Marco Turconi, La Grande Stufa s.p.a., Administrator, Italy  
Giancarlo Frassille, La Thuile Energie S.r.l., Administrator, Italy  
Domenico Dal Tio, La TiEsse, Energy Manager, Italy  
Jouni Haikarainen, Lahti Energia Oy, CEO, Finland  
Luigi Rifaiani, Laminox srl, President, Italy  
Alarik Sandrup, Lantmännen, Director Public and Regulatory Affairs, Sweden  
Lloyd Dowzer, Leinster Pellets, Managing Director, Ireland  
Christian Olausson, Lidköping Energi, Acting CEO, Sweden  
Michael Weitz, Lignovis GmbH, CEO, Germany  
Jan Lindstedt, LINAB, CEO, Sweden  
Jan Spáčil, LIPOVICA trade s.r.o., Co-Owner / CEO, Czech Republic  
Bo Schönbeck, Ljungby Energi AB, CEO, Sweden  
Francesco Ongaro, M.A.I. DI FRANCESCO ONGARO, Owner, Italy  
Niklas Gunnar, Mälarenergi AB, CEO, Sweden  
Bruno Trincherio, mangimi Trincherio, Owner, Italy  
Bruno Trincherio, MANGIMI TRINCHERO SAS, Owner, Italy  
Max Gerger, Mantex AB, CEO, Sweden  
Rafael Gómez-Canoura Fernández, MEDANCLI,S.L., Administrator, Spain  
Gilberto Melotti, MELOTTI SRL, Owner, Italy  
Francesca Fabrizio, MEPE srl, CEO, Italy  
Jeanmoye Denis, Meralux sarl, Manager, Luxembourg  
Alberto Vaccarella, Mercure srl, President, Italy  
Niclas Davidsson, Meva Energy, CEO, Sweden  
Amund Woien, Miljovarme Hadeland AS, CEO, Norway  
Adam Taylor, Millhouse World of Wood Ltd, CEO, United Kingdom  
Göran Westerlund, Mixport AB, CEO, Sweden  
Luis Calvo, Molinos Afau, S.L., Sales Manager, Spain  
Christian Schwartz, Mölndal Energi AB, CEO, Sweden  
Antonio Mosquera, MOSQUERA VILLAVIDAL SL, CEO, Spain  
Tomas Petr, MultiBio s.r.o., Director, Czech Republic  
Enrico Murgia, MURGIA F.LLI S.N.C. DI E.MURGIA & C., CEO, Italy  
Helmut Herbst, NAHTEC Nahwärmetechnologie & Anlagentechnik GmbH, CEO, Austria  
Roberto Bravo, Naturpellet, S.L., General Manager, Spain  
Hans-Christian Kirchmeier, NAWARO ENERGIE Betrieb GmbH, CEO, Austria  
Matti Lehmus, Neste, CEO, Finland  
Rui Rodrigues, Newpellets, Director, Portugal  
Thorsten Dunker, Nexxoil GmbH, Managing Director, Germany  
Nicola Nizzi, nizzi nicola e c sas, Fiumalbo, Italy  
Marcus Tingvall, Njudung Energi Vetlanda AB, CEO, Sweden  
Pär Oscarsson, Nordic Distributed Power AB, CEO, Sweden  
Inga Holst, Norsk Bioenergiforening, Advisor, Norway  
Jan Helge Ekeren, Norske Varmeleveranser AS, Chairman Of Board, Norway  
Etienne Duchêne, NPJ BOIS sa, Managing Director, Belgium

David Kehm, ÖkoFEN, Consulting, Sales and Service, Czech Republic  
Gregor Schneitler, ÖkoFEN - Wood Pellet Boilers, Head Of Marketing & Organisation, Austria  
Karel Van Wonterghem, ÖkoFEN Belgium, CEO, Belgium  
Herbert Ortner, ÖkoFEN Forschungs- und Entwicklungsges.m.b.H., CEO, Austria  
Jean-Baptiste Schwebel, ONF Energie, Director, France  
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Kristina Säfsten, Övik Energi AB, CEO, Sweden  
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Mikael Jednell, Partille Energi AB, Acting CEO, Sweden  
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Aku Aarva, Urban Energy Finland (Energiakaupungit ry), Executive Director, Finland  
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Kerry Durrant, woodpellet delivery Co, Director, United Kingdom  
Christophe Dauriac, woodtech france, General Manager, France  
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Daniele Rigamonti, Woodtech Italy srl, CEO, Italy  
Christian Rakos, World Bioenergy Association, President, Sweden  
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Neil Holland, Y Pellets, Managing Director, United Kingdom

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Jan Prchal, Zelená biomasa a.s., Sales Manager, Czech Republic

Oscar Sacristan, ZERO WASTE ENERGY, CEO, Spain

Andrea Bigai, Zignago Power S.r.l., CEO, Italy