



Press release

The European Commission renews its recognition of the 2BS voluntary scheme for the verification of biofuels sustainability criteria.

Paris, 29th August 2016

After an initial period of 5 years, the European Commission has announced its decision to renew, its recognition of the 2BS voluntary scheme supported by the French biofuels sectors gathered in the 2BS Association. This decision of 26th August enters into force on 28th August, the day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.*

The 2BS voluntary scheme (Biomass, Biofuels sustainability voluntary scheme) certifies the compliance of biomass and biofuels (biodiesel and bioethanol in particular) with the sustainability requirements of the 2009/28/EC European Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and with the new terms established by the Directive 2015/1513 of 9th September 2015. The new certification standards of 2BS voluntary scheme will be published on the European Commission's transparency platform and will be available on "www.2BSvs.org" from 2nd September 2016.

A voluntary scheme available to all producers and suppliers

Created and established by French biofuels producers, the 2BS voluntary certification scheme is used by 595 biomass and biofuel producers and suppliers mainly in France but also in 17 other countries. It ranks among the top three for the number of active certificates and for volumes certified each year.

Certified biofuels and biomass producers and suppliers can claim the sustainability of their products, gaining access to the European market, by applying the procedures of the 2BS voluntary scheme and after annual audits carried out by one of 8 independent certification bodies.

The 2BS voluntary scheme is one of the first 6 European schemes which recognition was or will soon be renewed by the European Commission.

Reminder: European regulations

The European Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, which was amended by the Directive 2015/1513 of 9th September 2015, delegates the verification of sustainability criteria for biofuels to recognized private voluntary schemes or to national systems managed by member States.

The target of 10% renewable energy for transport by 2020 is matched with criteria for biofuels sustainability:

- **35%** greenhouse gas emissions **reduction**, becoming **50%** from January 2018, and **60 %** (at least) for biofuels produced in installations starting operation after 5 October 2015.
- No production in **highly biodiverse areas** and in nature protection areas unless crops respect that protection.
- **No conversion of areas with high carbon stock** (forests, peat lands...)
- **Reporting** by the member States on the country of origin of the raw materials, the measures taken for protection of soil, water and air, the restoration of degraded land and certain social issues.

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The 2BS voluntary scheme for the verification of biofuels sustainability, in brief

To contribute to the 10% European targets for renewable energy used in transportation by 2020 and to gain access to the national support measures, biofuels consumed in the European Union need to be demonstrate compliance with sustainability criteria. This takes the form of certificates to be ultimately provided to member States.

This is why the 2BS association, which brings together organizations representing the French biofuel production chains, has submitted to the European Commission a request for the renewal of recognition of the 2BS voluntary scheme. The adoption of the recognition decision on 26th August will allow 2BS association to continue the independent certification of biofuels in strict compliance with sustainability criteria set by the 2009/28/EC European Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and with new terms established by the Directive 2015/1513 of 9th September 2015.

Based on the mass balance method, 2BS voluntary scheme guarantees the traceability at every stage, from the production of "sustainable" raw materials to their use for the production of biofuels and the delivery to fuel distributors, and enables the calculation of greenhouse gas emissions reductions of biofuels compared to fossil fuels.

***About the 2BS Association**

The 2BS Association has been created at the initiative of the French chains of production of biofuels, biodiesel and bioethanol, to manage the 2BS voluntary scheme, helping to comply with the European Union requirements in terms of biofuel sustainability.

It gathers the following organisations: AGPB (General Association of Wheat and other cereal Producers), AGPM (General Association of Corn Producers), CGB (General Confederation of Beetroot growers), COOP de France Métiers du Grain (French cereal cooperatives), FNA (Federation of agriculture traders), SNPAA (National Union of Agricultural Alcohol Producers) and Terres Univia (Interprofessional organisation dealing with vegetable oil and protein). For more information, please visit www.2BSvs.org

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