



- Status of the work on indirect land use change in the EU

European Commission

11/2010

● Background

- **EU targets** for 2020:
 - » 20% overall share of renewable energy
 - » 10% share of renewable energy in transport
 - » 6% reduction in unit GHG emissions of road transport fuel
- Biofuels counted for the targets must meet **sustainability criteria**
- Commission to report by December 2010 on whether to change the criteria to take into account **indirect land use change**
- Commission **consulted** on the question – consultation closed 31st October

● Key questions

- Is the concept of indirect land use change credible? (yes)
- How big is the issue? Is it big enough to need action?
- If so, what type of action?

● How big is the issue?

- Modelling seems to be the only way to answer the question
- Many differences between models
- It now appears the original work on the topic (Searchinger et al.) overstated the impact

● Public consultation based on four studies

- Is the analytical work a good basis for determining how significant the effect is?
- Is EU action needed?
- In case of action, is it possible to draw conclusions for different types of biofuels?
- What course of action would be appropriate?

Respondents invited to justify their responses by reference to available science.

● What type of action?

- **Do nothing more?** (possible rationale: “the existing sustainability requirements, with a cushion of 50% savings in 2020, are enough”)
- **Increase the cushion – a higher minimum greenhouse gas saving for biofuels?** (“the modelling is uncertain and we need a bigger cushion as a precaution”)
- **Attribute an iluc “factor” to each unit of land-using biofuel?** (“we need to ensure that each unit of biofuel consumed achieves a given level of greenhouse gas saving, and the modelling provides a reliable basis for this”)
- **Other possibilities?**

● Public consultation - responses

- 139+
- Citizens, industry, farmers' associations, NGOs, Member States, third countries, academia, ..
- Responses diverging greatly, both on analytical work and on potential action
- *Commission is analysing them*

● Public consultation – peak preview

- Most NGOs:
 - » Studies are best available science
 - » Another mix of biofuels should be assumed (based on National Renewable Energy Action Plans)
 - » ‘Iluc factors’ for different types of biofuels should be adopted
- Most industry, farmers’ associations, third countries:
 - » Studies are not a good basis
 - » Many assumptions are unreliable or arbitrary (responses provide many references to literature)
 - » Further scientific work necessary
 - » No action (except for international agreements to protect carbon-rich areas)
- EU Member States hold differing views between them

● Timetable

- 2009/2010: Commission conducted four *studies*
- 31 July – 31 October: *Consultation* based on the studies
- 31 December: Commission's *report* (and possible legislative proposal) due
- If Commission makes a *legislative proposal*, Parliament and Council will need 1 year (+) to negotiate it

● **Thank you**

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/index_en.htm

