

Personal presentation as the Greek delegate in the Mirror Group of the ETP on Biofuels

Name: Myrsini Christou
Affiliation: Center for Renewable Energy Sources (CRES), representing the Ministry of Development
Position: Responsible of the Biomass Department of CRES

Short CRES profile

The Centre for Renewable Energy Sources (CRES) is the Greek national centre for Renewable Energy Sources (RES), Rational Use of Energy (RUE) and Energy Saving (ES). It is a public entity, supervised by the Ministry of Development, General Secretariat of Research and Technology (GSRT), having nevertheless, financial and administrative independence. Its main goal is the promotion of RES/RUE/ES applications at a national and international level, as well as the support of related activities taking into consideration the environmental impacts, on energy supply and use. It is the official Greek government consultant on matters of RES/RUE/ES in national policy, strategy and planning.

Biofuels in Greece

Legal framework and support instruments

- ✓ The Biofuels directive 2003/30 has been adopted by the Greek government late 2005, as **law 3423/2005**. According to this, biodiesel will be the main biofuel for the Greek transport sector with bioethanol playing a less important role till 2008. The amount of biodiesel required to satisfy the indicative target of 2% (on a lower calorific basis) for the year 2006 has been estimated to be circa 80.000 tonnes while the amount to satisfy the indicative target of 5.75% for the year 2010 has been estimated to be c. 148.000 tonnes.
- ✓ Finally, as part of the national strategy to promote biofuels, any investment in the field is subsidized from the **law 3299/2004** on promotion of investment. Subsidies vary from 40- 55% according to region, and the type of the enterprise (in case of SMEs and specific regions they can reach up to 55%) (www.elke.gr is the official site of the Hellenic Centre for Investment).
- ✓ Support on capital cost (up to 40%) for biodiesel plants was included in the 3rd Community Support Framework (Energy), which ended last year. The 4th Framework is under development and respective provisions are expected to be put forth.

Present situation

Biodiesel is the first commercial biofuel in the Greek transport sector. The current law imposes the obligatory use of all detaxed biodiesel in the existing refineries (in an up to 5% blend). The detaxed quantities are decided on an annual basis under a quota scheme. For 2006 14 investors have applied for detaxed biodiesel production amounting to the 91,000 m³, which was the target set for 2006. The launch for the

2007 quotas refers to 114,000 m³, the target set for 2007 and was published in late December 2006. A higher number of investors have expressed interest in the coming years.

The market for pure biodiesel does not exist at the moment but it is expected to be developed slowly in the coming years.

Concerning indigenous resources sunflower oil, cotton seed oil and corn oil are defined as the immediately available ones for biodiesel production. However, for specific investment plans, the available quantities of crops will have to be evaluated based on market prices, import/ export trends and competition from the food sector. Rapeseed is currently being tested in experimental and demonstration sites throughout the country.

Bioethanol is expected to enter the market on 2008. The Hellenic Sugar Industry has recently expressed interest to convert two sugar producing plants to bioethanol ones. The resource will be a mixture of sugarbeets and cereals. Sweet sorghum is evaluated as a future addition to the mix since it has so far presented good adaptability and high yielding potential.