



PRESS RELEASE

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The European Biogas Association launched a Company Advisory Council

One day after the General Assembly the European Biogas Association (EBA) launched a Company Advisory Council on 12th January 2011 in Nuremberg. Over 30 international biogas companies attended the inaugural meeting to discuss the future biogas development in Europe. EU Renewable Energy targets 2020 will not be reached without biogas contribution to the energy mix. But a number of stimulating measures are required on the EU policy level.

EBA is getting increasingly involved in biogas issues on the European level in favour of plant operators as well as internationally operating biogas companies. After having attracted most of the national biogas associations as members, it was a logical step to initiate a closer collaboration with the industry. The huge interest of over 30 company representatives of biogas plant providers, gas upgrading and gas appliances manufacturers as well as chemicals and enzymes producers proved the need of such a common action. The lively discussion focused on the needs of the industry towards the European Parliament and Commission but expressed also the necessity for better information on political and business development in the different member states. Some of the major problems acknowledged are the increasing administrative barriers and financial hurdles to successfully accomplish a project. Often these obstacles are due to lack of information for the administrating and the financing bodies. EBA has recognized this problem and has engaged in a European project (BiogasIn) to help overcoming these barriers in a number of eastern countries with a significant biogas potential.

A core objective of EBA is to be present in Brussels and provide EU policy - makers with expertise on biogas issues. In 2010 EBA opened an office in the Renewable Energy House (REH) which is the central point for renewable energy issues in Brussels. Being close to the main European institutions - European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council - enables EBA to be visible and present in the ongoing discussions and contribute to the creation of policies in the biogas sector. EBA will gain more weight with the support of the biogas industry that actually creates over 20'000 working places in the whole EU.

All together, EBA's membership will comprise close to 40 members across the Europe including national associations, research institutes and industry.

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