

Press release

Biofuels are better than their reputation – sustainability is verifiable

Berlin, June 25th, 2015

“The EU has established a functioning system to verify the sustainability of biofuels. On this solid ground aviation can now increase the use of renewable fuels, as well”, says Dr. Christoph Jessberger of the Munich-based think tank Bauhaus Luftfahrt, who is head of aireg’s working group on Sustainability.

aireg, the German aviation initiative for renewable energy, has investigated how the sustainability of biofuels can be reliably verified. Certification, which is mandatory for all biofuels used in the EU, is a suitable indicator. Using a proprietary set of criteria that incorporates latest scientific findings, aireg has compared the ten most relevant certification systems for aviation. By doing so, the initiative intends to contribute to more transparency and informed consumer behavior. The certification systems themselves shall have an incentive to integrate related sustainability issues into the scope of inspection.

The criteria deemed necessary by aireg contain ecological aspects, like the improvement of soil quality and the conservation of water resources, as well as social issues like the adherence to existing land use rights and the involvement of local stakeholders. Differences occur as a result of the growing number of certification systems, which evolved from the minimum requirements set by the EU Renewable Energy Directive.

aireg’s analysis led to the conclusion that four certification systems are particularly commendable (in alphabetic order):

- International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC EU)
- Netherlands Technical Agreement (NTA 8080)
- Roundtable of Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB EU RED)
- Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO-RED)

aireg will check regularly if and how certification systems update their set of criteria.

However, aireg emphasizes that truly sustainable agriculture is only possible, if all biomass cultivation is certified, no matter where it ends up, be it in a fuel tank, a feeding trough or on a dinner table.

Further information:

- Background paper on the aireg benchmarking (<http://bit.ly/1LqeWjd>)
- aireg set of sustainability criteria (<http://bit.ly/1QReyPm>)
- aireg brochure “sustainability of alternative aviation fuels” (<http://bit.ly/1HfBdk0>)

Disclaimer:

The statements made by aireg do not necessarily reflect the opinion of individual member organizations.

About aireg:

Companies and organizations from industry, research and science are members of aireg – Aviation Initiative for Renewable Energy in Germany e.V.. aireg is promoting the development and use of renewable liquid fuels in order to help achieve the ambitious CO₂ reduction targets of the aviation sector. aireg aims to replace 10% of the German jet fuel demand with sustainable, alternative aviation fuels by 2025.

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